

Audience

We believe that the audience for the strategy is twofold:

- 1) The public sector. We will use the discussions surrounding the strategy to agree the direction of travel and new commitments, and begin to effect behaviour change. The wider public sector will note the signals that such a strategy sends.
- 2) Interested external groups: developers, businesses trying to use open data, open data campaigners.

There will be some interest from the media and a communications approach will be developed with Cabinet Office Strategic Communications in parallel with the strategy.

Document

We propose a formal, published document, perhaps a command paper (laid before Parliament), of around 20 pages. It will set out the vision and specific actions that the Government is taking and will take to embed the Transparency Agenda.

A number of sub-documents would set out specific actions to be taken within sectors such as Health; Criminal Justice; Transport; Environment.

Approval

We suggest that as it is developed, the document is shared with policy teams in departments for comment. We are considering the value of an officials level group: this group would be a good place to consider the strategy, ensuring that departments understand what is being discussed and have the opportunity to input. We might also make use of the proposed ERG ministerial group if it goes ahead. We propose to involve the Board in drafting, and to send (probably) two formal submissions to MCO on the document for approval.

Timescales

We would expect to complete the process and be in a position to publish by end April. Discussion and agreement of the document will need to be built into that time period, and we should look to build in sufficient time for departments and ministers to give full consideration to proposals and to contribute to the 'sector' documents.

Annex A: Transparency Strategy Structure

1. Introduction from MCO
2. Background
 - Commitments over 2010
 - Achievements to-date
3. The case for change
 - A number of factors are leading to a drive for more transparency in government and wider releases of open data. This section sets out the case for change, supported by evidence.
4. Vision
 - What will the world look like once the strategy has been implemented?
 - Examples of 'Transparency in action' across central and local government.
 - Taking Transparency beyond current commitments.
5. Scope
 - Setting out the remit of the strategy, reflecting policy and delivery responsibilities across government.
 - How the strategy links with other significant documents, e.g. Public Service Reform White Paper and the 'Right to Data' paper, and on-going work in government, such as HM Treasury's data review.
6. Delivering the vision
 - a) Policy
 - How Government will make real the Right to Data: establishing the 'eco-system' that will support the policy:
 - Establishing a new statutory definition of datasets.
 - Creating a new statutory right to reuse datasets, published in response to a request or as part of a publication scheme.
 - Developing and publishing the criteria for assessing requests for data from the public that public bodies should use; and for proactive assessment of data holdings.
 - Setting minimum expectations for how to engage with potential users: providing information and support to enable simple and effective reuse.
 - Embedding the change in the public sector towards a policy of 'Openness'.
 - How public bodies maintain and publish inventories of their data holdings. Linkages between Information Asset Registers and publication schemes.
 - Expected publication standards and processes – reuseable, machine-readable, open standards; use of data.gov.uk; automatic use of the Open Government License (set out at a high level, as covered in more detail below).
 - How publication will lead to continuous improvement. What do these standards do to 1) collection; 2) quality and accuracy; 3) standardisation of formats and content; 4) timeliness. This will link to work on improvement of Management Information in Government.
 - How the planned Public Data Corporation will embody Government's policy on 'high-value data'.
 - b) Publishing
 - data.gov.uk.

- Setting out how we will continue to use and develop data.gov.uk, supporting users, the site's fit with other government websites and services etc. Whether we will work with other delivery partners, such as companies like Semantrix, OpenContracts.
 - Standards and licensing
 - Setting out the expectation of reusable, machine-readable, open standards; automatic use of the Open Government License etc
 - Delivery partners
 - Who are our key partners and how do we work with them to deliver?
 - Departments
 - TNA and COI
 - Developers
 - Businesses, especially SMEs
 - Members of the Public
- c) Data (Existing commitments and new commitments)
- PM's commitments
 - MCO's further commitments
 - OGDs' information strategies and business plans
 - Local Government
 - Devolved Administrations
 - Key milestones for the delivery of more data
- d) Governance
- Ministers' roles
 - Reporting to new Ministerial committee being established by IW for ERG as a whole
 - Transparency Board
 - Senior officials' group
 - Practitioners Group
7. International
- How the UK Government will engage internationally on open data issues
 - EU Open Data (e.g. Inspire Directive)
 - International Open Data
8. Measuring success
- How we will know whether we are achieving our vision
9. Definitions of terms