

Open Data Governance Board Meeting
Tuesday, 8th January, 2019 – Note of Meeting

Attendance: Dennis Jennings, Adegboyega Ojo, Denis Parfenov, Andrew O’Sullivan, Barry Lowry, Ashling Cunningham, Seamus Murphy, Martin Quigley, Bahareh Heravi, Cianán Clancy

Apologies: Cronan McNamara, Daithí Mac Síthigh, Rhoda Kerins

Secretariat: Marian Beakey, Angela Denning

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair introduced Angela Denning who has replaced Evelyn O’Connor as Head of Government Reform Unit to the Board. The Chair also welcomed the 4 newly appointed Board members:

- Mr. Seamus Murphy, Chief Digital Officer, AIB;
- Mr. Martin Quigley, Head of the Affordable Childcare Scheme, Pobal;
- Dr. Bahareh Heravi, Assistant Professor in Information & Communication Studies, UCD;
- Mr. Cianán Clancy, Head of Innovation and Strategy, Independent News and Media, Plc.

New Board members were asked to forward a short bio. to the Secretariat for inclusion of the D/PER website. The Secretariat is to circulate a note on Board confidentiality/conflict of interest to Board members.

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

- Quarterly progress report
- A synopsis of progress made to date on the Year 1 and Year 2 Actions from the Open Data Strategy for discussion in the context of measuring progress and the use of appropriate KPIs.

The items on the agenda were discussed as set out below:

2. Overview of Open Data Initiative to date and Progress Report

Marian Beakey from the Open Data Unit gave a short presentation for the benefit of the new members. This was an overview of the Open Data Initiative since its beginnings in 2014 to include an overview of the portal and the Open Data Strategy 2017-2022.

The Q4 Progress Report as circulated prior to the meeting was taken as read. This will be published on the portal.

<p>Action 1 (Secretariat): Circulate a note on Board confidentiality/conflict of interest</p> <p>Action 2 (Board): Forward a short bio to the Secretariat for inclusion on the D/PER website</p> <p>Action 3 (Secretariat): Publish Q4 Progress Report on the portal</p>

3. Discussion on measuring progress on the national Open Data Strategy, 2017 – 2022 and the use of appropriate KPIs in this regard

The Board had a discussion on progress made to date on implementation of the Open Data Strategy based on a document circulated in advance of the meeting outlining progress to date on Year 1 and Year 2 Actions.

There was a broad discussion on the challenges being faced and how best to progress the Open Data Initiative. This included:

- Improving the quality of published data
- Increasing the reuse of data within public service organisations
- The difficulty in gauging what open data is being reused for and by whom.
- Open data should link with the NDI Initiative
- Targeting local authorities as a good source of data
- Data preservation and reliability
- CSO EU linked data project and the development of an app in the context of this project

The Board felt that these issues warranted further discussion and a workshop to explore ideas and priorities for 2019 was proposed. Barry Lowry is to investigate a possible venue and facilitator. The afternoon of the 25th February was provisionally pencilled in for the workshop.

Action 4 (Secretariat) In conjunction with Barry Lowry organise a workshop to take place on 25 February, p.m.

4. Review of the Mandate/Terms of Reference of the Board

The current Mandate of the Board dates from 2015 when the Board was first established. Given that this was the first meeting of the new members the Secretariat thought it opportune to review the Mandate. A copy was circulated to the Board in advance of the meeting. The Secretariat will draft changes to the Mandate and circulate for observations/input of Board members in advance of the next meeting.

Action 5 (Secretariat): Revise TOR/Mandate of the Board and circulate to Board members for observations/comments prior to the next meeting

5. Any Other Business

Open Data Engagement Fund

It was noted that the level of interest in the Open Data Engagement Fund for 2018/2019 was down on previous years. Denis Jennings, Cronan McNamara and Andrew O'Sullivan assessed the applications and 6 projects were funded. Of the €30,000 in available funding, some €16,000 was paid out. The Secretariat suggested that the period for which the call for proposals for next year's fund should be lengthened considerably and that ways to advertise and promote the fund better should be looked at.

Overall the Board felt that other funding mechanisms or opportunities should be looked at to facilitate larger open data projects. Some options could be Horizon 2020 or its replacement, SFI or Enterprise Ireland. In addition to open data projects, ways should be looked at to motivate public bodies to publish open data i.e. public service excellence awards. This will be discussed further at the proposed workshop. It was noted that the Chair met with Edward McDonnell from CeDAR recently.

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

Angela Denning from the Open Data Unit gave an overview of the current state of play on the current recast by the European Commission of the Re Use of Public Service Information (PSI)

Directive. European Council working party meetings are taking place in January to discuss possible compromise solutions. It was noted that the Romanian Presidency is moving very quickly on this file, with the cut off for European Parliament negotiations set for mid-February.

6. Next meeting

The Secretariat will circulate some suggested dates for the next meeting. It was noted that the intention is for the board to meet quarterly.

Action 6: (Secretariat) to launch Engagement Fund earlier this year and consider how best to promote the fund to improve uptake.

Action 7: (Secretariat) to confirm date for next meeting.

Open Data Unit, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
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