

**Meeting of the Open Data Governance Board (ODGB)**

**Meeting Room B1 - 11:00am – 1:00pm, Friday, 16th September, 2022**

**Minutes**

Present: Aoife Sexton, Kieran Culhane, Andrew O’Sullivan, Marianne Cassidy, Barry Lowry,  
 Cianan Clancy, Rhoda Kerins, Helena Campbell, Richard Timmons

Chair: Aoife Sexton

Secretariat: Rhoda Kerins, Helena Campbell (DPER)  
via Webex: Adegboyega Ojo

Apologies: Declan O’Sullivan, Bahareh Heravi, Joan O’Connor, Neil O’Hare, Martin Quigley

Attendees each presented with ‘**Open Data Strategy Consultation – Consultation Phase for the Open Data Strategy 2022-2027** Town Hall Summary Report,August 2022’ document

1. Welcome. Minutes of the 12th May meeting and matters arising

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

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| **Action 1 (Secretariat):** Publish minutes of May meeting on the portal. |

1. Progress update from ODU

The Open Data Unit provided an update of progress and activities since the last meeting. A progress report had been circulated in advance of the meeting and will be posted on [data.gov.ie](https://data.gov.ie/) following the meeting.

Some of the progress highlighted include:

* A description of the Town Hall consultation on the new Open Data Strategy and a precis of the Connect the Dots report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The importance of providing quality data and making the data accessible was of particular interest to the stakeholders.
* The Open Data Unit attended the EU round table meeting on Public Sector data sharing held on the 8th September.
* The Open Data Unit is gathering feedback and metrics on public body action in compliance with the Open Data Directive.
* The Open Data Unit spoke at the Open Data Climate Action Challenge, run by Smart Dublin and supported by the Open Data Engagement Fund
* The Open Data Training programme is underway and significant numbers of public servants have registered to attend.

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| **Action 2 (Secretariat):** Publish the September Progress Report on the portal. |

1. Hale & Hearty report

The completion of the Hale & Hearty report was discussed. The Final Report and Financial Reporting documents have been sent to the HaDEA PM team and the ODU is awaiting their feedback. The potential sustainability of the project was discussed. It was agreed that the Knowledge Base would be maintained on the Open Data Portal and that the H&H app was successful as a proof of concept in terms of the application of a thematic data space.

**Action 3 (Secretariat): Develop promotional pitch for H&H.**

1. Open Data Engagement Fund

The launch of the Open Data Engagement Fund 2022/23 was announced, the closing date is 27th October. The board recognised the Engagement Fund as a driver of awareness and implementation of Open Data. It was noted that a recent Climate Action Competition run by Smart Dublin was a project supported by the Engagement Fund. All Board members were asked to publicise the fund across their networks.

1. Lithuania

As Ireland is a country of comparable size and 2nd in the EU for Open Data maturity, Lithuania has requested the ODU’s participation in a joint presentation focussing on how open data is used by the public services of Ireland. The Open Data Unit will be participating in this event with Lithuania on December 1. The ODU has invited the CSO and SmartDublin to present their experience of using data to the Lithuanian audience.

1. Open Data Strategy Discussion

The ODU gave a rundown of the ‘**Open Data Strategy Consultation – Consultation Phase for the Open Data Strategy 2022-2027** Town Hall Summary Report’. The response was positive and reflected particular ideas;

* The quality of the data featured
* Standardisation
* Interoperability
* Emphasis on health data; lack there of
* Limited accessibility; how data presented can be misinterpreted

The Board discussed the themes identified by this report and the results of the Open Data Impact research and how they could best be reflected in the Open data Strategy, in particular;

Accessibility

* Bridging the gap with non-professional open data users
* The accessibility necessitates understanding how people with to use open data and the need to develop a common language to facilitate this.

Data quality

* There was a suggestion that the ODU could work with HIQA to drive change and improve data quality. The new Health Information Bill was cited as a move in this direction
* The issue of Search Engine quality was discussed and how this will be affected by large volume data storage.
* The use of KPIs to reflect and drive usage was discussed.
* It was decided that publication would focus on the usage of HVDs

The issue of centralised data holdings and how this runs counter to the principle of data ecosystems was discussed.

The Data room concept was discussed as an interim measure to publishing open data. It is a secure location without access to micro data, requiring disclosure protection.

The issue of the relevance of the data on the portal was raised and the point made that the portal should reflect what users need rather than focussing on quantities of data exclusively.

The timeline for the development of the Strategy document was discussed. It was agreed that the ODU would produce a first draft for the ODGB by the 4th October and the ODGB would meet again on the 11th October to finalised the written draft for stakeholder review. The ODU will also start to compile open data use cases for illustration of the strategy.

The Success factors were discussed;

* Usage was seen as key as it relates to the benefits and value of open data
* Functioning data ecosystem and how to support this
* Open Data used to solve high value problems

It was suggested that the foreword should reference the Data Act and the crossover between this and Open Data and how this will further develop into the future.

Health data in particular was discussed as it is of particular interest amongst the general public. This is an especially difficult area as it is also challenging to present this data in a useful way whilst preserving personal confidentiality and adequately anonymising the data.

The ODU presented a number of options for the strategy Vision and Mission statements. The Board discussed these, made some suggestions and asked the ODU to revise the statements for discussion on the 11th October. The ODU will rework the document for discussion and circulate it in advance of the next meeting.

**Action 4 (Secretariat): Compile statistics on the uses of Open Data and high level information on queries received.**

**Action 5 (Secretariat): Circulate a doodle poll of potential dates.**

**Appendix 1**

**ODGB Actions List**

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| **Board meeting** | **No.** | **Description** | **Responsible** | **Due By** | **Status** |
| 12th May 2022 | A.1 | Publish minutes of February meeting on the portal | **Secretariat** |  |  |
| 12th May 2022 | A.2 | Publish the February Progress Report on the portal | **Secretariat** |  |  |
| 12th May 2022 | A.3 | Develop promotional pitch for H&H. | **Secretariat** |  |  |
| 12th May 2022 | A.4 | Compile statistics on the uses of Open Data and high level information on queries received. | **Secretariat** |  |  |
| 12th May 2022 | A.5 | Circulate a doodle poll of potential dates. | **Secretariat** |  | **Done** |
| 18th Feb 2022 | A.1 | Publish minutes of December meeting on the portal. | **Secretariat** |  | **Done** |
| 18th Feb 2022 | A.2 | Publish the December Progress Report & Minutes on the portal. | **Secretariat** |  | **Done** |
| 18th Feb 2022 | A.3 | To make a presentation on the Data Governance Act at the next ODGB meeting. | **Barry Lowry** |  |  |
| 18th Feb 2022 | A.4 | Make further suggestions on H&H sustainability | **ODGB** |  | **Done** |
| 18th Feb 2022 | A.5 | To convene a subgroup of the Board to focus on the Open Data Strategy. | **Chair** |  |  |
| 18th Feb 2022 | A.6 | Circulate a doodle poll of potential dates. | **Secretariat** |  | **Done** |
| 7 Dec 2021 | A.1 | Publish minutes of September meeting on the portal | **Secretariat** |  | **Done** |
| 7 Dec 2021 | A.2 | Circulatea schedule for 2022 meetings | **Secretariat** |  | **Done** |
| 7 Dec 2021 | A.3 | Complete the OD research survey and encourage contacts to participate in the survey. | **All** |  |  |
| 7 Dec 2021 | A.4 | Publish the September Progress Report on the portal. | **Secretariat** |  | **Done** |
| 7 Dec 2021 | A.5 | Circulate the information provided on the Open Data Impact Survey to the Board members. | **Secretariat** |  | **Done** |
| 7 Dec 2021 | A.6 | To circulate information on the Open Data Directive on the portal. | **Secretariat** |  | **Done** |
| 7 Dec 2021 | A.7 | Set up a discussion with Martin Curley and/or Muiris O’Connor. | **Barry Lowry** |  | **Done** |
| 7 Dec 2021 | A.8 | Circulate the report on NORF | **Secretariat** |  |  |
| 7 Dec 2021 | A.9 | Set up a meeting between the minister and Dennis Jennings | **Secretariat** |  | **Done** |

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Open Data Unit

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

16th September, 2022