OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP NEW ZEALAND

Commitment 3 - Improving open data access and principles

Date: September to November 2017

Lead agency: Stats NZ

To review and strengthen the principles under which New Zealand releases open data and information.

	Milestones	Stage
1	Review potential adoption of the International Open Data Charter, using public feedback	🔵
2	Review New Zealand Data and Information Management Principles	🔵
3	Determine what principles will guide release of, and access to, New Zealand open data and information, using public feedback	🔵
4	Engage with citizens and government on application of the new/amended open data principles	🔵
5	Implement new/amended open data principles. *End date: June 2018*	🟢

🟢 underway

🔵 completed

🟠 some delays.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

- On 22 September 2017 Stats NZ proactively released the Cabinet paper proposing adoption of the International Open Data Charter

- The Open Government Data Action Plan is being revised to include actions to implement the Charter's principles. A more detailed implementation plan with time-bound tasks and milestones is also being developed. Both plans will be living documents, regularly updated to reflect what has been learnt as we progress, changes in the needs of data users and data suppliers, and feedback from the data community.

LINKS

- [Cabinet paper: Adoption of the International Open Data Charter](#)

- [How to adopt the Open Data Charter](#)

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Publication of the action plan and implementation plan, with an invitation to provide feedback

- Formally notify the Open Data Charter group of our adoption of the Charter, and provide links to the media release, Cabinet paper, action plan, and implementation plan

- Consolidate the information on the principles under which open government data is released (including the Declaration on Transparent and Open Government, NZ Data and Information Management Principles, NZ Government Open Access and Licensing Framework, and Open Data Charter).

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP NEW ZEALAND

Commitment 3 - Improving open data access and principles

Date: December to February 2018

Lead agency: Stats NZ

To review and strengthen the principles under which New Zealand releases open data and information.

	Milestones	Stage
1	Review potential adoption of the International Open Data Charter, using public feedback	🔵
2	Review New Zealand Data and Information Management Principles	🔵
3	Determine what principles will guide release of, and access to, New Zealand open data and information, using public feedback	🔵
4	Engage with citizens and government on application of the new/amended open data principles	🔵
5	Implement new/amended open data principles. *End date: June 2018*	🟢

🟢 underway

🔵 completed

🟤 some delays.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

- The Open Data Action Plan has been updated to include initiatives for implementing the Open Data Charter principles. The action plan is accompanied by an implementation plan that includes time-bound activities and milestones, and describes how the action plan will be delivered. The implementation plan enables us to meet the criteria for adopting the Open Data Charter.

- The updated action plan and implementation plan will be launched at an Open Data Day event on 2 March 2018 and will be published online following the event.

LINKS

- [Cabinet paper: Adoption of the International Open Data Charter](#)

- [How to adopt the Open Data Charter](#)

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Formally notify the Open Data Charter of New Zealand's adoption of the Charter.

- Review and consolidate the information on the principles under which open government data is released (including the Declaration on Transparent and Open Government, NZ Data and Information Management Principles, NZ Government Open Access and Licensing Framework, and Open Data Charter).

- Publish guidance resources (such as help notes and FAQs) to help government agencies understand how the Open Data Charter principles could be implemented, and seek feedback on these resources.

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP NEW ZEALAND

Commitment 3 - Improving open data access and principles

Date: June to August 2017

Lead agency: Stats NZ

To review and strengthen the principles under which New Zealand releases open data and information.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

- A paper proposing that New Zealand adopt the International Open Data Charter was confirmed by Cabinet on 21 August 2017. This follows public consultation on adopting the Charter, and consultation with key government agencies on the paper.

LINKS

- [Engagement Summary – Open Data Charter](#)
- [Published Submissions on 'Should the New Zealand Government adopts the International Open Data Charter'?](#)
- [New Zealand adopts International Open Data Charter – press release](#)

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Stats NZ will work with public services and non-public service departments on refining the Open Government Data Action Plan to include how implementation of the Charter's principles will be advanced. An updated Action Plan will be published by 31 October 2017.

- Stats NZ will proactively release the Cabinet paper.

- Adopting the Charter enables Australia and New Zealand to have a commonly agreed framework for collaboration, providing opportunities to work with Australia on open government data initiatives.

YEAR END: Commitment 3 - Improving open data access and principles

Date: March to June 2018

Lead agency: Stats NZ

To review and strengthen the principles under which New Zealand releases open data and information.

	Milestones	Stage
1	Review potential adoption of the International Open Data Charter, using public feedback	🔵
2	Review New Zealand Data and Information Management Principles	🔵
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🟢 underway

🔵 completed

🟤 some delays.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

- On 2 March 2018 the Minister of Statistics Hon James Shaw and Government Chief Data Steward Liz MacPherson co-signed a letter to formally adopt the Open Data Charter.

- Stats NZ is responsible for the implementation of the Charter principles, and the Chief Executive of Stats NZ and Government Chief Data Steward, Liz MacPherson, is the government point of contact for the Charter. The Charter principles will be implemented through the updated Open Data Action Plan for which the Government Chief Data Steward has responsibility.

- Stats NZ is now focusing on helping government agencies integrate the principles into their data management practices, using the principles as the foundation for articulating value propositions and identifying implementation tactics. To facilitate this we have established new engagement channels and reinvigorated existing ones such as the Data Champions Network.

- Stats NZ has published guidance resources that shows how the NZ Data and Information Management Principles and the Open Data Charter principles work together and can be applied in the NZ context, including how these principles relate to other NZ data and information frameworks and mandates. We have asked for feedback on these resources to enable us to refine them and ensure they are useful.

HOW DID THIS COMMITMENT CONTRIBUTE TO OPEN GOVERNMENT?

- This commitment contributes to the OGP values of access to information and public accountability.

- Adopting the Open Data Charter reinforces New Zealand's continued commitment to open data, and provides a more up to date framework for accelerating the release of open government data. The Charter reiterates to government agencies the existing requirements to release high value data, and provides specific requirements for what it means to manage and release open data.

- Of particular relevance to open government is Charter principle 5 – For improved governance and citizen engagement. This principle recognises that the release of open data:
    - strengthens the governance of and trust in government,
    - provides a transparent and accountable foundation to improve decision-making and enhance the provision of public services
    - encourages better development, implementation, and assessment of policies and services to meet the needs of our citizens
    - enables civic participation and better informed engagement between governments and citizens.

- Stats NZ recognises that having strengthened or mandated principles is not enough to deliver the change needed to accelerate the release of open government data. In adopting the Open Data Charter we are obliged to have an implementation plan with specific, time-bound activities, and to track implementation progress. As part of this implementation plan we will develop and provide resources and support to help government agencies implement the principles.

- Ongoing engagement with agencies will enable us to continuously improve the resources and support we provide. Through this engagement we are also discussing the release of data about the agencies themselves, in addition to releasing open data collected through their operations. This will contribute to improving the openness and transparency of government.

LINKS

- Cabinet paper: Adoption of the International Open Data Charter
  https://data.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Adoption-of-the-International-Open-Data-Charter-minute-of-dec.pdf

- Signed letter to the Open Data Charter
  https://data.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Signed-letter-to-Open-Data-Charter.pdf

- Open Data Action Plan and Implementation Plan
  https://data.govt.nz/community/news/open-data-action-plan/
  https://data.govt.nz/community/news/open-data-implementation-plan/

- Guidance on implementing principles:

  o An overview of New Zealand data and information principles
    https://www.data.govt.nz/standards-and-guidance/open-data/an-overview-of-new-zealand-data-and-information-principles/

  o How New Zealand's data and information principles work together
    https://www.data.govt.nz/standards-and-guidance/open-data/how-new-zealands-data-and-information-principles-work-together/

- Open Data Action Plan and Implementation Plan
  https://data.govt.nz/community/news/open-data-action-plan/
  https://data.govt.nz/community/news/open-data-implementation-plan/