Open Government Partnership New Zealand

National Action Plan 2018-2021

End of Term Report

Commitment 11: Authoritative dataset of government organisations as open data for greater transparency

Lead agency: Department of Internal Affairs

Objective: To release and maintain an authoritative dataset of government organisations as open, machine-readable data to enhance the transparency of government structures to the public.

There will be cross-agency agreement to maintain this dataset, providing assurance that the data being used is the authoritative source. This dataset becomes a foundation for both digital services and information about government.

Ambition: New Zealanders and others will have access to authoritative, open data about government agencies and their roles, learn more about how government is structured, what agencies do, and be able to reuse the open data in new and innovative ways.

OGP values: Transparency, Accountability and Technology and Innovation

What we achieved:

This Commitment originally consisted of four milestones. Its objective was to make information about how government works easily accessible and reusable. Following a review in early 2020 (in light of lessons learnt in the course of implementing the Commitment and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic), four additional milestones were added. These recognised the need to ensure that, once created, the dataset continues to be maintained and enhanced.

The Commitment is poised for completion once decisions are made on ownership, governance and the ongoing maintenance process. This work will be completed after the expiry of NAP3.

Summary

Milestones[1]		Progress[2]
1	Identify owners, contributors and maintainers for the data held in the proposed dataset. *Start/End dates:* October 2018-December 2018	🙂

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[1] Some milestones have been revised and some new milestones were created since the Commitment 11 work began. This reflects improved understanding of activity required to implement the dataset. In the interests of transparency, revised and new milestones have been clearly marked.

[2] In the draft self-assessment of the 2018-2021 Plan, we have categorised "underway" milestones as "poised for completion/substantially completed" as the Commitments are poised for completion once decisions are made on ownership, governance and the ongoing maintenance process. This work will be completed after the expiry of NAP3.

2	Investigate and agree on the appropriate open standards for the dataset. *Start/End dates:* October 2018-June 2021	☺
3	Work with identified dataset contributors to agree on the process for ongoing maintenance of the dataset. *Start/End dates:* December 2018 – June 2021	😐
4	Explore and then agree on a governance model and ongoing ownership for the data model and dataset.* *Start/End dates:* August 2020-June 2021 *Added milestone.	☺
5	Draft and then confirm a data model of the 'machinery of government dataset' to support the ongoing release of data about government organisations.* *Start/End dates:* January 2020-June 2021 *Added milestone	☺
6	Publish the machinery of government open dataset, released by the Public Services Commission in 2020, on data.govt.nz* https://catalogue.data.govt.nz/dataset/mog-events/resource/bfc80102-20f8-4a37-815a-2c07c667101c *Start/End dates:* December 2018 – June 2020 *Revised milestone	😃
7	Ongoing technical task of making the agency name data set available via the data.govt.nz open data Application Programming Interface (API).* *Start/End dates:* December 2018 – June 2021 *Revised milestone	😐
8	Secure active users of the dataset/API by promoting the opportunities of reuse to government agencies, non-governmental organisations, business, and the public.* *Start/End dates:* June 2019 – June 2021 *Added milestone	☺

Progress key: 😐 **some delays**   ☺ **underway**   😃 **completed**

What we achieved

Milestone 1: Data contributors

We have identified owners, contributors and maintainers for the data held in the proposed dataset. The various data are produced in a range of government agencies including the Treasury, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Public Service Commission.

A linked data approach will enable the future integration of this data. This will support further progress on the dataset when resourcing permits.

Milestone 2: Open standards

We have identified a range of candidate ontologies and key dimensions by which we can evaluate which ontology is most suitable for our purposes. An ontology is a necessary companion to the dataset, since it describes the entities contributing the data as well as their relationships. An ontology also enables effective interrogation of data because it is described in a consistent way.

A decision on open data standards has been postponed until evaluation of the ontology is complete, since choice of standards needs to be made in relation to an ontology.

Early thinking was undertaken on the use of unique identifiers for government organisations, using URIs to support a linked data approach. It was proposed that a URI minting service be set up as well as development of a set of principles (similar to the approach adopted for www.govt.nz). Work on a URI minting service was put on hold until the issues of governance, ontology and standards were clearer.

Milestone 3: Process for ongoing maintenance of the dataset and Milestone 4: Governance model and ongoing ownership of the data model and dataset.

Ongoing maintenance of the dataset is contingent on ownership. The working group has identified an apparent gap in system ownership for the dataset, which appears to fall between responsibilities of the two functional lead roles of the Government Chief Digital Officer and the Government Chief Data Steward. Options for a potential system owner for the database are being explored, with a view to implementing the dataset after the expiry of NAP3.

Milestone 5: Data model

We have run a series of workshops to understand the business context in which the data is produced and to model entities and relationships contributing to the C11 dataset. A diagrammatic model has been produced and will be used develop and agree a formal data model that will support development of the dataset.

The working group sees opportunity to run further workshops to explore and model additional entities and relationships supporting the data (for example, between legislation, agencies and portfolios).

Milestone 6: Publication of agency name open dataset on www.data.govt.nz and Milestone 7: Ongoing technical task of making the dataset available via the data.govt.nz open data Application Programming Interface (API)

To make a start on releasing open data about government organisations while work to plan the C11 dataset was going on, the Public Service Commission (represented on the C11 working group) released its machinery of government (MoG) dataset in 2020 for publication on data.govt.nz.

The MoG dataset is available at https://catalogue.data.govt.nz/dataset/mog-events/resource/bfc80102-20f8-4a37-815a-2c07c667101c

Milestone 8: Securing active users of the dataset

Narrative and use cases

A narrative has been developed to articulate the value of the dataset, and use cases identified and described. This has been shared with the Public Service Commission to support conversations across the system.

Govt A-Z sandbox experiment

To demonstrate for decision-makers the potential of the dataset, a sandbox experiment was undertaken to understand the practicalities of consuming datasets in production systems. This kind of use of the dataset will be a key indicator of success for the Commitment when the final dataset is built and published.

The MoG dataset, which contains data about a subset of the agencies that will be included in the wider dataset, was tested on a copy of the Government A-Z feature of www.govt.nz. The [Government A-Z](#) listing provides contact and other key information about government organisations. Content updates are currently done manually based on a variety of inputs, including the PSC's MoG dataset.

It was envisaged that the experiment would take the MoG dataset and use a content model API to update the relevant fields in the Government A-Z list automatically, to determine whether this could meet user needs and reduce maintenance costs.

A working prototype was set up in the sandbox environment to display the data with the look and feel of the Government A-Z listing.

Data cleansing and scope definition is in progress.

The experiment will proceed to testing consumption of the data using APIs and will also examine:

- whether the relationships within the MoG dataset can be built out to increase functionality (comparing relationships like host agency as defined in the Govt A-Z vs MoG dataset);

- expanding the fields included in the MoG dataset to improve the usability of the data (for example, including organisation contact details); and

- defining which organisations should be included in the MoG dataset as an input vs what is included in the final A-Z output.

How we included diverse voices and engaged diverse communities

- Work on the commitment is being assisted by civil society representatives and members of the public interested in this commitment. Previous blog posts on digital.govt.nz have encouraged people to get involved if they are interested, for example:

- Blog post: Agency name open dataset – ready for reuse! https://www.digital.govt.nz/blog/agency-name-open-dataset-ready-for-reuse/

- Blog post: Building blocks of digital government transformation: https://www.digital.govt.nz/blog/building-blocks-of-digital-transformation/

- A Basecamp site was set up to share documents, support ongoing discussion and enable easier collaboration amongst the Commitment 11 working group.

- A blog post on digital.govt.nz is planned to provide an update on progress made in 2021. This will be amplified by using public and private Twitter accounts to extend the reach of the post.

Commitment links

- Machinery of Government data model workshops: https://twitter.com/vicwray/status/1306715302458060804

- Blog post: Agency name open dataset – ready for reuse! https://www.digital.govt.nz/blog/agency-name-open-dataset-ready-for-reuse/

- Blog post: Reusing the Public Service Commission's open dataset to validate and update government information: https://www.digital.govt.nz/blog/reusing-the-public-service-commissions-open-dataset-to-validate-and-update-government-information/

- Commitment 11 planning out to June 2021: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xCBmG9giYgsy9ET_0dbG6A-lVN3nIChpINOyJIzxcuw/edit#gid=0

- Blog post: Building blocks of digital government transformation: https://www.digital.govt.nz/blog/building-blocks-of-digital-transformation/

- Blog post: Exploring open standards for the government organisations dataset: https://www.digital.govt.nz/blog/exploring-the-standard-for-government-organisations-data-give-us-your-feedback/

Impacts

Immediate impacts

- Improved access to information about the structure of government agencies: the Public Service Commission's data set continues to be the only authoritative list of government

organisations. Since June 2020 this has been available and maintained by PSC as an open data option via www.data.govt.nz.

- The impact of not having decided on a canonical ID or establishing a URI minting service means that the linked data approach has not been developed. The impact on the C11 work programme has been minimal, however, since the C11 work is not yet at implementation stage.

Medium term impacts

- Completing the Govt A-Z sandbox experiment will provide valuable insights into the practicalities of consuming datasets in production systems (for example, the capabilities, testing environments and organisational maturity required) and will demonstrate for decision-makers the potential of the C11 dataset.

- While early indications are promising, it is likely that senior decision makers, including the data and digital functional leads, will need to be actively involved in progressing the work around system ownership, governance and product ownership of the C11 dataset to ensure sustainable conditions necessary for its maintenance, use and development.

- Pairing the dataset with an ontology will visualise the relationships between public service entities and the data they produce. These will be key system assets to be used to improve the production, management and use of data across the public service.

What we learned:

We learned that:

- there is an apparent gap in system ownership between the two functional lead roles of the Government Chief Digital Officer and the Government Chief Data Steward. This has had to be resolved to finalise the Commitment and has affected progress on establishing governance and direction (product ownership) for the dataset, and consequently finalisation of issues such as an ontology and open standards;

- it was important to describe the potential value of the dataset by developing a narrative, use cases and demonstrator;

- there is potential to enrich the MOG dataset with data supporting the Govt A-Z feature on www.govt.nz;

- frequent brief communication from the "lead" public servants to the wider C11 group supports trust and engagement with civil society members more effectively than less frequent updates on substantive progress;

- public servants and civil society representatives see and appreciate each other's efforts; and

- that a collaboration tool can support discussion and engagement between meetings of the wider group, but that email remains the default for most people.

What's next:

Consideration will be given, because of its systemic value, to continuing the work on the dataset and the enabling environment beyond the end of the 2020/21 financial year. Given the value to the project of using working methods consistent with the OGP's ethos of co-design and co-production, we recommend that the continuation of work on the dataset also continues this way of working.

Once milestones 3 and 4 have been achieved, the dataset will be ready for use.

Appendix

Supplementary End of Term Report

Commitment 11: Authoritative dataset of government organisations as open data for greater transparency

Lead agency: Department of Internal Affairs

Since August, when the Department of Internal Affairs submitted its end-of-term report for Commitment 11 (C11), work has continued to fully deliver against all milestones.

Resources have been secured for a two phased implementation plan:

- Build and Release (phase 1)
- Maintain and Develop (phase 2).

Build and Release (phase 1) will:

- create a minimum viable product (MVP) of the dataset;
- publish the dataset and make it available via the data.govt.nz open data Application Programming Interface (API);
- establish an approach/model for ongoing maintenance, extension and governance: and
- align and collaborate with Archives NZ's AOG Ontology work.

Maintain and Develop (phase 2) will:

- maintain the dataset to ensure it is updated with any changes to government organisations; and
- govern the dataset and promote its extension via linked data.

In addition, work to gather requirements and implement a URI minting and resolving service (required infrastructure for the C11 dataset) will proceed in parallel with implementing the dataset.

The Department of Internal Affairs anticipates that the implementation plan will begin in early 2022.

Discussions have also been taking place to seek a system owner for the C11 dataset. We are hopeful of a successful outcome from these discussions soon.

Once a system owner is confirmed and the implementation plan carried out, all C11 milestones will have been achieved.

Open Government Partnership New Zealand

National Action Plan 2018-2020

Progress report to: December 2019

Commitment 11: Authoritative dataset of government organisations as open data for greater transparency

Lead agency: Department of Internal Affairs

Objective:

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There will be cross-agency agreement to maintain this dataset, providing assurance that the data being used is the authoritative source. This dataset becomes a foundation for both digital services and information about government.

Ambition:

New Zealanders and others will have access to authoritative, open data about government agencies and their roles, learn more about how government is structured, what agencies do, and be able to reuse the open data in new and innovative ways.

OGP values: Transparency, Accountability and Technology and Innovation

	Milestones	Progress
1	Identify owners contributors and maintainers for the data held in the proposed dataset. *Start/End dates:* October 2018-December 2018	😃
2	Investigate and agree on the appropriate open standards for the dataset. *Start/End dates:* October 2018-December 2019	🙂
3	Work with identified dataset contributors to agree process for ongoing maintenance of the dataset. *Start/End dates:* December 2018 – June 2019	🙂
4	Release the open data set on data.govt.nz and make it available via the data.govt.nz open data Application Programming Interface (API) and promote the opportunities of reuse that the dataset provides with government agencies, non-governmental organisations, business, and the public. *Start/End dates:* December 2018 – June 2020	🙂

😐 **some delays**   ☺ **underway**   😃 **completed**

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

- Regular meetings with officials and civil society to discuss:

    - What it means for the data to be authoritative

    - User needs of agencies and the wider government system for the data

    - Individual agencies (e.g. State Services Commission (SSC) and Archives NZ) have presented their data models (what type of information is collected, what its purpose is etc). This helps show where there's a common set of needs, like modelling government organisational change (e.g. mergers, re-namings, disestablishments etc), and how the data that's collected varies from agency to agency.

- SSC has committed to releasing its [government organisational name data](#) as open data on data.govt.nz in early 2020.

HOW WE ARE INCLUDING DIVERSE VOICES

N/A

HOW WE ARE KEEPING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES INFORMED

- Using public channels and public and private Twitter accounts amplify and extend the reach of this work.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- **Releasing data**

    - Working with SSC to complete the publication of organisation name and change data.

    - Working with Statistics NZ, members of civil society and officials from agencies who hold the data, on releasing **more data** about the 'machinery of government' (e.g. Ministers, portfolios, vote, appropriations, legislation etc).

- **Finalising data model**

    - Scheduling workshops with the representative group of government officials and civil society members working on this commitment, to continue to

explore and document agency data models and user needs. The next one is in early March.

- **Future focus**

  o Working with Product owner of Govt.nz to reuse the SSC organisational name data in the [Government A-Z](#).

  o Ongoing conversations with Archives NZ about the All of Government ontology work they're leading.

  o Exploring using this year's [GovHack](#) as a platform for showing the potential of the organisation data. This idea came from discussion on the [Open Government Ninjas forum](#).

LINKS – EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS AND MILESTONES ACHEVED

- **Building blocks of digital transformation**
  https://www.digital.govt.nz/blog/building-blocks-of-digital-transformation/
  https://twitter.com/DigitalGovtNZ/status/1203775844063297536

- **Machinery of Government data**
  http://groups.open.org.nz/groups/ninja-talk/messages/topic/3otPVNc1OyC7zZbVtVGVfq/

Open Government Partnership New Zealand

National Action Plan 2018-2020

Progress report for: June 2018 – January 2019

Commitment 11: Release and maintain an authoritative dataset of government organisations as open data for greater transparency

Lead agency: Department of Internal Affairs

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| | government agencies, non-governmental organisations, business, and the public. | |
| | *Start/End dates:* December 2018 – June 2019 | |

Progress key: 😐 **some delays** ☺ **underway** 😄 **completed**

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

- **Research and analysis**
  Research on other jurisdiction's government organisation registers, analysing the different fields and metadata standards used.

- Creation of a 'strawman' data model for public engagement on the model.

- Meetings and correspondence with the State Services Commission, Archives New Zealand, and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to discuss and agree on ownership of specific data fields eg Legal title, historic agency name.

HOW WE ARE INCLUDING DIVERSE VOICES

- N/A

HOW WE ARE KEEPING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES INFORMED

- Blogging in the open on the approach and thinking behind it helps a broad range people and institutions to engage.

- Use of public and private twitter accounts help amplify and extend the reach of this work.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Further engagement to get agreement about the ownership of data for a maintenance model.

- Engagement and agreement on an open standard for the dataset.

LINKS – EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS AND MILESTONES ACHEVED

- https://www.digital.govt.nz/blog/open-data-open-government/

- https://catalogue.data.govt.nz/dataset/government-organisation-register

Open Government Partnership New Zealand

National Action Plan 2018-2021

Progress report to: July – September 2020

Commitment 11: 11   Authoritative Dataset of government organisations as open data

Lead agency: Department of Internal Affairs

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5	Draft and then confirm a data model of the 'machinery of government' to support the ongoing release of data about government organisations. *Start/End dates:* January 2020-June 2021	☺
6	Release the open data set on data.govt.nz *Start/End dates:* December 2018 – June 2020	☺
7	Ongoing technical task of making the data set available via the data.govt.nz open data Application Programming Interface (API). *Start/End dates:* December 2018 – June 2021	☺
8	Secure active users of the dataset/API by promoting the opportunities of reuse to government agencies, non-governmental organisations, business, and the public. *Start/End dates:* June 2019 – June 2021	☺

Progress key:

😐	☺	😄
some delays	**underway**	**completed**

Planning out to June 2021

- The working group met in August to plan out the commitment to its new end in June 2021. It was an active and useful session with a focus on communicating the value of the work being done as a foundation for accountability, transparency and service delivery.

Data Model of Machinery of Government

- This work is being co-led by The Treasury and the Digital Public Service Branch. Five workshops have been held, focused on the data held by the Cabinet Office (e.g. Ministerial lists and portfolios, Cabinet committees). The workshops were very well attended by a range of government officials and experts from civil society, the private sector and NGOs.
- More workshops are planned to focus on other aspects of government e.g. organisations, legislation, votes and appropriations (as reflected in the Estimates). The group is exploring using a specific test case to focus on. This is to test the model, as well as rein in potential scope creep.

Open standards

- Progress is being made in landing on an open standard for the data set(s). Work being done in the local council archival community to use Records in Contexts Ontology to describe local councils organisations, has been shared with the group. There is also a focus on using linked data to enable relationships between the data to be expressed, along with flexibility in scaling.

HOW we ARE INCLUDING diverse voices

N/A

HOW WE ARE KEEPING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES INFORMED

- Continuing to blog in the open and use public and private Twitter accounts amplify and extend the reach of this work.

What's next?

- Focus on delivering immediate value with the Machinery of Government data modelling by testing it on some real use cases while continuing to acknowledge the bigger picture.
- Contacting the UK about the central govt ontology (https://lov.linkeddata.es/dataset/lov/vocabs/cgov) – how it's used, it's applicability for NZ.

- Continuing to explore governance options.
- Once governance for the work is clearer, work on rescinding the NZGLS mandate and creating a new mandate to take its place.

Links – Evidence of progress and Milestones achieved

- Machinery of Government data model workshops: https://twitter.com/vicwray/status/1306715302458060804
- Reusing the Public Service Commission's open dataset to validate and update government information: https://www.digital.govt.nz/blog/reusing-the-public-service-commissions-open-dataset-to-validate-and-update-government-information/
- Commitment 11 planning out to June 2021: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xCBmG9giYgsy9ET_0dbG6A-lVN3nIChpINOyJIzxcuw/edit#gid=0

Impacts

Immediate

Improved access to information about the structure of government agencies

The only authoritative list of government organisations is owned by the State Services Commission. There is no open data option for this list, only an html page and PDF, so there are no options for reuse.

It lists the agencies by legal title which means that organisations aren't discoverable by the sub-agencies or working brands (eg only Department of Internal Affairs – Archives NZ, and National Library can't be found, Ministry of Social Development, but not Work and Income). It also means that organisations that are known by a trading name (eg Creative NZ, NZ on Air) are only discoverable by their legal title (eg Arts Council, Broadcasting Commission). Other alternative names, such as Māori name, also aren't listed. This reflects the intent of the data from a government perspective but limits its usefulness for citizens who want to find out where to get government services, or who want to know which agency is accountable, so needs to trace the government's structure. Note that government agencies themselves are a major beneficiary to having this data available for reuse.

Up-to-date authoritative information

An authoritative list would enable better access to people's democratic rights – such as finding out which agencies to contact about the Official Information Act. Currently, data on the Directory of Official information is updated periodically and published via PDF. With machinery of government changes and agencies on the move, it doesn't take much to make this information out of date.

Medium Term

[Impacts that you expect to be visible by the end of the next NAP – that we could refer to in the Self-Assessment at the completion of NAP 4]

Opportunities for improved and innovative service delivery

There is a global shift in governments to the idea of 'government as a platform', where governments are responsible for foundational components, such as data, that can then be reused by anyone to create and innovate from. There is great potential for improved service delivery from businesses or NGOs being able to 'plug-in' (using APIs) to updated government data. For example, the Citizens Advice Bureau is an intermediary for people who either don't know where to go or don't trust government enough to approach them directly. They put time and effort into maintain data about government agencies that could better be spent serving people's needs and/or improving their services.

Simply work for those people and businesses who rely on legal lists of organisations

Having authoritative government data has multiple benefits for business and civil society/civic tech. It opens up the ability for more innovative government directories, building off the base of existing ones like the New Zealand Government Sector Directory or Neighbourly.

There is also the potential to open up citizen engagement, and government through initiatives like MySociety's writing to your MP service.

Open Government Partnership New Zealand

National Action Plan 2018-2021

Progress report to: January 2021 – March 2021

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2	Investigate and agree on the appropriate open standards for the dataset. *Start/End dates:* October 2018-June 2021	🙂

3	Work with identified dataset contributors to agree on the process for ongoing maintenance of the dataset. *Start/End dates:* December 2018 – June 2021	😐
4	Explore and then agree on a governance model and ongoing ownership for the data model and data set. *Start/End dates:* August 2020-June 2021	😐
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8	Secure active users of the dataset/API by promoting the opportunities of reuse to government agencies, non-governmental organisations, business, and the public. *Start/End dates:* June 2019 – June 2021	🙂

Progress key:

😐   🙂   😃

some delays   **underway**   **completed**

Planning out to June 2021

- The working group met in May 2021 to discuss the supporting narrative and content for the March Quarterly Report, discuss progress on the following:
    - www.govt.nz Government A-Z use case and sandbox experiment
    - options being considered for data standards when building the dataset
    - possible dates for further data modelling workshops in June focusing on votes and appropriations data.

- Consideration is being given to building the dataset based around the all of government (AoG) ontology being developed, and we are deciding whether we use linked data (preferred option) or semantic web standards. An AoG ontology can accelerate transition to fully digital information management and support digital government. The demonstrator is intended to aid understanding of what an ontology is; illustrate concepts, properties and relationships, and identify semantic, technical and governance issues.

- Workshops are intended for late June in which extensions to the data model (particularly vote and appropriations data) will be workshopped and mapped.

- The sandbox experiment focuses on testing and creating an enhanced dataset based on the Public Service Commission's (PSC) Machinery of Government (MoG) dataset and the govt.nz A-Z datasets. The Government A-Z is a core feature on www.govt.nz, providing contact and other key information about government organisations. Content updates are done manually based on a variety of inputs, including the PSC MoG dataset. An experiment is being conducted to see whether applying a content model to the PSC MoG dataset and updating the relevant fields in the A-Z list automatically via API could meet user needs and reduce maintenance costs.

- We are exploring how we are able to extend the dataset to include the categorisation of government departments (i.e. whether an organisation is a public service department, non-public service department, etc.) using a linked data approach.

- Another meeting of the working group is planned in late June to further report on progress, and review and finalise the report for the period April 2021 to June 2021. At this time, we will document progress and achievement of agreed milestones and consider whether the commitment needs to be extended for another year.

Data Model of Machinery of Government

- Workshops are planned to be held in June to identify and map possible extensions to the data model (particularly Vote and appropriations data).

- A number of meetings were held with Commitment 11 agencies to progress specific aspects of the work programme, especially connections between the government ontology, the Govt A-Z feature and the PSC MoG dataset.

- Specific use cases are being considered to test the data model, as well as reign in potential scope creep. The use case being focussed on at present is the Government A-Z feature. There is the opportunity to use the sandbox environment to progress other use cases (for example, improvements to the Ministry of Justice's "Directory of Official Information" could be considered). This will help us understand more fully the implementation requirements for applying the dataset in a number of ways and to prioritise the extension of dataset elements.

Open standards

- Progress is being made in landing on an open standard for the data set(s). A paper detailing options is being prepared to be presented at the next working group meeting in June.   A final decision on appropriate open standards will be communicated in the June 2021 Quarterly Report.

- Work continues investigating the use of unique identifiers for government organisations using URIs to support a linked data ontology, with a proposal that a URI minting service be set up. A set of principles is being developed similar to the approach adopted for govt.nz.

- Options for an All of Government ontology are being developed within Archives NZ at DIA. This is an exciting opportunity to look at using modern technology to address the need for common vocabularies and concept definitions across government. Amongst other benefits ontologies can enable machine-readable data and information as well as use of multiple languages and automation of our business processes.

- The UK government central govt ontology is being referenced concerning how it is used and its applicability for NZ. https://lov.linkeddata.es/dataset/lov/vocabs/cgov

HOW WE ARE INCLUDING DIVERSE VOICES

Work on the commitment is being assisted by civil society representatives and members of the public interested in this commitment. Previous blog posts on digital.govt.nz have encouraged people to get involved if they are interested, for example:

https://www.digital.govt.nz/blog/agency-name-open-dataset-ready-for-reuse/

https://www.digital.govt.nz/blog/building-blocks-of-digital-transformation/

A blog post is planned to provide an update on progress made in 2021.

HOW WE ARE KEEPING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES INFORMED

- Planned blog in the open and use public and private Twitter accounts to amplify and extend the reach of this work.

- A Basecamp site has been set up to share documents, support ongoing discussion and enable easier collaboration amongst the Commitment 11 working group.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Delivering value with the Machinery of Government data modelling by testing the Govt A-Z use case (sandbox experiment).

- Further consideration of the UK government central govt ontology and its applicability for NZ. https://lov.linkeddata.es/dataset/lov/vocabs/cgov

- A paper describing options for an open standard for the dataset(s) with a decision to be communicated in the June 2021 Quarterly Report.

- Significant work is still required to explore future maintenance and governance requirements for the dataset. This will be a priority over the next reporting period.

- Review final draft of narrative that articulates the value of the Commitment 11 work (particularly the dataset of government organisations) for use by members of the group and by the wider OGP community.

LINKS – EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS AND MILESTONES ACHIEVED

- Machinery of Government data model workshops: https://twitter.com/vicwray/status/1306715302458060804

- Agency name open dataset – ready for reuse: https://www.digital.govt.nz/blog/agency-name-open-dataset-ready-for-reuse/

- Reusing the Public Service Commission's open dataset to validate and update government information: https://www.digital.govt.nz/blog/reusing-the-public-service-commissions-open-dataset-to-validate-and-update-government-information/

- Commitment 11 planning out to June 2021: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xCBmG9giYgsy9ET_0dbG6A-IVN3nIChpINOyJIzxcuw/edit#gid=0

- Building blocks of digital transformation https://www.digital.govt.nz/blog/building-blocks-of-digital-transformation/

- Exploring open standards: https://www.digital.govt.nz/blog/exploring-the-standard-for-government-organisations-data-give-us-your-feedback/

Improved access to information about the structure of government agencies

The data set owned by the Public Services Commission (PSC) continues to be the only [authoritative list of government organisations](#) . Since June 2020 this has been available and maintained by PSC as an open data option via data.govt.

The Govt A-Z sandbox experiment is exploring the opportunities that exist to expand this dataset to increase its usefulness. For example through developing and adding a linked data ontology to enable citizens to trace the government's structure. This would allow understanding and exploration of where to get government services, or of agency accountability.

Consideration was given to the use of NZBN as the canonical ID for linking the wider datasets but was not considered best practice as if NZBN numbers change it would require subsequent changes in the OGP dataset, meaning every dataset linked to it would need to change as well. Also, not every organisation within the dataset will have a NZBN. This does not preclude the NZBN being included as another data element in the dataset so that it can be easily found, searched on, or even used as a reference ID.

Medium Term

Improved access to authoritative information

The "A-Z of government agencies" list is a core feature on Govt.nz, providing contact and other key information about government organisations. Content updates are done manually based on a variety of inputs, including the PSC MoG dataset, which forms the core of the Commitment 11 authoritative dataset of government organisations.

An experiment is being conducted to see whether applying a content model to the PSC MoG/C11 dataset and updating the relevant fields in the A-Z list automatically via API could meet user needs and reduce maintenance costs. The resulting project is intended to provide the first published use case of the dataset as open, machine-readable data presented in a user-friendly format on a widely used service.

The PSC MoG dataset (owned and maintained by PSC) records every name change and establishment/disestablishment related to government organisations, which forms the core of the Commitment 11 dataset. Govt.nz already uses a substantial portion of this dataset to maintain its A-Z list.

By merging the data and applying a content model to the concepts and how they are related to each other and presented to the user, Govt.nz could create a new, enhanced dataset and A-Z list that is updated dynamically via API via the published dataset on Data.gov.nz.

Planned steps are:

1. Define individual datasets and merged dataset entities and fields (underway).

2. Apply organisational ontology and schema currently under development by Archives as available and appropriate (underway).

3. Review content model and roles and responsibilities with stakeholders.

4. Define updating schedule with Govt.nz and design for future change.

5. Sandbox development:
   a. PSC publishes existing dataset to Data.govt.nz
   b. AoG Dev Team ingests and merges with A-Z dataset
   c. AoG Dev Team publishes curated and merged dataset to sandpit environment for testing (UX, UAT, regression) and stakeholder review.
   d. Based on those results, decision to publish updated A-Z list to live Govt.nz site and enhanced dataset to Data.govt.nz to be made by stakeholder agreement.

6. Govt.nz to share learnings with stakeholders and wider government as well as provide feedback and analytics as first user of C11 dataset. Govt.nz team will continue to advise on and develop applications of the dataset as a foundation for both digital services and information about government.

Open Government Partnership New Zealand

National Action Plan 2018-2020

Progress report to: January 2020 – June 2020

Commitment 11: Authoritative dataset of government organisations as open data for greater transparency

Lead agency: Department of Internal Affairs

Objective:

To release and maintain an authoritative dataset of government organisations as open, machine-readable data to enhance the transparency of government structures to the public.
There will be cross-agency agreement to maintain this dataset, providing assurance that the data being used is the authoritative source. This dataset becomes a foundation for both digital services and information about government.

Ambition:

New Zealanders and others will have access to authoritative, open data about government agencies and their roles, learn more about how government is structured, what agencies do, and be able to reuse the open data in new and innovative ways.

OGP values: Transparency, Accountability and Technology and Innovation

	Milestones	**Progress**
1	Identify owners contributors and maintainers for the data held in the proposed dataset. *Start/End dates:* October 2018-December 2018	😃
2	Investigate and agree on the appropriate open standards for the dataset. *Start/End dates:* October 2018-December 2019	🙂
3	Work with identified dataset contributors to agree process for ongoing maintenance of the dataset. *Start/End dates:* December 2018 – June 2019	🙂
4	Release the open data set on data.govt.nz and make it available via the data.govt.nz open data Application Programming Interface (API) and promote the opportunities of reuse that the dataset provides with government agencies, non-governmental organisations, business, and the public. *Start/End dates:* December 2018 – June 2020	🙂

Progress key:

☺ some delays ☺ underway ☺ completed

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

- Major meeting in March where the stakeholder group was taken through the data the Cabinet Office holds e.g. Ministers, Portfolios. There is a lot of excitement around the value that opening-up this data holds.

- Setting up workstreams within the stakeholder group. The first is looking at creating a data model of the 'machinery of government'. The other's focus is on creating an open standard. This conversation is off the [back of the work done last year](), but is looking to leveraging standards work be done in local government.

- State Services Commission (SSC) have released their dataset of government organisation names, events (changes to government agencies like disestablishment), and a public sector table which provides access by sector groupings, on data.govt.nz. This is a major milestone for this commitment and provides a great foundation.

- Continue to work with the Product owner of Govt.nz to reuse the SSC organisational name data in the Government A-Z.

HOW WE ARE INCLUDING DIVERSE VOICES

N/A

HOW WE ARE KEEPING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES INFORMED

- Continuing to blog in the open and use public and private Twitter accounts amplify and extend the reach of this work.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Booking in an open planning session for the year extension to June 2021 where the 'strawperson' for the data model will be discussed along with general planning e.g. governance, engagement, communications.

- Proactively marketing opportunities for use of the SSC agency name dataset.

LINKS – EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS AND MILESTONES ACHEVED

- Agency name open dataset – ready for reuse!
  https://www.digital.govt.nz/blog/agency-name-open-dataset-ready-for-reuse/

IMPACTS

Improved access to information about the structure of government agencies

The only authoritative list of government organisations is owned by the State Services Commission. There is no open data option for this list, only an html page and PDF, so there are no options for reuse.

It lists the agencies by legal title which means that organisations aren't discoverable by the sub-agencies or working brands (eg only Department of Internal Affairs – Archives NZ, and National Library can't be found, Ministry of Social Development, but not Work and Income). It also means that organisations that are known by a trading name (eg Creative NZ, NZ on Air) are only discoverable by their legal title (eg Arts Council, Broadcasting Commission). Other alternative names, such as Māori name, also aren't listed. This reflects the intent of the data from a government perspective but limits its usefulness for citizens who want to find out where to get government services, or who want to know which agency is accountable, so needs to trace the government's structure. Note that government agencies themselves are a major beneficiary to having this data available for reuse.

Up-to-date authoritative information

An authoritative list would enable better access to people's democratic rights – such as finding out which agencies to contact about the Official Information Act. Currently, data on the [Directory of Official information](#) is updated periodically and published via PDF. With machinery of government changes and agencies on the move, it doesn't take much to make this information out of date.

Medium Term

[Impacts that you expect to be visible by the end of the next NAP – that we could refer to in the Self-Assessment at the completion of NAP 4]

Opportunities for improved and innovative service delivery

There is a global shift in governments to the idea of 'government as a platform', where governments are responsible for foundational components, such as data, that can then be reused by anyone to create and innovate from. There is great potential for improved service delivery from businesses or NGOs being able to 'plug-in' (using APIs) to updated government data. For example, the [Citizens Advice Bureau](#) is an intermediary for people who either don't know where to go or don't trust government enough to approach them directly. They put time and effort into maintain data about government agencies that could better be spent serving people's needs and/or improving their services.

Simply work for those people and businesses who rely on legal lists of organisations

Having authoritative government data has multiple benefits for business and civil society/civic tech. It opens up the ability for more innovative government directories, building off the base of existing ones like the [New Zealand Government Sector Directory](#) or [Neighbourly](#).

There is also the potential to open up citizen engagement, and government through initiatives like [MySociety](#)'s writing to your MP service.

UPDATED MILESTONES

	Milestones	Progress
1	Identify owners contributors and maintainers for the data held in the proposed dataset. *Start/End dates:* October 2018-December 2018	😃
2	Investigate and agree on the appropriate open standards for the dataset. *Start/End dates:* October 2018-June 2021	🙂
3	Work with identified dataset contributors to agree process for ongoing maintenance of the dataset. *Start/End dates:* December 2018 – June 2021	🙂
4	Explore and then agree on a governance model and ongoing ownership for the data model and data set. *Start/End dates:* August 2020-June 2021	
5	Draft and then confirm a data model of the 'machinery of government' to support the ongoing release of data about government organisations. *Start/End dates:* January 2020-June 2021	🙂
6	Release the open data set on data.govt.nz and make it available via the data.govt.nz open data Application Programming Interface (API). Secure active users of the dataset/API by promoting the opportunities of reuse to government agencies, non-governmental organisations, business, and the public. *Start/End dates:* December 2018 – June 2021	🙂

Open Government Partnership New Zealand

National Action Plan 2018-2020

Progress report to: June 2019

Commitment 11:

Lead agency: Department of Internal Affairs

Objective:

To release and maintain an authoritative dataset of government organisations as open, machine-readable data to enhance the transparency of government structures to the public.
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Ambition:

New Zealanders and others will have access to authoritative, open data about government agencies and their roles, learn more about how government is structured, what agencies do, and be able to reuse the open data in new and innovative ways.

OGP values: Transparency, Accountability and Technology and Innovation

	Milestones	Progress
1	Identify owners contributors and maintainers for the data held in the proposed dataset. *Start/End dates:* October 2018-December 2018	☺
2	Investigate and agree on the appropriate open standards for the dataset. *Start/End dates:* October 2018-December 2019	☺
3	Work with identified dataset contributors to agree process for ongoing maintenance of the dataset. *Start/End dates:* December 2018 – June 2019	☺
4	Release the open data set on data.govt.nz and make it available via the data.govt.nz open data Application Programming Interface (API), and promote the opportunities of reuse that the dataset provides with government agencies, non-governmental organisations, business, and the public. *Start/End dates:* December 2018 – June 2020	☺

Progress key: ☹ **some delays**   ☺ **underway**   ☺ **completed**

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

- Working with State Services Commission (SSC) on releasing Legal Title and Type (e.g. Public Service) as open data on data.govt.nz. This is a first step towards the wider government organisation dataset.

- Continuing to discuss how the dataset(s) will be maintained. The discussions are happening in parallel to refining the draft open standard and will reflect the requirements of the government agency involved. They will continue to iterate until the standard is finalised in December 2019.

- Requesting feedback on the reference model and draft open standard for the dataset both from the government agencies involved, as well as the wider open data and open government community. There has been some feedback via the Open Government Ninjas discussion group.

- Working with the Open Data Programme at Statistics NZ to run a session for anyone interested in open data and open government to get feedback on the reference model, draft open standard, plus map the different applications for the data.

- Continuing to meet with other identified agencies who own specific dataset fields (The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), Archives New Zealand, The Treasury), plus those interested in using the information (Ministry of Justice for the Directory of Official Information) to keep the group involved and informed.

HOW WE ARE INCLUDING DIVERSE VOICES

N/A

HOW WE ARE KEEPING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES INFORMED

- Using public channels and public and private Twitter accounts amplify and extend the reach of this work.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Working with the Treasury and DPMC to release Minister, Ministerial Portfolio and Vote data onto data.govt.nz.

- Running an Open Data Meetup to get public discussion on the reference model, draft open standard and reuse opportunities for the dataset.

LINKS – EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS AND MILESTONES ACHEVED

- Discussion on draft open standard
  http://groups.open.org.nz/groups/ninja-talk/messages/topic/SSFgQHTDO4cHHFX9lFSky/

- Open Data Meetup session "Help build the foundations for #OpenGov"
  https://www.meetup.com/Open-Data-NZ/events/263052997/

IMPACTS

Immediate

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An authoritative list would enable better access to people's democratic rights – such as finding out which agencies to contact about the Official Information Act. Currently, data on the Directory of Official information is updated periodically and published via PDF. With machinery of government changes and agencies on the move, it doesn't take much to make this information out of date.

Medium Term

[Impacts that you expect to be visible by the end of the next NAP – that we could refer to in the Self-Assessment at the completion of NAP 4]

Opportunities for improved and innovative service delivery

There is a global shift in governments to the idea of 'government as a platform', where governments are responsible for foundational components, such as data, that can then be reused by anyone to create and innovate from. There is great potential for improved service delivery from businesses or NGOs being able to 'plug-in' (using APIs) to updated government data. For example, the Citizens Advice Bureau is an intermediary for people who either don't know where to go or don't trust government enough to approach them directly. They put time and effort into maintain data about government agencies that could better be spent serving people's needs and/or improving their services.

Simply work for those people and businesses who rely on legal lists of organisations

Having authoritative government data has multiple benefits for business and civil society/civic tech. It opens up the ability for more innovative government directories, building off the base of existing ones like the New Zealand Government Sector Directory or Neighbourly.

There is also the potential to open up citizen engagement, and government through initiatives like [MySociety](#)'s writing to your MP service.

Open Government Partnership New Zealand

National Action Plan 2018-2020

Progress report to: October 2019

Commitment 11: Authoritative dataset of government organisations as open data

Lead agency: Department of Internal Affairs

Objective:

To release and maintain an authoritative dataset of government organisations as open, machine-readable data to enhance the transparency of government structures to the public.
There will be cross-agency agreement to maintain this dataset, providing assurance that the data being used is the authoritative source. This dataset becomes a foundation for both digital services and information about government.

Ambition:

New Zealanders and others will have access to authoritative, open data about government agencies and their roles, learn more about how government is structured, what agencies do, and be able to reuse the open data in new and innovative ways.

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	Milestones	Progress
1	Identify owners contributors and maintainers for the data held in the proposed dataset. *Start/End dates:* October 2018-December 2018	😃
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4	Release the open data set on data.govt.nz and make it available via the data.govt.nz open data Application Programming Interface (API), and promote the opportunities of reuse that the dataset provides with government agencies, non-governmental organisations, business, and the public. *Start/End dates:* December 2018 – June 2020	🙂

Progress key:

😐 some delays ☺ underway 😄 completed

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

- Hosted and facilitated a workshop on 14th of August with the Open Data Programme at Statistics NZ. Participants were from civil society, business, and government and they gave their feedback and suggestions on the reference model, and draft open standard. Applications for different ways the data could be used, and extensions of the data, were also captured.

- Continuing to work with State Services Commission (SSC) on releasing their data as open data and confirming how it will be maintained.

- In conversation with Department of Finance in Australia about a potential Trans-Tasman collaboration on organisational registers and semantic interoperability.

HOW WE ARE INCLUDING DIVERSE VOICES

N/A

HOW WE ARE KEEPING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES INFORMED

- Using public channels and public and private Twitter accounts amplify and extend the reach of this work.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Meeting on the 10th of October with a small group of both government and non-government experts. This meeting is to draw recommendations from the Open Data Meetup workshop feedback on the reference model, and draft open standard to present to officials for agreement.

- A meeting will then be held on the 16th of October with government officials from representative agencies who hold or want to use the government organisational data to discuss the recommendations. This meeting will be where the open standard and reference model for the dataset will be agreed and confirmed.

- Milestone 3, 'work with identified dataset contributors to agree process for ongoing maintenance of the dataset', will be an ongoing task. This is because each government agency operates in a different context (e.g. varying levels of data capability) and will need tailored help and advice to open the data and work out a maintenance plan.

- There is ongoing work required to support agencies in opening up their data. Some agencies have low levels of understanding and skills around open data. This is a need that will continue to require a joint approach by both the team of the Government Chief Digital Office, and the Government Chief Data Steward.

LINKS – EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS AND MILESTONES ACHEVED

- Open Data Meetup session "Help build the foundations for #OpenGov" event listing: https://www.meetup.com/Open-Data-NZ/events/263052997/

- Open Data Meetup session – feedback output: https://catalogue.data.govt.nz/dataset/government-organisation-register/resource/70cbe5ee-ecc2-49db-be5b-84a71a48e05e

- Engaging with civil society experts: https://twitter.com/openpolicynz/status/1169798662462984193

IMPACTS

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Medium Term

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