Fourth National Action Plan Progress Report December 2023

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP
NEW ZEALAND

Report on the Fourth National Action Plan Commitments under OGP

Opening Karakia

E te hui

Whāia te mātauranga

kia mārama

Kia whai take ngā mahi katoa

Tū māia, tū kaha

Aroha atu, aroha mai Tātou i a tātou katoa

Opening Comments

Hugo Vitalis,

Deputy Commissioner, Integrity Ethics & Standards, Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission

1.15-1.25 pm: Commitment One

Presenter: Helen Murdoch, Principal Analyst,
Te Kawa Maataho Public Service Commission

Commitment 1 – Adopt a community engagement tool

Lead Agency – Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission

Commitment Description

We want meaningful engagement that is well-designed, planned and delivered.

This commitment aims to support that through three elements:

- Policy Community Engagement Tool to guide good practice

- Community of practice

- A model standard to set expectations around the use of consistent engagement frameworks

Case study: Whai Kāinga Whai Oranga partners with Māori to deliver over 1000 homes

Progress

- **Policy Community Engagement Tool** improved with input from Kāpuia and agencies
  https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-10/policy-community-engagement-tool-oct2023.pdf

- Public sector **community of practice** is sharing best practice and ran two full-day workshops in 2023.

- Using **case studies** to shine a light on engagements that involve, collaborate and empower communities.

- We have done targeted engagement within the public service to understand how **model standard** expectations will impact on how agencies operate.

Commitment 1 – Adopt a community engagement tool

Challenges

- We want to drive meaningful engagement for communities and reduce engagement fatigue.

- Agencies continue to report time and resourcing constraints as critical barriers to delivering quality engagements.

- We do not have a complete picture of what the public service is engaging with the public about.

Next Steps

- Continue to promote the Policy Community Engagement Tool and other engagement guidance.

- Maintain the community of practice.

- Publish and promote case studies about involving, collaborating and empowering communities.

- Confirm the priorities of the incoming government.

2023 Spirit of Service Award for Better cyber security outcomes through partnership with industry

Commitment 1 Question Time

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1.25-1.35 pm: Commitment Two

Presenter: Cathy Adank, Senior Advisor, Te Kawa Maataho Public Service Commission

Commitment 2 – Research deliberative processes for community engagement

Lead Agency – Te Kawa Mataaho

Commitment Description

Research how deliberative processes can be adapted to work well in a New Zealand content by identifying two examples and capturing lessons learned via case studies.

Goal – raise awareness and capability across government, create tools for agencies/public who may want to run a deliberative process.

Progress

- Met with Watercare and Koi Tū and have used the Watercare citizens' assembly as a case study.

- The webpage is up with the case study, information about deliberative processes and links to where people can learn more - https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/publications/deliberative-processes-citizens-juries-and-citizens-assemblies/

- Observed Wellington City Council citizens' assembly in action.

Screen grabs from webpage:

Video of the Watercare citizens' assembly

[1] OECD, *Eight Ways to Institutionalise Deliberative Democracy OECD Public Governance Policy Paper*, p.6 ↗ https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/4fcf1da5-en.pdf?expires=1690855472&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=70AFEE66054A8198A0F463F7663D610E

[2] ↗ Eight Ways to Institutionalise Deliberative Democracy OECD Public Governance Policy Paper, P. 7

How did the process work and what did they recommend?

The citizens' assembly took place over seven weeks. In the first session, Watercare presented the problem they wanted to solve and committed to honouring the assembly outcomes. Six options for Auckland's future water supply were given to the group, along with the ability to add any other option the assembly put forward.

Over the following sessions, participants were provided with information and different perspectives on the topic. This included presentations from Auckland council planners and a hui with the Mana Whenua Kaitiaki Forum. Participants worked in groups to delve further into options and discuss the criteria they would use to select an option. The assembly then decided on eight initial recommendations, which they whittled down to four.

Participants then rated how comfortable they felt about options on a scale from "love it" to "loathe it".[4] After further discussions, the assembly recommended direct recycled water as the next source of water for Auckland, with education about recycled water starting immediately.

Considerable effort was put into meeting the needs of participants, including providing childcare, transport, assistance for visually or otherwise impaired participants and food that suited a variety of dietary and cultural needs.

> **"**
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> Going into this I was a bit worried I'd be very strongly pushed towards a single option, but it really seems like they're encouraging discussion

PARTICIPANT
WATERCARE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

Commitment 2 – Research deliberative processes for community engagement

Challenges

- How can we best promote deliberative processes to agencies?

Next Steps

- Do a scan of other examples of deliberative processes, both in the NZ public sector and overseas.

- Develop a second case study – ideally one provides some variety and an example of scalability.

Commitment 2 Question Time

1.35-1.45 pm: Commitment Three

Presenters: Colin Holden, General Manager, System Strategy, Tessa Houghton, Strategic Advisor , Department of Internal Affairs

Commitment 3 - Establish an inclusive, multi-channel approach to the delivery of government information and services

Lead agency - Department of Internal Affairs

Commitment description

Establish and champion an all-of-government approach to the delivery of government information and services to ensure agencies deliver services that are accessible to and meet the diverse needs of all the people of Aotearoa.

This will be achieved through civil society organisations and government agencies working in partnership with, and leveraging, the Government Chief Digital Officer's (GCDO) System Lead role for digital government transformation.

Agencies' implementation of the approach will:

- allow people to more easily access their entitlements and fulfil their obligations

- prevent the individual and societal costs experienced when people are unable to easily connect with services

- enhance social inclusion and individual and community wellbeing.

1.45-1.55 pm: Commitment Four

Presenter: Tim Townsend, Manager, Counter Fraud and Strategy, Serious Fraud Office

Commitment 4- Design and implement a National Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy

Commitment Description

- The National Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy (NCFCS) aims to introduce a coordinated approach to addressing fraud and corruption in New Zealand.

- Better management of fraud and corruption reports, better coordination between investigating agencies, improvement in the experience of victims and progress with prevention and awareness activities.

Progress

- SFO working jointly with Ministry of Justice and NZ Police.

- We started out with a broad focus, including all kinds of fraud and financial crime alongside corruption.

- Refined our approach to look at fraud and corruption, starting with interventions available to the public sector.

- Goal has always been to get the fraud response right in the public sector before reaching out to the private sector, local government and civil society organisations
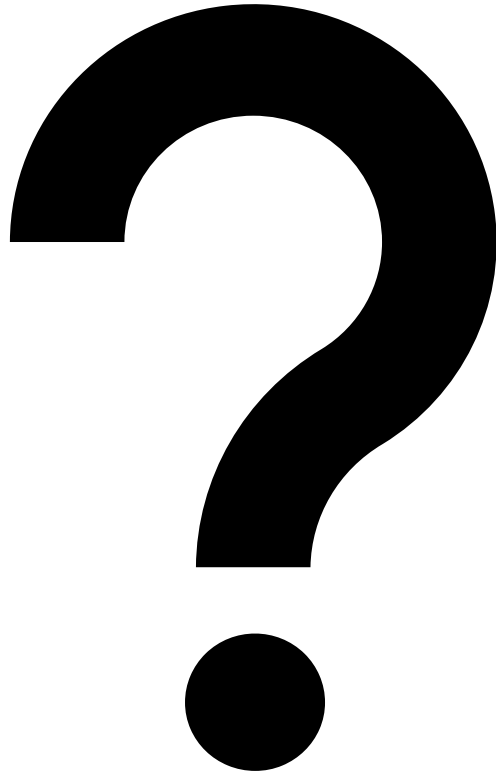
Commitment 4

Challenges

- Scope of Strategy
- Information on victims' perspective
- Strategic fit/overlap with other related strategies such as TNOC, AML/CFT
- Differing approach required for fraud and corruption
- Day to day Enforcement and Prevention Activities

Next Steps

- Consultation with Key Agencies and Stakeholders

- Draft and Consult on Strategy Paper

- Cabinet

Commitment 4 Question Time

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2.00-2.10 pm: Commitment Five

Presenter: Thomas Abernethy, Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)

Commitment 5 - Increase transparency of beneficial ownership of companies and limited partnerships

Lead Agency – Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Commitment Description

- Increase the transparency of the beneficial ownership of New Zealand companies and limited partnerships by introducing legislation to make beneficial owners' identifying information available on a public register.

Progress

- We have been working on the draft bill with the Companies Office, MBIE Legal, and PCO.

- We have been working with operational teams (including the Companies Office) during drafting of legislation to help legislative design and implementation.

Commitment 5 - Increase transparency of beneficial ownership of companies and limited partnerships

Challenges

- The previous Government was focused on other priorities in the lead up to the 2023 General Election.

- Developing and operationalising legislation in a way that is effective and easy to use for government agencies and the public.

Next Steps

- Under the previous Government we were working with PCO towards an exposure draft of the Bill.

- We are working with the new Government to understand their priorities for this work.

Commitment 5 Question Time

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2.10-2.20 pm: Commitment Six

Presenter: Olaf Buhrfeindt, Senior Policy Advisor, NZ Government Procurement & Property, MBIE

Commitment 6- Improve government procurement transparency

Lead Agency - The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Commitment Description

Improve the transparency of government sourcing activities and establish practices to better support capturing and sharing procurement information.

To achieve this, we are:

- Making improvements to Government Electronic Tender Services (GETS) to better capture spend data in line with publication requirements under the Government Procurement Rules.

- Developing the foundations of an integrated data system and future data management by establishing a data governance framework, reporting requirements and standards that will enhance the visibility of procurement information and enable a comprehensive view of government expenditure.

- Developing a digital data Procurement Platform to capture procurement information, in alignment with the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS).

Commitment 6 - Improve government procurement transparency

Key progress

- Completed changes to the GETS public website to improve navigation and provide clear registration instruction for suppliers.

- Completed data governance discovery and started designing the digital Procurement Platform's data governance.

- Have established data sponsors and stewards for managing datasets on an ongoing basis.

- Completed design and discovery workshops for the Procurement Platform, ensuring that it will meet OCDS standards.

Challenges

- Data collected in silos

- Using different systems

- Data Standards

- Data availability

- Quality of data

- Indiscriminate data collation

Commitment 6 - Improve government procurement transparency

Key next steps

- Developing improvements to the manual response interface to increase data quality through improved user interface and input validation features.

- Complete the delivery roadmap for the entire Procurement Platform's capabilities, and detailed design for the Phase One release.

- Complete the Procurement Platform data governance design.

Commitment 6 Question Time

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2.20-2.40 pm: Commitment Seven

Presenter: Anna Moore-Jones, Policy Advisor, Electoral and Constitutional Policy team, Ministry of Justice

Commitment 7- Strengthen scrutiny of OIA exemption clauses

Lead Agency – Ministry of Justice

Commitment Description

To strengthen the scrutiny of legislative clauses that propose to override the disclosure requirements of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

This has the potential to:

• Support policy makers

• Increase transparency

• Support good regulatory stewardship

Progress

• Identified processes and guidance that prompt consideration of the applicability of the OIA.

• Carried out research on the public availability of rationale for current OIA exemption clauses.

• Discussed mechanisms and outcomes of research with relevant public agencies such as Treasury and the Ombudsman.

• Prepared engagement plan and relevant documentation with the aim of targeted engagement early in 2024.

Commitment 7 - Strengthen scrutiny of OIA exemption clauses

Challenges

- Difficulty identifying relevant publicly available information explaining rationale for current OIA exemptions.

- Changes to resourcing on OGP NAP4 within Ministry and pressure from other work priorities.

Next Steps

- Targeted civil society engagement in early 2024 to discuss options to improve guidance for public sector agencies when considering OIA exemptions in legislation.

- Continuing to progress potential improvements to guidance for public sector agencies when considering OIA exemptions in legislation.

Commitment 7 Question Time

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2.40 -2.50 pm: Commitment Eight

Presenter: Jocelyn Morrison, Principal Advisor
Statistics NZ

Commitment 8 - Improve transparency and accountability of govt algorithm use

Lead agency – Stats NZ

Commitment Description

This commitment aims to improve the support available to government agencies to enable them to implement the principles in the Algorithm Charter and provide greater transparency and accountability of algorithm use across government.

Progress

- The community of practice for Algorithm Charter signatories continues to meet quarterly to share ideas and advice, research findings, and updates on agency algorithm initiatives.

- Algorithm impact assessment resources have been developed:
    - Algorithm threshold assessment questionnaire
    - Algorithm impact assessment questionnaire
    - User guide
    - Report template.

Commitment 8- Improve transparency and accountability of govt algorithm use
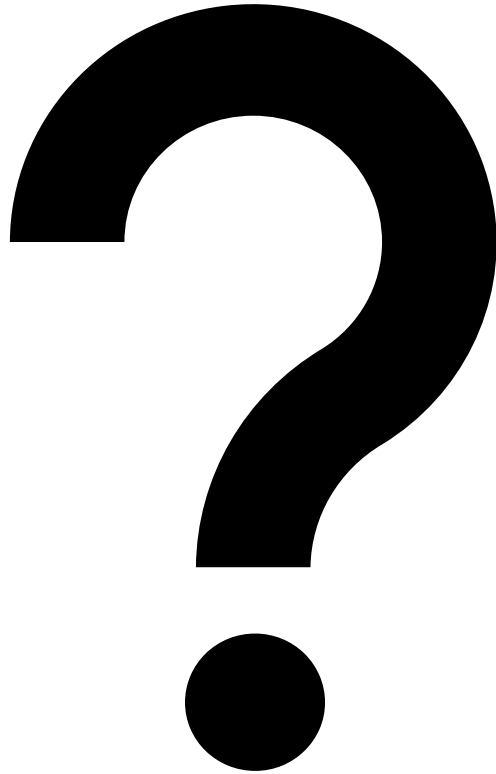
Challenges

- Resourcing to enhance assessment tools and start the engagement phase of implementation.

Next Steps

- Publish the algorithm assessment tools and user guide on data.govt.nz

- Continue to support the Community of Practice.

Commitment 8 Question Time

Please send any additional questions to:

ogpnz@publicservice.govt.nz

We will respond to all questions raised and post the responses on the OGP website ogp.org.nz

Closing Karakia - Te Aroha

Te aroha

Te whakapono

Me te rangimarie

Tatou Tatou e

Love, hope, peace, for us all