

# UK Open Government National Action Plan 2016-18: Welsh Government Commitments

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# Introduction

The third UK Open Government National Action Plan was published in May 2016. This plan set out commitments to open government in the UK and the ambitions of the UK Government for the next two years.

This updated version of the Third Open Government National Action Plan includes new commitments from each of the devolved administrations: the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government. This demonstrates that we are committed to being open and transparent.

We all believe that an open government is a better government:

- More accountable and responsive to people
- Receptive to new ideas and better-able to implement them
- Best-placed to capitalise on the talents, expertise and energy of citizens, civil society and businesses to create a better, stronger society for all

This plan has been co-created with members of civil society and active citizens, coordinated through our open government networks. We're committed to continue to work with civil society to both implement and develop commitments in future.

# **Commitment 1: Open data plan**

**Develop and implement an open data plan for Welsh Government and work towards achieving the commitments outlined within the plan.**

## **Objective**

To develop a plan that outlines Welsh Government's ongoing commitment to open data and increase awareness of open data across Welsh Government.

## **Status quo**

Within Welsh Government we are already striving to increase the accessibility to our data through websites such as Lle and StatsWales. However there is more that can be done to increase the openness and transparency of our data.

There also needs to be greater awareness of the potential opportunities and benefits that open data can provide to the people of Wales, businesses, the public service sector and Welsh Government. Implementation of our Open Data Plan and its commitments should help address these issues.

## **Ambition**

Whilst work is already ongoing in the field of open data within Welsh Government we hope that implementation of this Open Data Plan will raise awareness, consolidate ongoing work and demonstrate Welsh Government's commitment to open data. The plan will hopefully also provide a practical opportunity to work with and encourage public service organisations to increase their publication and use of open data.

## **Leading implementing organisation**

Welsh Government

## **Timeline**

March 2016 – March 2018

## **OGP values**

Access to information

## **New or ongoing commitment**

New and ongoing

## **Other actors involved – government**

-

**Other actors involved – CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals etc.**

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<b>Verifiable and measurable milestones to fulfil the commitment</b>	<b>New or ongoing</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
Implement commitments outlined within the Welsh Government Open Data Plan	New and ongoing	March 2016	March 2018

# **Commitment 2: Open data service**

**Develop an Open Data Service for Wales with a focus on helping improve public services.**

**Objective**

To increase the openness and amount of data about Wales that is published by Welsh Government and other public sector bodies.

**Status quo**

Only a subset of data about Wales held by Welsh Government and other public sector partners is currently published.

**Ambition**

Developing an Open Data Service for Wales will increase the accessibility and the amount of data published by Welsh Government and other public sector bodies in Wales. Furthermore making more data openly available will hopefully help improve public services in Wales.

**Leading implementing organisation**

Welsh Government

**Timeline**

March 2016 – March 2017

**OGP values**

Access to information, Technology and innovation

**New or ongoing commitment**

Ongoing

## Other actors involved – government

Welsh Government initiative publishing data for Wales, some of which may emanate from other government departments.

## Other actors involved – CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals etc.

Users have been involved in the development of the StatsWales site, e.g. providing feedback, and being updated in various user forums. This has included our user group covering the third sector.

We're working to allow other public sector partners to publish via StatsWales with their own logo. To date only the Welsh Language Commissioner has done so.

Verifiable and measurable milestones to fulfil the commitment	New or ongoing	Start date	End date
StatsWales data published in machine readable format	Ongoing	June 2016	Ongoing
StatsWales training material on improvements prepared and delivered	New	November 2016	December 2017
Lle developed to allow users to build their own maps	Ongoing	January 2016	January 2017
Open data catalogue produced	Ongoing	October 2016	December 2016

# Commitment 3: StatsWales

**Develop StatsWales, the Welsh Government's online repository for detailed statistical data, to increase its openness rating to 4\*.**

## Objective

To increase the openness and amount of structured data that is published by Welsh Government and other public sector bodies.

## Status quo

Only a subset of data about Wales held by Welsh Government and other public sector partners is currently published. Whilst StatsWales publishes structured data openly there is a need to increase its openness rating.

## **Ambition**

Through this commitment we will improve the openness of data published by Welsh Government, enabling our data to be freely shared and used by others.

## **Leading implementing organisation**

Welsh Government

## **Timeline**

March 2016 – December 2017

## **OGP values**

Access to information, Technology and innovation

## **New or ongoing commitment**

New

## **Other actors involved – government**

Welsh Government initiative publishing data for Wales, some of which may emanate from other government departments.

## **Other actors involved – CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals etc.**

Users have been involved in the development of the StatsWales site, e.g. providing feedback, and being updated in various user forums. This has included our user group covering the third sector.

We're working to allow other public sector partners to publish via StatsWales with their own logo. To date only the Welsh Language Commissioner has done so.

<b>Verifiable and measurable milestones to fulfil the commitment</b>	<b>New or ongoing</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
StatsWales data published in machine readable format	Ongoing	June 2016	Ongoing
StatsWales guidance and training videos prepared and published	New	November 2016	December 2016
Accreditation of StatsWales carried out successfully	New	September 2016	March 2017
StatsWales training material prepared and delivered	New	November 2016	December 2017

# **Commitment 4: Administrative Data Research Centre Wales**

**In partnership with the Administrative Data Research Centre Wales, the Welsh Government will work to ensure that access to government datasets is available in a secure and safe manner for the purposes of academic and public sector research. Furthermore, such access is promoted to maximise the use of such data for research that is published and made available to support better decisions.**

## **Objective**

Secure and ethical access to data held by government to accredited academic and public sector researchers in approved safe environments with appropriate controls in place, leading to published research for the public good.

## **Status quo**

To overcome barriers to access to data for academic or public sector research purposes.

## **Ambition**

Through this commitment we will improve the public value of government data by ensuring it is available to use to produce high quality, published, research that will inform public policy and improve the lives of citizens.

## **Leading implementing organisation**

Welsh Government

## **Timeline**

Continuous

## **OGP values**

Access to information

## **New or ongoing commitment**

New

## **Other actors involved – government**

UK Statistics Authority

**Other actors involved – CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals etc.**

Administrative Data Research Centre – Wales (academic partnership); ESRC; Administrative Data Research Network Board

<b>Verifiable and measurable milestones to fulfil the commitment</b>	<b>New or ongoing</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
Publish further research in partnership with the Administrative Data Research Centre-Wales by the end of the financial year	Ongoing	March 2015	31/03/17
Increase the number of public sector datasets available for Welsh researchers through the ADRC-W by the end of the financial year	Ongoing	March 2015	31/03/17
Pilot techniques for local authorities to supply data for research in the ADRC-W by the end of the financial year	New	September 2016	31/03/17

# **Commitment 5: Government Social Research Publication Protocol**

Welsh Government will continue to publish government research according to the **Government Social Research Publication Protocol**, with reports pre-announced and published on the ‘**Statistics & Research**’ pages of the Welsh Government website. Publication of social research reports, according to the GSR publication protocol, is a key part of the [Welsh Government Principles for Research and Evaluation](#).

**Objective**

To publish research according to the Government Social Research publication protocol.

**Status quo**

The Government Social Research publication protocol has been adopted to increase the transparency of evidence used by the Welsh Government.



## **Ambition**

Publication of research puts the evidence Government uses in its decisions in the public domain and also provides research findings useful for other public and third sector bodies to inform their own decision making.

## **Leading implementing organisation**

Welsh Government

## **Timeline**

While the GSR publication protocol has been in use by Welsh Government since its introduction in 2010, there has been Ministerial commitment to the use of the protocol from March 2014.

## **OGP values**

Access to information, Public accountability

## **New or ongoing commitment**

Ongoing

## **Other actors involved – government**

Welsh Government

## **Other actors involved – CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals etc.**

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<b>Verifiable and measurable milestones to fulfil the commitment</b>	<b>New or ongoing</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
Using the GSR publication protocol for all research publications.	Ongoing	March 2010	Ongoing
Ministerial commitment to use of Government Social Research publication protocol.	Ongoing	March 2014	Ongoing

# **Commitment 6: Gov.Wales**

**We will make our information and services easier to find and consume by consolidating our digital content on a new Welsh Government website that is focussed on meeting user needs. The site will include an improved consultation service.**

## Objective

Build a new GOV.WALES to improve access to Welsh Government information and services.

## Status quo

The Welsh Government publishes information on more than 150 websites. Information is presented inconsistently and is sometimes duplicated. Users do not know whether they have found all Welsh Government information on a particular issue.

## Ambition

GOV.WALES will accommodate practically all Welsh Government information and services, making it easier for users to understand what we do and how we are performing. It will provide a clearer picture of the public sector in Wales, increasing accountability by allowing the public to see and access those bodies that are working on their behalf. The new consultations service will provide a better way for the public to participate in our decision-making process.

## Leading implementing organisation

Welsh Government

## Timeline

1 April 2015 – 30 June 2019

## OGP values

Access to information, Civic participation, Public accountability

## New or ongoing commitment

New

## Other actors involved – government

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## Other actors involved – CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals etc.

Welsh citizens are involved in the testing of the website.

Verifiable and measurable milestones to fulfil the commitment	New or ongoing	Start date	End date
Launch beta consultations service, including	New	01/07/16	30/09/16

response forms that users can save			
Launch beta campaigns platform	New	01/10/16	30/11/16
Launch beta public bodies platform	New	01/01/17	31/03/17
Publish first tranche of beta corporate content	New	01/10/16	30/04/17
Publish remaining corporate content	New	01/05/17	30/06/19

## **Commitment 7: Code of Practice for Ethical Employment in Supply Chains**

**Welsh Government will develop a code for ethical supply chain behaviour, that will ensure awareness and understanding of actions to mitigate against ethical supply chain issues.**

### **Objective**

To achieve high levels of sign-up to 12 commitments aimed at promoting the legal and ethical treatment of workers.

### **Status quo**

Unethical and illegal treatment of workers in public sector supply chains.

### **Ambition**

One ambition of this piece of work is to raise awareness of the prevalence of modern slavery in our supply chains and take actions to address areas of high risk.

Another ambition is to raise and level the playing field in Wales so that suppliers that wish to employ workers ethically are not disadvantaged in bidding for public contracts.

A third ambition is to encourage the more widespread adoption of the Living Wage Foundation's Living Wage (based on the costs of living).

### **Leading implementing organisation**

Welsh Government

## Timeline

March 2016 – early in 2017

## OGP values

Public accountability

## New or ongoing commitment

New

## Other actors involved – government

Public sector organisations in Wales

## Other actors involved – CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals etc.

Businesses and third sector organisations in Wales.

<b>Verifiable and measurable milestones to fulfil the commitment</b>	<b>New or ongoing</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
First draft completed and introduced at Procurex	New	March 2016	September 2016
Task and Finish Group established and first meeting set-up	New	October 2016	November 2016
Engagement with business and third sector	New	October 2016	Early 2017
Ethical supply chain code launch	New	Early in 2017	Early in 2017
Sign-up	New	Ongoing	Ongoing

# Commitment 8: Well-being of Future Generations Act – National Indicators for Wales

To measure progress towards the achievement of the seven well-being goals for Wales set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and report on them annually.

**Objective**

In order to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales the Welsh Government has developed a set of National Indicators to measure progress against the 7 well-being goals outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. In doing so an open and transparent approach is being taken in the development and communication of the National Indicators and the data that underpins them.

**Status quo**

Measuring national progress against the seven well-being goals for Wales set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

**Ambition**

If we are to collectively achieve the seven well-being goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, we need a way of measuring, at a national level, what progress is being made. The 46 National Indicators for Wales are intended to measure progress against the seven well-being goals and have been prepared following public consultation. They will be reported on annually through a 'Well-being Report for Wales'.

**Leading implementing organisation**

Welsh Government

**Timeline**

March 2016 – early in 2017

**OGP values**

Access to information

**New or ongoing commitment**

New

**Other actors involved – government**

Specified public bodies under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

**Other actors involved – CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals etc.**

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, Auditor General for Wales.

Verifiable and measurable milestones to fulfil the commitment	New or ongoing	Start date	End date
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Lay the 'National Indicators for Wales' before the National Assembly for Wales.	Ongoing	April 2015	March 2016
Produce the first Annual Well-being Report for Wales.	Ongoing	April 2016	Summer 2017

## **Commitment 9: Well-being duty on specified public bodies in Wales**

**All public bodies, listed in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, have a duty to set and publish well-being objectives that outline how they will contribute to achieving each of the well-being goals and take reasonable steps to meet those objectives.**

### **Objective**

Requiring public bodies to do things in pursuit of the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales in a way that accords with the sustainable development principle; to require public bodies to report on such action.

### **Status quo**

A more consistent approach across the public sector to decision making affecting the well-being of Wales.

### **Ambition**

It will place a legal duty on specified public bodies to take account of the importance of involving people that reflect the diversity of the population in their decision making.

### **Leading implementing organisation**

Welsh Government

### **Timeline**

April 2016 onwards

### **OGP values**

Civic participation

### **New or ongoing commitment**

New legislative commitment under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

**Other actors involved – government**

The 43 specified public bodies under the Act, and Public Service Boards.

**Other actors involved – CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals etc.**

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, Auditor General for Wales.

<b>Verifiable and measurable milestones to fulfil the commitment</b>	<b>New or ongoing</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
Legal duty comes into force	New legal commitment	April 2016	April 2016
Public Bodies publish their first wellbeing objectives.	New	April 2016	April 2017
Public Service Boards – Assessment of local well-being	New	April 2016	May 2017