Open Data Certificates

What is an open data certificate?

An open data certificate is an indicator of the care taken in publishing open data. The criteria to earn a certificate are based on a number of global best practices that have been consolidated by the Open Data Institute.

Why earn a certificate for your open data?

Earning an open data certificate provides benefits for data re-users, publishers and policy makers:

Re-users will be informed about:

- what they can legally do.
- whether they can rely on the data.
- what the data means.
- where to get some support.

Publishers will be provided with:

- an automated process to earn certificates.
- a quality badge to display with their data.
- automated suggestions on how to improve data publishing.

Policy makers will have a mechanism to:

- use Open Data Certificates as shorthand for set of standard requirements.
- set standards for publishing open data, potentially based on its value.
- define requirements for the procurement of new systems and data.
- measure the quantity and quality of open data.

How do you get a certificate?

To earn a certificate:

1. Publish your open data.
2. Create an account on ODI open data certificate site.
3. Complete the survey about your data.

ODI Queensland plans to automate the awarding of certificates to make it even easier. Best of all, Open Data Certificates are totally free.

What questions will you be asked?

Questions are asked in four areas:

1. Legal (rights, licensing, privacy)
2. Practical (supply guarantees and quality)
3. Technical (data formats and metadata)
4. Social (documentation and support)
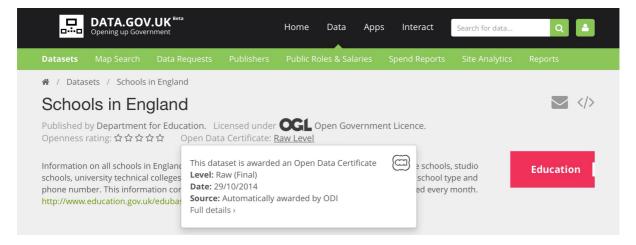
What if you can't answer all the questions?

You don't need to answer all the questions to earn a certificate. There are four levels, Raw, Pilot, Standard and Expert that can be progressively earned as you improve the quality of your data. Earning any level of open data certificate is a great achievement.

What are people saying?

Deloitte in, "What do businesses really look for in open data?", supports the use of Open Data Certificates, if businesses are expected to take open data seriously.

The United Kingdom, the global leader in open data, has embedded Open Data Certificates in their open data portal, data.gov.uk.

Over 10,000 Open Data Certificates have been issued globally.

Coming soon

ODI Queensland are bringing open data certificates to Australia. Be one of the first in Australia to demonstrate the quality of your open data. Join our early adopter program by emailing connect@ODIQueensland.org.au.

Learn more about the open data certificates, visit certificate.theodi.org.