Open Data Governance Board Meeting
Wednesday, 3ʳᵈ October, 2018 – Note of Meeting

Attendance: Dennis Jennings**,** Adegboyega Ojo, Denis Parfenov, Andrew O'Sullivan, Barry Lowry, Sandra Collins,
Others: Ultan O'Carroll (Office of the DPC), Joseph Moore (D/BEI), Gemma Irvine (Higher Education Authority), Patricia Clarke (Health Research Board), Catherine Curran

Apologies: Angela Denning, Ashling Cunningham, Cronan McNamara, Daithí Mac Síthigh, Sue Duke

Secretariat: Marian Beakey, Rhoda Kerins

A number of documents had been issued to the Board in advance of the meeting as follows:

- Note of meeting held on 14 March, 2018
- Synopsis of the consultation on the review of the PSI Directive which took place in late 2017.
- Progress report for ODGB October 2018 and some examples of progress being made in Q3 2018 across the public service in implementing open data.

The Chair welcomed Dr. Adegboyega Ojo to his first meeting of the Board.
The items on the agenda were discussed as set out below:

1. **Talk "GDPR and Open Data" by Ultan O'Carroll, Office of the Data Protection Commissioner**

Ultan O'Carroll spoke on the implications of GDPR and how the Regulation might impact on the Open Data Initiative. His main concern related to personal data. He was of the view that it is difficult to anonymise data effectively and there is a need to be very careful when combining anonymised data with other data. He advised that the Data Protection Commissioner will be putting a revised note on anonymization on their website shortly. A risk assessment should be carried out in advance of publication of data as ultimately the onus is on the data controller that publishing data does not breach the GDPR.

2. **Presentation by the National Open Research Forum (NORF).**

The Dept. Business, Enterprise and Innovation provide the secretariat to the National Open Research Forum which is co-chaired by HEA and Health Research Board. The Forum is working on a review of the national Principles for Open Access Policy Statement which dates from October 2012 and this review reflects the development of the Open Science agenda to include both publications and data as well as the infrastructure to facilitate this access. NORF were invited to the meeting as it was felt that the groups had a common agenda and that there might be potential for the groups to work more closely together. Gemma Irvine, Head of Strategic Planning in the HEA and Patricia Clarke, HRB gave a presentation that covered:
- Introduction to the Open Science principles;
- The work that the National Open Research Forum has done;
- The revised Open Science principles;
- A consideration of next steps – putting the principles into practice and consideration of longer-term resourcing and capacity building issues, for example a centralised solution for data storage/data repository etc.

The Group had a preliminary discussion around options and approaches for data repositories – centralised, decentralised, etc. and agreed that further debate on this is required.

It was noted that a <u>coordinated approach</u> to data management/data repositories is needed. It was recognised that as it was not possible for a single data repository to store all data nationally, it would be important that institutional data repositories could link into each other. It was noted that skills and resources and some centralised support/services would be required if the goal of making government / research data readily accessible is to be realised.

It was agreed that a more co-ordinated joined up approach between the Board and the NORF would be a positive development and that the Secretariat of the 2 groups should make contact in this regard.

Action 1 (Secretariat): Link up with the Secretariat of the NORF to ensure a more coordinated approach between the two groups.

3. Update on the recast of the Reuse of Public Service Information (PSI) Directive.

Rhoda Kerins from the Open Data Unit gave an overview of the forthcoming changes to the PSI Directive, the text of which the Commission are hoping to finalise by end October. The objective of the recast of the Directive is to strengthen the EU's data-economy by increasing the amount of publicly held and publicly funded data available for re-use. Particular emphasis is being placed on real-time access to dynamic data, ensuring fair competition and easy access to cross border data. The proposed changes also clarify the relationship with other EU legal instruments including the Database and INSPIRE Directives and the GDPR. The main changes introduced to the text are framed to allow full exploitation of the potential of public sector information. The Directive introduces an obligation for public bodies to publish available data unless access is restricted or excluded. It brings public undertakings such as public utilities under the PSI and it proposes using Implementing Acts to specify lists of high value datasets to be made available by Member States.

Rhoda advised that in general Ireland welcomes the proposed measures which seek to ensure that more data will be made available for re-use in open and automated methods. However, over the course of discussions on the revised directive Ireland proposed a number of changes and raised a number of issues. These included requests for clarity surrounding the obligations which have been introduced for public utilities and assurance that existing national and international access regimes for data are not superseded by this directive. Concerns were raised regarding the possible costs involved for public service organisations in automating their open data through APIs and the costs to research bodies for the implementation of data repositories.

4. Update from D/PER and Progress Report

The Open Data Unit updated the Board on the progress made by public bodies in implementing the Open Data Initiative.

A Progress Report was circulated to the Board in advance of the meeting. Some of the highlights were mentioned as follows:

- Open Data training for public bodies continues to be rolled out by Urban Tide. From September 2017 to June 2018, 292 public servants from 64 organisations availed of the open data training.

- The existing contract for technical support for the Open Data Portal and Initiative expired on 3rd August. Through a procurement process the new contract was awarded to Derilinx for a period of up to 5 years.
- The number of datasets available on the portal continues to grow and now totals some 8,700– this includes some 2,000 new datasets linked from Met Eireann as well as a number of new datasets from CSO and D/Housing, Planning and Local Government. There were 97 new datasets added to the portal in July, 14 in August and 70 in September. The number of visitors to the portal is approximately 13,000 per month.
- The Open Data Unit have been participating in a number of Conferences in September / October to showcase and promote the portal. This includes the Data Summit in Croke Park on 19th September, the annual Public Service Innovation Conference in Dublin Castle on 26th September and the Predict Conference in the RDS on 2nd October. The Unit also intend to have a presence at the global CoderDojo seminar which takes place in Kilkenny from 19-21 October.
- The Open Data Unit presented at two EU workshops facilitated by Capgemeni who are contracted by the European Commission to operate the European Open Data portal. These were on Measuring Open Data Impact which took place on 13/14 September in Paris and on best practice open data portals which took place in Lisbon on 27/28 September.

5. **Any Other Business**

Open Data Engagement Fund
It was noted that the Engagement Fund for 2018/2019 was launched on 21st September and the closing date for entries is 26th October. The categories for which funding can be applied for was expanded to include the development of Irish use cases that show the impact of open data. Members of the Board were asked to volunteer to sit on the Selection Committee which will be due to meet in early November. It was noted that a few projects from last year are still outstanding – these include Ireland's first Open Datathon which is now scheduled to take place in Waterford on Friday 9th November. The Open Data Unit continue to follow up on outstanding projects.

Open Data Conference
The Open Data Unit advised that it was planned to hold a conference on Open Data and that the Wood Quay Venue in Dublin City Council has been booked for the 19th of November. Board members were encouraged to attend on the day to show support. The title of the conference will be 'Harnessing Open Data' and the focus will be to encourage the release of data and demonstrate good use cases.

Recruitment of new Board members (Selection Process)
It was noted that a call for expressions of interest to fill the 3 vacancies on the Board was advertised via the StateBoards.ie website. The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday next 5th October. A Selection Board will be put in place to assess the applications and forward on recommendations to the Minister for appointment to the Board.

Research open data
It was noted that the Open Data Unit wrote to research funders for their policy around open research data and to research institutions to see what their practice is as suggested by the Board at their March meeting and that a document collating their responses was circulated to the Board in July.

> **Action 2 (Secretariat)** Follow up on outstanding engagement fund projects from 2017/2018 and organise Selection Committee meeting for early November
> **Action 3 (Secretariat)** Circulate further details of Open Data Conference when same available
> **Action 4 (Secretariat)** Seek volunteers to sit on Open Data Engagement Fund Selection Committee

6. **Next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on January, 8th 2019 and that this meeting will focus on how best to track implementation of the Open Data Strategy and to measure its impact and progress using KPIs.   Board members were asked to come up with some suggested KPIs ahead of the meeting.   The Terms of Reference of the Board will also be reviewed at the meeting. The Chair suggested that the board should also look at innovative ways to measure Open Data such as CeADAR funding to look at ways that public service organisations could maximise use of data in their respective organisation or consider the best use of open data.

> **Action 5: (Secretariat)** to confirm date for next meeting. Circulate Terms of Reference.
> **Action 6: (Board)** Consider appropriate KPIs to measure the progress made in implementing the Open Data Strategy.

Open Data Unit, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
3 October, 2018