**Open Government Action Plan 2018-20**

**Updates on progress: June 2019**

**DRAFT**

Update to be published July 2019

* Scotland’s [Open Government Action Plan 2018-20](https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-open-government-action-plan-2018-20/) (summary)
* Milestones and activity listed in [full detail here](https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-open-government-action-plan-2018-20-detailed-commitments/pages/1/)

**Commitment 1: improving financial and performance transparency**

The **Scottish Exchequer** is currently being formed and developed. In the final quarter of 2018, the Senior team undertook some in-depth work to understand others’ aspirations for the role the Exchequer should play; including interviews with counterparts in other countries (e.g. Canada, Ireland, Denmark, Australia). As a result of this, the Senior Management Team has worked up five over-arching aims for the Exchequer function. One of the aims is “**We are open about our fiscal position and performance** – so that citizens trust in government and Government has credibility with stakeholders and international institutions and markets.” This cements openness and transparency as core to the Exchequer’s role and way of working.

A small group of staff within the Exchequer has developed a draft maturity model for this aim, and we will now build on this to be clearer about what we will need to do at each stage of maturity. This builds some firm foundations to deliver on the aspiration in the OGP plan to apply open government policies and practice into the design and implementation of the Scottish Exchequer.

Alongside this we have invested in building the information available on National Performance. A new website was launched in December 2018 providing accessible and clear information on performance. A report providing Scotland’s baseline position against the indicators in the NPF will be published at the end of May, alongside the Medium-term Financial Strategy. The MTFS will include a Spending Review framework – for the first time setting out the approach we will take to a spending review.

We are also actively working on how to improve the line of sight between spending and outcomes, using the forthcoming Spending Review as an opportunity to strengthen this. We anticipate looking in depth at a couple of key outcome areas as part of the spending review, enabling clearer alignment between spending, policy and outcomes.

The Youngscot project is on track.

**Scottish National Investment Bank**

The Open Government Action Plan sees the Scottish National Investment Bank (SNIB) becoming a trusted public body from the outset with specific commitments to deliver Citizen participation in the Advisory Group and the preparation of an Ethical Statement.   The SNIB Implementation Plan envisages the Bank adopting a leadership role in the financial sector with regards to diversity and inclusion.  The Bank programme team is currently working on a plan to deliver these commitments, specifically around how to support the development a values-based culture for the Bank.  The SNIB Bill and accompanying Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) sets out a number of legal requirements in relation to diversity and inclusion to create an industry leader.  These commitments are built around ‘4 pillars’ or values that will create the foundations for the development of the culture of the Bank, which are: Equality, Transparency, Diversity and Inclusion.  The Bank will also be subject to the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2003, the Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018, the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Fairer Scotland Duty.  The Bank will also sign up to the Women in Finance Charter which seeks to build a more balanced and fair finance industry.

**Open Contracting**

• Consult with civil society on how best to make published procurement information useful and accessible to a wide audience.
This is due to be completed by the end of May, the event is on Eventbrite for the 21st May 2019. We will consult with the public and gather information on how they would like current and future procurement related information published. Is there a requirement for the data to be raw allowing the opportunity of businesses to grow as they deliver the manipulation of this data or should the Scottish procurement be organising the data.

• Publish Scottish Government contract documentation, starting with large collaborative frameworks.

The delivery date for this is the end of June 2019, currently we are working with the developers of Public contract Scotland and the Open Contracting Partnership help desk to develop the site to allow the uploading of the first tranche contracts, this will be large collaborative The T&Cs now have a clause that explains that the Scottish Government will be publishing contract information.

• Publish Scottish Government procurement-related spend information.

We committed to publish more procurement related spend and this is due for delivery in December 2019. We have been working with the Scottish Government lawyers to ensured that we are meet GDPR.

The next phase of this commitment will also be based on the outcome from the event that we are holding with civil society regarding data delivery.

On top of the above, Open Contracting are continuing to develop Public Contracts Scotland to meet Open Contracting Data Standards.

**Commitment 2: improving how people can take part and be involved**

**Participation Framework development**

The Participation Framework has the ambition to help civil servants and public sector colleagues **better involve and engage people in the work of government.** The Participation Framework sets out both practical guidance as well as **a vision for policies, services and decisions shaped by public participation** becoming the way government works.

The Participation Framework will provide guidance for civil servants to decide how to engage, involve and listen to the public when designing services, policies or making decisions, using the right method for the right time. **Training and support should give civil servants confidence and skills to deliver high quality engagement exercises, enabling public to participate in a meaningful way.**

There is lots of good practice across Scottish Government which has been collated as good examples. There is also some less good practice, and evidence that staff feel unsure and lack the skills to carry out high quality participatory exercises to engage the public.

Framing documents have been created in collaboration across Government, and testing of initial resources has begun with both Scottish Government colleagues and the involved civil society representatives who indicated interest in working on this commitment from the Steering Group.

**Review how we consult across government**

A review of consultations has started. This work has fed into the creation of guidance on good consultation practice. This has also included providing legal training on consultations to 15 colleagues across Scottish Government and their use compared to other more deliberative forms of engaging people and hearing public views.

**Experiment with attitudes to openness**

We have run workshops on ‘Working in the Open’ and are currently exploring setting up a virtual network for both government and non-government participants. An internal open government network has been established to support colleagues in delivering open government commitments.

**Test new approaches to participation**

* We are exploring digital engagement approaches working with COSLA.
* Collective leadership:
* Co-production process on homelessness [update still required]
* Assessing deliberative mini-publics in Democracy Matters conversation on future of local democracy (still in design).

**Children and Young People’s Participation**

We have started to progress our action to develop a strategic approach to participation for children and young people, which is connected to our work in Progressing the Human Rights of Children in Scotland Action Plan 2018-21. We held our first meeting of the Research group on 27 March 2019, which will work with us to develop this participation approach. This group has convened first out of the four groups (Strategic, Resourcing, Digital/Access and Research) as the Research theme underpins the broader participation approach. We have three more meetings planned for 2019 (in June, September and December).

**Commitment 3: improving how information and data is used and shared**

The Scottish Government’s Open Data Team have developed a roadmap to establish how we best meet our data activities over the next couple of years:   <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-open-government-action-plan-2018-20-detailed-commitments/pages/4/>

On 26 April, the Scottish Government chaired a roundtable meeting on Open Data and Data Literacy. This featured over 30 representatives from central and local government, the private sector, academia, the third sector and community groups and we discussed the challenges people are facing with data literacy and in accessing open data.  This will help shape how we make our data more discoverable and useable going forward.

We have recently delivered training for analysts to produce visualisations and apps directly from our open data portal, statistics.gov.scot.   We asked analysts to identify a business need for building products from statistics.gov.scot.  We will be having a follow-up event next month so that people can share their experience and learn from each other when developing products from statistics.gov.scot, and to ultimately build capacity and skills across data producers.

We are developing a publishing method for the National Performance Framework datasets on statistics.gov.scot

We have promoted open data at events such as DataFest, the Gathering and the Scottish Household Survey user day.  For example, these have included workshops such as “Getting your hands on data about Scotland”, which includes demonstrations of our open data platform so that people can find out more about their local area.

The final activity in this commitment is; “we will develop an approach with the people of Scotland to ensure their health and care information is accessed and shared in an open and transparent manner” [update still required].

**Commitment 4: Improving access to accountability of public services**

This commitment is being delivered through a Collaborative Working Group made up of a range of both State and civic society partners, which met for the first time on 17 April to agree the group Charter and a Year 1 Work-Plan.  The focus in the coming months is to conduct a series of citizen-based engagements across Scotland, to better understand the challenges faced by people in accessing accountability frameworks.  The group is due to meet again at the beginning of June to discuss the design and organisation of this work.  The Commitment Co-Leads – Alex Stobart (Mydex CIC) and Saskia Kearns (Scottish Government) – continue to liaise to discuss progress and next steps, and will shortly be writing a joint public blog on experiences to date – and challenges and opportunities – of working openly and in partnership between government and civic society.

A detailed update and associated papers, list of partners organisations and Charter are included here, posted on the Open Government Network online forum: <https://discuss.opengovernment.org.uk/t/commitment-4-accountability-public-services-update-april-2019/1012/2>

**Commitment 5: Improving transparency and involvement on EU Exit**

As everyone is aware this has been a period of substantial uncertainty. Even part of the title of this commitment “*as the UK leaves the European Union*” is still not necessarily clear. Whilst this has affected the ability to plan, the Scottish Government has aimed to deliver on the principles of openness and transparency on its work relating to Brexit.

This has included:

* Publishing a series of policy papers and research (including [over 100 Brexit publications](https://www.gov.scot/publications/?topics=Brexit), with the detailed “Scotland’s Place in Europe” series a key part of that)
* Actively engaging with parliament, through committees and plenary debates (including 29 [Scottish Parliament Brexit debates](https://digitalpublications.parliament.scot/ResearchBriefings/Report/2018/12/14/Brexit-events-timeline--Scottish-Parliament-engagement-and-scrutiny) by December 2018)
* Funding a programme of targeted engagement activities to go beyond the “usual suspects”
* Delivering advice and support to ensure citizens and businesses are as well prepared as they can be for Brexit, and potentially for No Deal (for example see [mygov.scot](https://www.mygov.scot/eu-exit/) and information for [citizens](https://www.gov.scot/publications/eu-citizens-staying-in-scotland-package-of-support/))

**Action against specific milestones**

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| **Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable** | **Update** |
| To hold 3 roundtable discussions with citizens and interest groups in the run up to Brexit | Ministers have been engaging with many stakeholders across Scotland in various sectors. Brexit Stakeholder Engagement Fund was set up to enable organisations to have discussion and give their views on Brexit to the Scottish Government. A list of 13 Stakeholder Engagement fund projects is set out below this table. All of these have involved different types of discussion with various groups of citizens that are sometimes not heard. |
| To engage rural communities and work with Scottish Rural Parliament and potentially others, to deliver a discussion on the impacts of Brexit on rural communities | The Scottish Government has funded two projects aiming to: 1) facilitate an open dialogue between people in rural communities (led by Scottish Rural Action) and 2) to help ensure that island communities have the opportunity to contribute to and influence policy and development around Brexit (led by Scottish Islands Federation). Scottish Rural Action held 20 events in rural Scotland and also at the biennial meeting of the Rural Parliament in November 2018. They specifically heard from people living in the remotest parts of Scotland, young people, crofters and smallholders, women and rural homeless personsThe funding also enabled the Scottish Island Federation to bring island community groups together to openly discuss, research and present the implications of Brexit. The discussions, consultation and reporting has enabled has formed firm foundations to some of their work in the longer-term. |
| To work with Children in Scotland to deliver a young people’s advisory panel on Brexit and MyLifeMySay to deliver Brexit Cafes for young people to understand their concerns and views on the future UK-EU relationship with a report due for publication in Spring 2019 | The Scottish Government set up a “standing council” for children and young people [Children and Young People’s Panel] to enable their views on Brexit to be heard. The group held four panel meetings to identify concerns around children and young people’s rights and how Brexit will impact them. The panel also met with the First Minister’s Standing Council, were interviewed on BBC Radio 5 live, and met with a cross party group at the Scottish ParliamentThe Panel provided recommendations around all the main themes surrounding Brexit.*My Life My Say* partnered up with *Social Bite* in Scotland to deliver this project that was aimed at college and university aged students and under 25 Young Professionals. The aim of these cafes was to create open dialogue between young people with different views on Brexit and to look at raising awareness in regards to their opinions. The three Scottish cafés also fed into an overall report that was produced by the London School of Economics. Youth Scotland (the network for community based youth work) and YouthLink Scotland (the national agency for youth work) also collaborated to investigate the impact of Brexit on the youth work sector in Scotland and to support youth workers in their work with young people on Brexit.  |
| As set out in the Scottish Government’s Programme for Government, we are making provision for a service that will provide practical advice, information and support for EU citizens in Scotland. We envisage a service that will improve awareness and understanding of rights, entitlements and requirements, and we will set out more details of the service in the coming weeks. We will make provision for an advice and support service for those 235,000 EU citizens resident in Scotland. This will seek to offer information on the new settled status scheme and provide support to EU citizens in understanding the impact Brexit will have on them | The Scottish Government announced just before Christmas that it would be providing funding to the Citizens Advice Scotland to make provision for such a service. The service is now fully operational and is focused on providing advice and support to people with more complex needs who are less able to engage with and apply to the EU Settlement Scheme without support. The operation of the service will be kept under review to ensure advice and support is available to those who need it. The Scottish Government has also provided funding to the EU Citizens’ Rights Project to enable them to engage with and provide information and support to EU Citizens in Scotland.In April the First Minister launched the ‘Stay in Scotland’ campaign to further raise awareness of the Settlement Scheme and to provide direct support to EU citizens in Scotland. The campaign reinforces the message that EU citizens are welcome in Scotland and that the Scottish Government will do what it can to help them to stay. It includes £250k for community based support to empower community groups and organisations across Scotland to deliver advice and support. |

In addition the milestones above:

* The Health and Social Care Alliance looked into the effects faced by **older people** in Scotland. Using sessions in town halls they were able to hear and record what many older people in Scotland are thinking about in regards to Brexit.
* An EU Citizens’ Rights Project enabled engagement with **EU citizens** from the other 27 member states in Scotland in the lead up to leaving the EU, through research, a website and events and activities
* The **SCDI** held a summit with a particular focus on migration
* **Third sector bodies** Voluntary Action south Lanarkshire and Midlothian financial inclusion Network both held discussions and workshops
* the Royal Scottish National Orchestra successful received funding to look into the effect expected to be felt by **musicians**

**END
Open Government Team**

**June 2019**