Report on Departmental Open data Commitments and adherence to Public Data Principles for the period between October and December 2013

This is the sixth report on departmental open data commitments and adherence to public data principles covering Quarter 3 2013/14.

Open Data is not just about releasing datasets. The Public Data Principles (Annex A) are designed to encourage departments and government organisations to look at their infrastructures and processes and make improvements to enable the release of data in open and reusable formats.

During this reporting quarter, the following notable datasets were released:

1. At the Open Government Partnership (OGP) summit, it was announced that the UK's planned central registry of company beneficial ownership information will be publicly accessible, when it is published. This will ensure transparency for businesses, citizens and developing countries about who really owns and controls UK companies.

2. Also announced at the OGP summit, Companies House launched an Accounts Data Product that allows free bulk access to all companies' statutory accounts filed digitally - over 1.5 million registered companies. This is the first time this information has been available in data format and it allows users greater opportunity and flexibility to manipulate the data.

3. The Land Registry released the second tranche of the Historical Price Paid Data, captured from 1st January 1995 to December 31st 2008. It was released first in CSV and linked data formats, increasing the overall Price Paid Records to over 19 million rows of data.

4. DWP released initial statistics relating to Universal Credit, the Spare Room Subsidy and Benefit Sanctions in November 2013.

Departmental Progress

Datasets

Corporate releases – Departmental Returns

Corporate releases support progress against Public Data Principles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 11.

A list and explanation of the corporate commitments can be found at Annex A:

5. Overall performance this quarter has slightly decreased from the previous quarter. In the last quarter, eleven departments were fully compliant while in this quarter this decreased to ten. The fully compliant departments were: DECC, DEFRA, DCMS, DfID, DfE, DfT, DH, DWP, HMRC and HO.

6. Quarterly Data Summaries are no longer reported in this statement as they are now published on behalf of departments by the Cabinet Office. The data can be found here: http://www.gist.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/qds/

7. The table below shows the progress departments have made on a range of data they committed to publish by the end of the reporting quarter. The measurement of 'met' or 'not met' denotes whether the expected publications were available at the end of the reporting quarter. A measurement of 'not met' merely indicates that the expected data was not publically available at the end of December 2013 – the data may have been published in the interim period between the end of December 2013 and the publication date of this report. An explanation of each of the reporting categories can be found at Annex B.

	BIS	CO	DCLG	DECC	DEFRA	DCMS	DfiD	DfE	DfT	DH	DWP	FCO	HMRC	HMT	HO	MOD	MoJ
Spend data	Not Met	Not Met	Not Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Not Met	Met	Met	Not Met
GPC data	Not Met	Met	Not Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Not Met	Met	Met	Not Met
Organogram	Not Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
Exceptions to Moratoria (ICT, Property, Recruitment, Marketing & Consultancy)	Met	Not Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
Workplace Management Information	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met		Met	Not Met	Met	Met	Met
Ministers' gifts, hospitality received, overseas travel, meetings with external organisations including media executives	Met	Not Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met		Met	Met	Met	Met
Special Advisers' gifts and hospitality and meetings with media executives	Met	Not Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met		Met	Met	Met	Met
Senior Officials' expenses, travel and hospitality	Met	Not Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Not Met	Met
Permanent Secretaries' meetings with external organisations including media executives	Met	Not Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
Contract Finder	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Not Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
Real Time Energy User	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met

8. **BIS** reported that it is transitioning to a new Management Information system. During the transition period they are unable to provide current or refreshed data. As soon as the data becomes available, the reports detailing staff numbers and paybill costs will be published on GOV.UK and data.gov.uk.

9. **CO** reported a delay in finalising the spend data for publishing due to some of the information presented containing errors or missing items that required further investigation to ensure accuracy. Technical issues with accessing data.gov.uk also resulted in a delay in posting data from GOV.UK onto data.gov.uk. CO have committed to getting Ministers' data out a quarter in arrears. The last quarter was published on GOV.UK in January with an administrative delay in getting this information across to data.gov.uk. They have taken steps to improve the timeliness and quality of data and have committed to a further series of steps to improve accessibility.

10. **DCLG** reported that spend and GPC Data were published in Jan 2014. The delay was due to a change in the internal sign off process followed by the need for the data to be re-checked in detail following adverse (and misinformed) media coverage of expenditure on catering and hospitality (no issues were identified).

11. **DfE** reported that their complaints data was delayed as the provision of data was subject to ministerial review and they were awaiting approval.

12. **FCO** reported that it has not met the requirement to publish all contracts and tenders on Contracts Finder following the removal of the exemption to publishing contracts with overseas suppliers. This requires significant changes to the publication and approval process. In addition, FCO data is often subject to national security considerations adding a considerable time delay into the publication process. The reporting methodology for the quarterly workforce information means that FCO are unable to publish that information on a quarterly basis.

13. **HMT** reported that the publication of spend over £25,000, GPC and Workforce Management data were delayed due to obtaining clearance to publish the information by their Minister over the Christmas period. They are now working more closely with ministerial offices to ensure clearance is given prior to the publication deadlines.

14. **MOD** reported that senior officials' travel and hospitality information was behind schedule due to ongoing issues with the accuracy of some of the data.

15. **MOJ** has not met the target for publication of spend over £25,000 and GPC data. They report that work to update their transparency data in these areas is ongoing and that it will be published in due course.

Published Commitments

Published Commitments supports progress against Public Data Principles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

16. **DCLG** became the first department to certify its open data website, OpenDataCommunities, through the Open Data Institute's (ODI) open data certification process, acquiring a 'Pilot' level open data certificate.

17. **DCMS** The Tate has published its collections information as open data and Visit England has released its Great Britain Tourism Survey micro-data (record level data) to open access. The Equal Marriage consultation results were published on the UK Data Archive in January. This is the first time a large consultation dataset has been made openly available to researchers in this way. The Government Art Collection has also made its collections data directly accessible as open data. (It was previously available only on Europeana).

18. **DfE** released new open data on A level and other Level 3 results for the academic year 2012 to 2013 and presented new statistics for three different cohorts of students. DfE also published more data on outcomes for looked after children. Individual child level data was provided back to the responsible local authorities (via a secure website) so they could see exactly which children had been included in each dataset.

19. **DFID** published full information on DFID international development projects and fully complied with International Aid Transparency Initiative requirements.

20. **DfT** released accessibility data to accompany the roll-out of accessible journey planning. It shows services and stops that are accessible and/or where staff assistance is provided across Great Britain covering most public transport modes.

21. **DH**'s final data for the second year of the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (2012/13) was released in December. A new public-facing website to present ASCOF data in a more accessible way was launched in November (http://ascof.hscic.gov.uk/). The frequency of release of 'never events' data has now increased to quarterly and there are plans to release monthly data

from April 2014. Never events are very serious, largely preventable patient safety incidents that should not occur if the relevant preventative measures have been put in place.

22. **DWP** released updated statistics in November 2013 of National Insurance Number allocations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK. They also updated statistics on the Work Programme referrals, attachments and validated job outcomes.

23. **FCO** published a full inventory of its archive holdings as well as consular data, data on British behaviour abroad and treaties data.

24. **HMRC** has continued releasing transparency datasets on time, including air travel data, HMRC officials' meetings with the tobacco industry, minutes of the Tax Transparency Sector Board and performance reports.

25. **HO** reported that the two remaining commitments in the Home Office Open Data Strategy have now been met: the publication of data on workforce diversity and attendance management information in the Home Office and data on the costs of organised crime. Other data that has been published this quarter includes: data relating to the 'life in the UK' tests, metal theft in England and Wales and an evaluation of the new family returns process.

26. **MOJ** launched the Justice Data Lab as a pilot in April 2013, with the aim of providing easier access to aggregate re-offending data for organisations that provide services to offenders. Monthly statistics generated from the pilot were published for the first time in October 2013. By the end of December 2013, the Justice Data Lab had published 36 reports for organisations providing offender management services.

Arm's Length Bodies Progress

ALB reporting supports progress against Public Data Principles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

27. **BIS** The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) announced the first phase of its £64 million investment in Big Data: the Administrative Data Research Network (ADRN) comprises four new research centres and a data service which will enable research based on linked data between government departments. BIS has also provided funding to the Technology Strategy Board for companies to apply for innovation vouchers of up to £5,000 to work with a new supplier to develop new business ideas using open data. To date this financial year, over 100 vouchers have been granted. Ordnance Survey launched their 7th GeoVation Challenge on the theme of 'How can we encourage active lifestyles in Britain?'. Ordnance Survey also held 7 OS Open Data Masterclasses in this period offering the opportunity for attendees to gain a greater understanding of open data. The Centre for Ecology & Hydrology announced the launch of a Hydrological Outlook developed in partnership with the Met Office and others.

28. **DCLG**'s ALBs publish organograms on data.gov.uk and their own websites. DCLG sponsored ALBs now go beyond Cabinet Office requirements by publishing all items of spend over £250, including GPC spend. Three quarters of DCLG ALBs were covered by 'Public Bodies 2013' which published information including Terms of Reference, government funding, expenditure and names and remuneration of Chief Executives and chairs.

29. **DCMS** held its first ALB Open Data forum, hosted at the British Museum, with representation from 10 ALBs as well as open data experts and developers. These forum meetings will act as an ALB led sector board. By showcasing the ground-breaking work of some of their leading ALBs they hope to encourage and support others in the DCMS family to see the benefits and build the economic/social case for opening data. Generally compliance remains good where there are open data corporate commitments in DCMS ALBs.

30. **DECC** The Coal Authority publishes the Coal Mining Reports dataset, spend data and the staff organogram on data.gov.uk. Additional data is available on their website and DECC is working with the authority to make this available through data.gov.uk. The Committee on Climate Change launched a new website in April and is using this to publish transparency data - DECC is working with the committee secretariat to make this available through data.gov.uk and this should be in place for the next reporting period. The

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority publishes monthly expenditure over £25,000, organogram and salary info, hospitality data and a register of directors' interests on their website. It also publishes contracts to Contracts Finder.

31. **DEFRA**. As part of the revised collection and approvals process, corporate spend data supplied by Defra's ALBs is now being received and processed in a timely manner.

32. **DfT** motoring, highways and coastguard agencies are all compliant with government policy and work hard to meet publication deadlines. But the air travel data consultation carried out by Civil Aviation Authority produced generally negative results so the CAA Board have decided to proceed with further liaison with the industry in terms of the specification and release of each new air dataset.

33. **DH**'s ALBs continue to comply with the transparency requirements in relation to organogram publication and exceptions to moratoria. DH continue to liaise with the ALBs that became fully functional on 1 April 2013 to ensure that they are aware of the requirements of the transparency agenda. DH also organised two workshops with the Cabinet Office to make sure that new and old ALBs are able to comply with the organogram exercise.

34. **DWP** reported that the majority of their ALBs are compliant with all mandatory commitments including publication of organograms and GPC spend data. A selection of other ALB activity includes: the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) publishing Fee For Intervention (FFI) invoice information, Remploy publishing spend details in their annual accounts and the quarterly expenses details (for board members) on their website and the Pension Protection Fund publishing consultations on the Pension Protection Levy. The Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) has published details of expenditure, members' fees and committee meetings since last year. The National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) has published annual reports and accounts of the Nest Scheme and an inventory for use with the National Information Infrastructure.

35. **FCO** report that their ALBs continue to fulfil their obligations where it is appropriate and possible given national security constraints.

36. **HMRC**'s executive partner, the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has continued to publish Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rating List Band and undertaken to release more information under the National Statistics programme.

37. **MOD** reported that the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) organogram data has not been updated due to technical problems with the

GOV.UK website. DSTL and Cabinet Office are working to resolve this. The UK Hydrographic Office published bathymetry data in Nov 2013, this was part of the core departmental commitments highlighted in the MOD open data strategy.

Building Capacity

Building Capacity supports all Open Data standards.

38. **BIS** published *'Seizing the Data Opportunity: a strategy for UK data capability'*, a report on how the UK can ensure it can be a world leader on using data. BIS also held the first Multi Stakeholder Group (MSG) meeting on the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative which was chaired by Jo Swinson, EITI Champion. BIS reported that during this period the local government Breakthrough Fund approved 8 applications. The central government Breakthrough Fund has also approved 2 applications to date this year. The Breakthrough Fund was established to help government departments, government agencies and local authorities accelerate open data proposals where there are short term technical barriers to the release of data. BIS and the TSB also funded an Open Data Challenge competition on crime and justice in this period. The experimental Midata Innovation Lab published a report on its completed work in November 2013. Midata seeks to empower consumers by giving them better access to the personal data that companies hold about them and tools to interpret it. BIS held a Further Education Data Summit in December bringing together academics, colleges and users.

39. **CO** will establish an internal Cabinet Office Transparency Board as part of its Open Data Strategy for 2014. The Board will provide the senior leadership to enable CO to embed a culture of transparency and open data across Cabinet Office and its Arm's Length Bodies. The Board's role will be to: define what is out of scope for publication, monitor progress against departmental commitments, hold data owners accountable for meeting them and identify data owners and work with them to disseminate good practice in opening up data.

40. **DCLG** have continued to extend the range of data published including significant additional content on social housing lettings and sales statistics, supported by innovative new visualisations developed using free mapping and charting tools. They also introduced a significant new "Statistics Selector" tool in OpenDataCommunities to enable users to quickly discover, blend and re-use statistics from multiple DCLG sources.

41. **DCMS**'s new sector board has been created as a regular event to establish ALB open data development – the BBC will lead the next event. DCMS is working on a project with the Natural History Museum to establish the benefits of open data and open image release. The British Museum also showcased their linked open collections data at the UK Open Government Partnership summit.

42. **DECC** launched a two month public consultation on its proposals to publish anonymised datasets containing record level data from the National Energy Efficiency Data-Framework (NEED).

43. **DEFRA'**s revised data collection and approvals process has enabled it to maintain recent improvements and publish data on time for all areas of the WMS.

44. **DfT** and TFL held a series of presentations showcasing the publication and take-up of open data across transport with TfL alone having over 5,000 registered developers. They calculated benefits showing a ratio of around 300:1 to the cost of data publication.

45. **DH** reports that the Local Government Association advises that 93% of local authorities now have local accounts – a considerable increase on previous numbers. NHS England, HSCIC and Social Care also made new commitments as part of the development of the National Information Infrastructure and under the UK National Action Plan (NAP). In addition, HSCIC assessed the Health Survey for England dataset using the ODI certification process.

46. **DWP's** Transparency Board met on the 27th November 2013 and minutes are published on the DWP Transparency website. DWP is also working on a Unified Customer Database to bring together Tax Credits, Housing Benefit and Social Security Benefits at 'benefit unit' level to reflect both pre and post Universal Credit roll-out. This will provide richer and more useful statistics which will be openly available.

47. **HMRC** The consultation on proposals for data sharing and publication to deliver wider public benefits was published in December 2013. This consultation generated many helpful and informative responses on whether HMRC should increase the scope for the department to share non-identifying information and on proposed safeguards.

48. **HMT** have set up a dedicated Management Information unit within their corporate centre which is responsible for the department's transparency and open data strategy.

49. **HO** reported that Police.uk was re-launched on 7 November 2013. The site's re-design makes it easier for the public to find the information they want, understand how the information can be used to hold the police to account and what preventative measures the public and business owners may wish to take to actively reduce crime. Users can now set up their own personalised crime maps and share these with others. They can also access crime prevention advice relating to the specific crime type they are interested in.

50. **MOD** has continued to engage with DSTL and the Defence Analytical Services Agency to identify further datasets for release. MOD transparency also visited Air Command to raise awareness of transparency and to identify future datasets for publication.

51. **MOJ** The Crime and Justice Data Challenge organised by Nesta and the ODI continued in this quarter. The three finalists were developing their applications before the announcement of the final winner in February 2014.

Open Government Partnership

52. The UK hosted the OGP summit on 31st October and 1st November 2013, which brought over 1,500 attendees to London from 83 governments and civil society organisations around the world and secured 37 ambitious new commitments to open government (including three new countries adopting the Open Data Charter). The number of countries who are members of the partnership rose to 62 and four additional countries signalled their intention to join when eligible.

National Action Plan

53. The UK published its second National Action Plan at the OGP summit in London on 31st October with a flagship commitment to release a central public registry of beneficial ownership of companies. The plan was developed and agreed by government and civil society and the process followed has been recognised for its collaborative approach. This was followed up in December by some lessons learned sessions to further improve how UK government and civil society work together to implement the plan and identify new priorities. Departments made a number of commitments as part of the National Action Plan. As part of these commitments, GP comparative data is now available through NHS Choices making it more accessible to the public. The UK also published an updated version of the G8 Open Data Charter.

National Information Infrastructure

54. On 31st October the government published the first draft of the UK National Information Infrastructure (NII). The NII is one of the government's commitments in its response to the Shakespeare Review of Public Sector Information. The NII consists of the datasets held by government which are potentially the most important in terms of economic or social value, or being able to provide greater efficiencies in public services. The NII includes both open and unpublished datasets and was identified following the exercise over the summer to list all government data assets, both published and unpublished. The narrative accompanying the NII made a number of commitments to ensure the quality of NII datasets and encourage a culture of open data by default.

data.gov.uk

55. Over the period October to December 2013 the data.gov.uk team delivered some key updates to the online service.

56. These included an upgrade to the Ckan open data catalogue software that offers greater flexibility in the dataset listing presentation and more complex data publisher management to optimise data collection.

57. Users of the service can now also provide specific feedback on their insights into the application, linking potential and overall usefulness of any dataset and its impact on the UK government, economy and society. This new feedback opportunity was accompanied by the launch of the departmental data inventory that publicises all currently open and upcoming open data increasing the advance visibility of data.

58. The data.gov.uk map search was successfully updated to meet EU deadlines on sharing a wider range of environmental data extending for example to demography and human health and safety data, where environmental data directly impacts on day to day life. These initiatives were showcased at the international Open Government Partnership summit on 31st October 2013.

data.gov.uk Analysis

Site Usage for Q3 2013/14	
Total page views	1574502
Total visits	486597
Pages per visit	3.22
Average time on site	2 mins 28 secs
Bounce rate (home page)	31.67%
New visits	76.07%

Most popular datasets during Q3 2013/14 (Views)				
Dataset	October	November	December	Total for Q3 2013/14
Land Registry INSPIRE Index Polygons	1208	17871	1130	20209
Bona Vacantia Unclaimed Estates and Adverts	3058	5178	6140	14376
English Indices of Deprivation 2010	2676	3842	2225	8743
Social Trends	2509	3302	1587	7398
Live traffic information from the Highways Agency	1373	2225	2612	6210
Building Price & Cost Indices	1873	1935	1246	5054
Health Survey for England	1448	1807	1615	4870
Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) boundaries	1615	1552	1187	4354
Road Safety Data	1327	1711	1240	4278
VAT registered businesses	1107	865	770	2742

Annex A
Public Data Principles

1. Public data policy and practice will be clearly driven by the public and businesses that want and use the data, including what data is released when and in what form.

2. Public data will be published in reusable, machine-readable form.

3. Public data will be released under the same open licence which enables free reuse, including commercial reuse.

4. Public data will be available and easy to find through a single, easy-to-use, online access point (www.data.gov.uk).

5. Public data will be published using open standards, and following relevant recommendations of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).

6. Public data from different departments about the same subject will be published in the same, standard formats and with the same definitions.

7. Public data underlying the government's own websites will be published in reusable form.

8. Public data will be timely and fine-grained.

9. Release data quickly, and then work to make sure that it is available in open standard formats, including linked data forms.

10. Public data will be freely available to use in any lawful way.

11. Public data will be available without application or registration, and without requiring details of the user.

12. Public bodies should actively encourage the reuse of their public data.

13. Public bodies should maintain and publish inventories of their data holdings.

14. Public bodies should publish relevant metadata about their datasets and this should be available through a single online access point; and they should publish supporting descriptions of the format provenance and meaning of the data.

Annex B

Corporate Commitments

Commitment	Description
Spend data	Monthly publication of all expenditure over £25,000 including a plain English description (1 month in arrears)
GPC data	Monthly publication of all expenditure over £500 on the Government Procurement Card (2 months in arrears)
Organogram	6-monthly publication of posts, salaries and job descriptions within each department. Full disclosure including name of post holder for those at Senior Civil Service payband 2 (or equivalent) and above
Exceptions to Moratoria (ICT, Property, Recruitment, Marketing & Consultancy)	Quarterly publications of any exceptions to the current government restrictions on spend on ICT, consultancy, recruitment, property, consultancy, advertising and marketing.
Workplace Management Information	Monthly management information on staff numbers and paybill costs in Civil Service departments, their agencies and their executive NDPBs.
Ministers' Gifts (given and received), Hospitality received, Overseas Travel and Meetings with external organisations including senior media executives	Quarterly detail on travel, hospitality, gifts and meetings with external companies for Ministers
Senior Officials' Expenses, Travel and Hospitality	Quarterly detail on expenses, travel and hospitality for Senior Officials
Permanent Secretaries' meetings with external organisations including senior media executives	Quarterly detail on meetings with external organisations including senior media executives for Permanent Secretaries
Special Advisers' Gifts and Hospitality received and meetings with senior media executives	Quarterly detail on hospitality, gifts and meetings with external companies for Special Advisors
Contract Finder	Online publication of all new tenders and contracts awarded over £10,000, including PIN notices

Real Time Energy Use	Central government departments would publish online the real-time energy use of their headquarter buildings. Most of the real-time energy displays provide energy data in half hourly intervals, and are published on departmental websites with a delay of no more than 24 hours