

**Meeting of the Open Data Governance Board (ODGB) on Open Data  
The Theilka Beere Meeting Room, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform,  
7-9 Merrion Row, Dublin 2**

**10:00 am, Wednesday, 9 October, 2019**

**NOTE**

**Present:** Barry Lowry, OGCI0, Andrew O'Sullivan, CSO, Dr. Adegboyega Ojo, Insight Centre, NUIG  
Cianán Clancy, Independent News and Media, Daithí MacSíthigh, Queen's University,  
Belfast, Cronan McNamara, Crème Global, Martin Quigley, Pobal, Seamus Murphy, HSBC,  
Denis Parfenov, Open Knowledge Ireland, Bahareh Heravi, UCD,

**Chair:** Dennis Jennings, Knous

**Secretariat:** Laura Mahony, Rhoda Kerins, Marian Beakey and Paul Fitzpatrick (DPER)

**Others:** Dominic Byrne, Head of IT, Fingal County Council

**Apologies:** Ashling Cunningham, Ervia

### 1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The Chair, Dennis Jennings, welcomed participants to the meeting, in particular Laura Mahony who is Head of Public Service Reform and Innovation in D/PER and who has taken over from Angela Denning. He also welcomed Dominic Byrne, Head of IT, Fingal County Council who joined the meeting for the agenda item on the Health Town App.

The minutes of the meeting on 1 July were approved. These will be published on the open data portal. Actions arising from the last meeting have been followed up on. There were no comments on the Terms of Reference for the Board circulated and these are now available on the portal. A short report on recent progress made in relation to implementation of the Open Data Strategy for the information of the Board had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The following were noted:

- The closing date for receipt of applications for the Open Data Engagement Fund is Monday next, 14 October. Baharah, Cianan and Daithi have volunteered to sit on the selection committee.
- The fourth Open Data Impact Series Event which focuses on arts, culture and heritage open data takes place on 23rd October in the Tangent Centre, Trinity College. Baharah and Cianan have volunteered to facilitate two of the panel discussions. All of the other Board members are very welcome to attend on the day.
- The annual Open Data Conference will take place on 27 November in the National Gallery. A number of speakers have been confirmed including Daithi from the Board and Barbara Ubaldi from the Public Governance Committee in the OECD. Minister O'Donovan has been asked to open the conference.

### 2. Reconstitution of the Board

Board members who have been on the Board since it was established in October 2015 had been asked if they wish to remain on the Board for a further year. Ashling Cunningham and Cronan McNamara have indicated that they will step down. The Chair acknowledged the huge contribution they have made to progressing the open data initiative over the past number of years.

The Open Data Unit will advertise for two new Board members over the coming weeks via the boards.ie website. It is anticipated that the successful candidates will attend the first meeting in the New Year.

<b>Action 1 (Secretariat):</b> Publish minutes of the July meeting on the portal
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<b>Action 2 (Secretariat):</b> Advertise for 2 new Board members via the stateboards.ie website
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<b>Action 3 (Board):</b> Assess applications for funding received under the Open Data Engagement Fund
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### 3. Workshop on proposed Health Town Application

Cianan Clancy had circulated an updated draft specification for the health town app based on feedback received. In addition he also circulated some video and prototype mock-ups he created for discussion.

The group had a discussion on the objectives of the initiative and the role of the Board in this regard. The consensus was that the objective of the application is to create a platform or framework to create applications that can be used to demonstrate the value of open data i.e. to create an ecosystem that developers will use to go on to create further applications and by doing so, stimulate interest and raise the profile and increase the reuse of open data. It was noted that we need to be clear that the project is not a data collection tool and that the project is about data accessibility rather than data collection.

It was noted that the Department of Health were supportive of the initiative. Dominic Byrne advised that Local Authorities had a role to play in health promotion and wellbeing and that Fingal as well as other LA areas have a large amount of locational data that could be used in the initiative. However he advised that work will need to be done on the data in the first instance in the context of standardising data and schema across the 31 LA areas. Funding options were discussed. Direct CeADAR funding was not a possibility for a public sector project. An application for funding under the recent EU CEF call for funding for open data projects was discussed and it was noted that the initiative covers a lot of the criteria laid down in the call. It was noted that that overall limit for CEF funding is limited to €5 million and it is not clear how many EU projects will be funded out of this amount. It was agreed to pursue this funding route.

Next Steps/follow up actions:

- Cianan to continue to develop a specification for the app. It was noted that the CSO can contribute by providing design assistance (Eoin McCuirc is the relevant contact in the CSO)
- Open Data Unit to seek approval from the Secretary General to proceed with the idea of the health town app as an Irish Government open data initiative
- See what funding might be available from the D/Health and/or Enterprise Ireland. Set up another meeting with the Department of Health in this regard.
- Cianan to draft a proposal for CEF funding on behalf of the Board. It was noted that this will be helped if Fingal or Smart Dublin are included as a partner. The inclusion of another country as a partner in the application would also assist the application.
- Open Data Unit to ask Local Authorities to incorporate open data into the Digital Strategies that they are currently developing.

<b>Action 4 (Secretariat):</b> Ask Local Authorities to incorporate open data into the Digital Strategies that they are currently developing.
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<b>Action 5 (Secretariat):</b> Seek approval from the Secretary General to proceed with the idea of the health town app as an Irish Government open data initiative.
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<b>Action 6 (Cianan):</b> Continue to develop the specification for the app including costs
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**Action 7 (Cianan):** Put in a proposal for CEF funding before the deadline of 14th November with Fingal, D/PER as partners. See if funding is available from Enterprise Ireland.

**Action 8 (Barry, Rhoda):** Set up another meeting with the D/Health

#### 4. Open Data Training

Cronin had circulated a draft paper in advance of the meeting in which three specific target groups were identified, civil and public servants, the general public and journalists. It was noted that it is important to define the proposed outcomes from the training initiative and priority for ODGB and what their role is.

##### **Civil and Public Servants**

It was noted that data management and literacy needs to be a core competency in the public and civil service. We should look to see what the underlying methodology of EU assessment that Ireland has the lowest level digital skills (fletcher school). Can we learn anything from Urban Tide with regard to participation rates etc? If we are doing training in Ireland we can roll it out to EU (in context of PSI Directive).

The focus should be wider than open data as open data is a by-product of larger data management. Data training should incorporate data management, data manipulation, data analytics as well as open data. Focus on the softer side of data literacy should be included rather than just the technical aspects. Data literacy is using data to tell a story allowing questions to be answered in facts.

Link data training to public service reform activities – tie it in to innovation. Evidence based decision making is a key element of any innovation project.

It was noted that the IPA already have a well-attended data diploma course ‘Official Statistics for Policy Evaluation’ which is oversubscribed at present. We could talk to them about the possibility of extending their course, including a module on open data or providing a certificate course covering data management to manipulating data. A training course that would spark an interest in data. Perhaps speak to them about putting in place a public service Digital Academy with the IPA?

##### **Follow up 1**

**Action 9 (Secretariat / Barry):** Public Service Digital Academy – speak to the IPA in regards to the possibility of their involvement in this.

**Action 10 (Secretariat / Training Sub Group):** Follow up with One learning with regards to the development of a data training course (Secretariat). Develop a brief to give to them (Training Sub Group).

**Action 11 (Secretariat):** Make other providers aware that there is need/interest in data literacy courses (Smurfit, UCD etc.)

##### **General public**

The following suggestions were put forward for consideration:

- Include data in after school activities, both at primary and secondary school level. Dr. Ojo can talk to colleagues within Insight to push this forward.
- Collate a list of state supported QQI accredited courses in this area and publish the list on the portal. Such a list might be available from Solas.

- Hold an annual Open Data week – create an idea for a national agenda on open data and coordinate a number of open data activities to occur in a particular week – this might be in March to coincide with the annual global Open Data day and could incorporate the annual Open Data Conference. Sponsor an event as part of an open data week to bring education institutes together and promote open data more generally. PBs to come along and show what they have published.
- Have open data as a category in the wider public service excellence and innovation awards. Showcase value that has been made from open data.
- Sponsor a schools competition and the young scientists exhibition – an award for best open data project. Also have a stand on the young scientists exhibition
- Consider organising a hackathon for next Autumn. If data is missing we can go back to departments to get the additional data. Even a virtual hackathon.

### **Follow up 2**

<b>Action 12 (Dr. Ojo):</b> Consider options to include data in school activities
<b>Action 13 (Secretariat):</b> Publish a list of QQI accredited data related courses on the portal
<b>Action 14 (Secretariat):</b> Put open data week on the agenda for the next meeting so as to consider the other suggestions discussed to promote open data.
<b>Action 15 (Dennis Jennings):</b> Dennis to talk to BTMB regarding an OD award in the Young Scientist

### **Journalism**

It was noted that it can be difficult to get the attention of journalists. Courses on FOI requests for Journalist so they can make the most of the legislation in the UK. The more that journalist know about the availability of data, the less FOI requests.

We could consider sponsoring a number of data based student articles whereby the best get published and the data links back to the portal. Barry, Cianan and Baharah to progress this ahead of the next meeting. Barry to talk to the DPER press office with a view to contacting the Sunday Business Post and some other newsletters to see about sponsoring articles.

### **Follow up 3**

<b>Action 16 (Barry, Cianan, Baharah):</b> consider sponsoring a number of data based student articles whereby the best get published and the data links back to the portal
<b>Action 17 (Barry):</b> talk to the DPER press office with a view to contacting the Sunday Business Post and some other newsletters to see about sponsoring articles.

## **5. Open Data Incubator**

Cianan gave an overview of the initiative to date, the next steps in his view is for a detailed business plan to be put together for the 3 models identified and how each model could be funded. This will throw out the pros and cons of each model. The 3 models being the Cedar model, DTIF D/Business, Enterprise, the current call for CEF funding from the EU Commission and come back to the Board.

There was as discussion of the role of the Board. It was noted that in was not the role of the board to create a company but rather to create an ecosystem. As such this will need to be discussed further with Enterprise Ireland.

- Consider talking to companies to see how they are using data

- Cianan will go ahead and do the business plans and draft a funding application
- Dr Ojo to forward a number of business models that he is aware of to Cianan.
- Bahareh suggested running a survey to see how much OD journalist use.

**Action 18 (Cianan):** prepare a business plan for each or the 3 models

**Action 19 (Dr. Ojo):** forward a number of business models that he is aware of to Cianan

#### 7. Any Other Business to include date of next meeting

The Board agreed that the next meeting should take place in January 2020. Secretariat to circulate some suggested dates. In the meantime Rhoda, Cianan and Dennis to link up to progress the actions arising out of this meeting. The Chair asked that the minutes of this meeting be circulated as soon as possible.

**Action 20 (Secretariat):** To confirm date for next meeting.

## Appendix 1

### ODGB Actions List

<b>Board meeting</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Due By</b>	<b>Status</b>
1 July, 2019	A.1	Add questions on number of datasets published via API's and planned number to the Liaison Officers survey.	<b>ODU</b>	30/08/2019	Done
1 July, 2019	A.2	Organise an Open Data Financial Forum with invitees from the banking and financial services sector.	<b>Andrew O'Sullivan / ODU</b>	Next Meeting	
1 July, 2019	A.3	Follow up discussions on Open Data Incubator with CeADAR.	<b>Cianán Clancy</b>	Next Meeting	Done
1 July, 2019	A.4	To develop a 2 page specification for the Health App as an initial proposal for the Open Data incubator.	<b>Cianán Clancy / Barry Lowry / Andrew O'Sullivan</b>	Next Meeting	Done
1 July, 2019	A.5	To approach OneLearning and IPA regarding data literacy training.	<b>Barry Lowry / Angela Denning / Rhoda Kerins</b>	Next Meeting	
1 July, 2019	A.6	To circulate the literacy study referenced.	<b>Secretariat</b>	16/08/2019	Done
1 July, 2019	A.7	Circulate the TOR to the Board.	<b>Secretariat</b>	19/07/2019	Done
1 July, 2019	A.8	Circulate details of the Engagement Fund categories to the Board.	<b>Secretariat</b>	19/07/2019	Done
1 July, 2019	A.9	To confirm date for next meeting.	<b>Secretariat</b>	30/07/2019	Done
9 Oct, 2019	A.1	Publish minutes of the July meeting on the portal	<b>Secretariat</b>		Done
9 Oct, 2019	A.2	Advertise for 2 new Board members via the stateboards.ie website	<b>Secretariat</b>	22/11/2019	Done
9 Oct, 2019	A.3	Assess applications for funding received under the Open Data Engagement Fund	<b>Board</b>	23/12/2019	
9 Oct, 2019	A.4	Ask Local Authorities to incorporate open data into the Digital Strategies that they are currently developing.	<b>Secretariat</b>	Next Meeting	
9 Oct, 2019	A.5	Seek approval from the Secretary General to proceed with the idea of the health town app as an Irish Government open data initiative.	<b>Secretariat</b>	Next meeting	
9 Oct, 2019	A.6	Continue to develop the specification for the app including costs	<b>Cianan</b>	Next Meeting	
9 Oct, 2019	A.7	Put in a proposal for CEF funding before the deadline of 14th November with Fingal,	<b>Cianan/Rhoda</b>	14/11/2019	Done

		D/PER as partners. See if funding is available from Enterprise Ireland.			
9 Oct, 2019	A.8	Set up another meeting with the D/Health	<b>Barry / Rhoda</b>	Next Meeting	
9 Oct, 2019	A.9	Public Service Digital Academy – speak to the IPA in regards to the possibility of their involvement in this.	<b>Secretariat / Barry</b>	Next Meeting	
9 Oct, 2019	A.10	Follow up with One learning with regards to the development of a data training course (Secretariat). Develop a brief to give to them (Training Sub Group).	<b>Secretariat / Training Sub Group</b>	Next Meeting	
9 Oct, 2019	A.11	Make other providers aware that there is need/interest in data literacy courses (Smurfit, UCD etc.)	<b>Secretariat</b>	Next Meeting	
9 Oct, 2019	A.12	Consider options to include data in school activities	<b>Dr. Ojo</b>	Next Meeting	
9 Oct, 2019	A.13	Publish a list of QQI accredited data related courses on the portal	<b>Secretariat</b>	Next Meeting	In progress
9 Oct, 2019	A.14	Put open data week on the agenda for the next meeting so as to consider the other suggestions discussed to promote open data.	<b>Secretariat</b>	Next Meeting	
9 Oct, 2019	A.15	Dennis to talk to BTMB regarding an OD award in the Young Scientist	<b>Dennis Jennings</b>	Next meeting	
9 Oct, 2019	A.16	Consider sponsoring a number of data based student articles whereby the best get published and the data links back to the portal	<b>Barry, Cianan, Baharah</b>	Next meeting	
9 Oct, 2019	A.17	Talk to the DPER press office with a view to contacting the Sunday Business Post and some other newsletters to see about sponsoring articles.	<b>Barry</b>	Next meeting	
9 Oct, 2019	A.18	Prepare a business plan for each or the 3 models	<b>Cianan</b>	Next meeting	
9 Oct, 2019	A.19	Forward a number of business models that he is aware of to Cianan	<b>Dr. Ojo</b>	Next meeting	
9 Oct, 2019	A.20	To confirm date for next meeting.	<b>Secretariat</b>	29/11/2019	

Open Data Unit  
Department of Public Expenditure and Reform  
29<sup>th</sup> November, 2019