Meeting of the Open Data Governance Board (ODGB) on Open Data
Whitaker Room, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform,
Government Buildings, Upr. Merrion St., Dublin 2

11:00 am, Thursday, 23 January, 2020

NOTE

Present: Barry Lowry, OGCIO, Andrew O'Sullivan, An Garda Síochána, Dr. Adegboyega Ojo, Maynooth University, Cianán Clancy, Independent News and Media, Denis Parfenov, Open Knowledge Ireland, Bahareh Heravi, UCD, Neil O'Hare, UCD, Declan O'Sullivan, Trinity College Dublin.

Apologies: Daithí MacSíthigh, Queen's University, Belfast, Martin Quigley, Pobal, Seamus Murphy, HSBC

Chair: Dennis Jennings
Secretariat: Laura Mahoney, Rhoda Kerins, Marian Beakey and Paul Fitzpatrick (DPER)

Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. The Secretariat will publish same on the portal. Matters arising from the last meeting were discussed; a number were carried forward – see composite list at Appendix 1.

1.   Reconstitution of the Board

The Chair welcomed Neil O'Hare and Declan O'Sullivan to the board. The Secretariat reported that the two vacancies on the Board were advertised in November via stateboards.ie website and that 19 applications were received. Following an assessment process, Minister of State Patrick O'Donovan appointed Declan O'Sullivan and Neil O'Hare to the Board.

It was noted that Andrew O'Sullivan has moved employment to An Gardai Síochána (from the CSO) and that Dr. Adegboyega Ojo has moved to Maynooth University.

The Chair reminded Board members of their obligations to declare any conflicts of interest while conducting Board activities.

Action (Secretariat): Publish minutes of October meeting on the portal

2.   Progress Report

A progress report for Q4 2019 was circulated to the Board in advance of the meeting.   This will be published on the portal. Some of the highlights included:

- ➢ Ireland has achieved 1st place in the EU for Open Data Maturity for the third consecutive year.
- ➢ Over 10,000 datasets now linked to the Portal
- ➢ Open Data Unit hosted a successful visit from our Polish counterparts in October
- ➢ €40,000 in funding was awarded under the Engagement Fund in November.

➢ A well-attended Open Data Impact event on Supporting Arts, Heritage and Culture was held on Oct. 23rd
➢ A successful Open Data Conference for public servants was held on November 27th

The importance of the quality of data on the portal was highlighted and particularly the importance of data being up to date. It was suggested that the frequency of updating of data should be highlighted and made more visible on the portal. It was noted that important/popular datasets are featured 'up front' on the portal and that 'newly added' datasets are flagged and tweeted on a regular basis.

> **Action (Secretariat):**
> - Publish Q42019 Progress Report on the portal
> - Consider if frequency of updating of datasets on the portal can be made more visible

3.   Open Data Week

The concept of an Open Data week was discussed at the last meeting and was on the Agenda of this meeting for further discussion. While the Open Data Unit intend to hold an Open Data Conference in October 2020 as part of the D/PER Innovation Week, it is unlikely that the Open Data Unit will have the resources/capacity to organise a week of open data events. Getting additional resources for the unit is unlikely.

It was suggested that D/PER Innovation week which is scheduled to run from 19-23 October should be used to promote open data. While the annual conference for public servants is scheduled to take place that week, it was suggested that a second event open to members of the public should also be planned. The possibility of having separately run hackathons and open data promotional events to target specific stakeholders/audiences on that week was also discussed and that these could be outsourced. In this regard, companies could be contacted to give sponsorship for events. More generally, the ODU should use existing open data events that are happening to promote open data i.e. provide presentations, slides or a short video clip on the benefits of open data.

It was agreed that the Chair meet with the Open Data Unit to discuss these ideas further.

> **Action (Dennis & OPU):** Meet to further explore ideas for Open Data/Innovation week and to promote the Open Data portal and initiative and sponsorship of events.

4.   Open Data Technical Framework
The Office of Government Procurement had put a procurement framework in place in 2017 to assist public service organisations with carrying out data audits, anonymization of data etc. Several organisations tried to draw down from the framework unsuccessfully as the services they required were not covered in the Framework. In hindsight, it may have been drafted too tightly.

A recent survey of Liaison Officers indicated that some 33% would avail of a similar framework in the future. The Board were asked for any views as to whether a new framework with an expanded set of services be put in pace or let organisations procure their own services. It was agreed to discuss this further at the meeting of Open Data Advisory Group scheduled for 5th February.

5.   OPW – CC By NC ND License

The ODU advised that the OPW are proposing to include predicted flood extents and certain other flood risk related datasets on data.gov.ie, however these datasets are published under a CC-BY-NC-ND license (Creative commons by attribution, non-commercial, no derived products).

Given that this is a more restrictive licence than CC BY 4.0 attribution which is the licence chosen by Ireland for use under the Open Data Initiative, the Board were asked if they had any view as to having data associated with a more restrictive licence linked to the portal. Would this set a precedent for other publishers to use licences other that CC BY 4.0 attribution? The Board asked the ODU to get more information on the rationale behind the OPW using this licence as they were of the view that the approach taken by the OPW was not in the spirit of the Re Use of PSI Directive. It was agreed to put this on the Agenda for the meeting of Open Data Advisory Group scheduled for 5th February for further discussion.

6.   Update on Strategic objectives

Innovation Hub: Cianan Clancy gave an overview of the various business models that could be used to progress the idea of an Innovation Hub together with the challenges for each model. Cianan will revert to the Board at the next meeting with more information.

Health Town App: Cianan Clancy reported that they are awaiting the outcome of the application for funding submitted under the 2019 CEF Telecom Public Open Data call. A decision is expected mid-March. It was agreed that the application made should be forwarded to the Board members for information.

Data Training
Suggestions made to progress this initiative included the need to:
- Have data awareness included as a key competency in the civil service development framework
- Include open data within digital initiatives that are happening within organisations
- Convince senior management of the value of data skills within the Public Service.
- Influence developers, hackathons, building of applications

Dr. Ojo will circulate a paper entitled 'The State of Open Data' for the information of the Board.

It was suggested the Open Data Unit should creating a short video about what is meant by 'Openness' and containing some key messages which could be incorporated into training courses and other external events.

> - Action (Secretariat) Consider the development of a short video clip and some key messages that can be circulated and incorporated into existing training programmes.
> - **Action (Dr Ojo)** circulate paper on the 'State of Open Data' to the Board.

7. Open Data and PSI Directive

- Transposing of the Directive by June 2021
- Negotiation of the Implementing Act

The Open Data Unit gave an update on the state of play in relation to the new Open Data and PSI directive. Letters to communicate the changes to Secretary Generals/Heads of Offices and CEOs of Local Authorities have been drafted and are to issue shortly. The EU Commission are to shortly appoint a consultant who will work with Member States to compile lists of High Value Datasets as required under the Directive. Transposition is due to take place by July 2021. Templates for completion with regard to High Value Datasets have been sent to a number of public bodies.

8. Any other Business to include date of next meeting

The Board discussed the benefits of having a risk register in place to set out the risks associated with achieving our objectives under the Open Data Initiative. The Open Data Unit are to provide a draft ahead of the next meeting.

The date agreed for the next meeting is 23nd April (12 noon).

> **Action (Secretariat):**
> - Develop a Risk Register for the Open Data Initiative.
> - Circulate dates for next meeting