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NEW ZEALAND

Fourth National Action Plan Progress Report August 2024

Report on the Fourth National Action
Plan Commitments under OGP



Commitment 1 – Adopt a Community Engagement Tool

Lead Agency: Te Kawa Maataho Public
Service Commission



Commitment One

Commitment Description

This commitment aims to support meaningful engagement that is well-designed, planned and deliver through three elements: Policy Community Engagement Tool (PCET) to guide good practice; Community of practice; and a model standard to set expectations around the use of consistent engagement frameworks



Progress in 2024

- Work on a model standard for community engagement has ceased. The PCET was enhanced in 2023 with community input . Rather than introduce a model standard, the focus has changed to increasing agency use of the PCET through promoting the PCET and providing agencies with case study examples.
- The Cross Government Stakeholder Community of Practice (CGSCoP) continues to operate, with some activities scaled back due to the current restraint environment. Hui E! recently spoke at a CGSCoP virtual hui on “Doing more with less”, on how the community sector manages fiscal restraint. The CGSCoP continues to run a dedicated, shared website which enables members around New Zealand to collaborate and share resources, including case studies.
- The Working with Survivors Model Standards, co-designed by the Commission and the Pike Family Reference Group, were recently jointly reviewed, continuing the co design process that commenced with the drafting of these model standards.



Commitment One

Challenges

- Agencies having sufficient time and resource to engage with communities using the PCET in an environment of fiscal restraint and changing government priorities.

Next Steps

- Confirm the priorities of the incoming government.
- Continue to promote the Policy Community Engagement Tool and other engagement guidance.
- Continue to support the Cross Government Stakeholder Community of Practice.



Commitment Two – Research Deliberative Processes for Community Engagement

Lead: Te Kawa Maataho Public Service
Commission



Commitment 2

Commitment Description

This commitment involves researching how deliberative processes can be adapted to work well in the New Zealand context, by identifying two examples and capturing lessons learned in case studies. Creating case studies aims to raise public service's awareness and capability in deliberative processes. They can be used as tools for anyone who may want to run a deliberative process.

Progress in 2024

Work on the Watercare citizens' assembly case study, deliberative processes information and links, was posted on the Commission's website last year. Wellington City Council and Watercare have also posted information about the citizens' assembly on their websites .

No further work has been undertaken in 2024 due to re-prioritisation of resources. See: <https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/publications/deliberative-processes-citizens-juries-and-citizens-assemblies/>

[Wellington City Council to establish Citizens' Assembly - News and information - Wellington City Council;](#)

[We invite 40 Aucklanders to recommend the region's future water source \(watercare.co.nz\)](#)



Commitment 2

Challenges

Sufficiency of resources and competing priorities.

Next Steps

Any further work will depend upon resourcing and priorities.



Commitment Three - Establish a Multi-channel Approach to Delivery of Government Information and Services

Lead: Department of Internal Affairs



Commitment 3

Commitment description

This commitment aims to establish and champion an all-of-government approach to the delivery of government information and services, so that agencies deliver services that are accessible to, and meet the diverse needs of, all New Zealanders.

Civil society organisations and government agencies were to work in partnership with, and leverage, the role of the Government Chief Digital Officer (GCDO) as the System Lead for digital government transformation. Increased accessibility would: allow people to more easily access entitlements and fulfil obligations; prevent the individual and societal costs experienced when people can't easily connect with services; and enhance social inclusion and individual and community wellbeing

Progress in 2024

DIA continues to be unable to resource and prioritise work on commitment 3.

Challenges

The GCDO's funding and resourcing position has been challenging. Resources needed include specialist expertise (engagement, channel strategy, service design) for this work.



Commitment 3

Next steps

The lack of progress of this commitment appears unlikely to change in the current fiscal context.

Comment

The Minister's priorities for the Digitising Government portfolio are focused on delivering a consistent user experience for digital government services. The GCDO is preparing advice for Cabinet on an all-of-government strategic road map to accelerate the digitising of government services and will be able to provide a further update once this advice has been considered.



Commitment Four - Design and Implement a National Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy

Lead: Serious Fraud Office



Commitment 4

Commitment Description

The National Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy (NCFCS) seeks to support government efforts to address fraud and corruption by enabling better coordination between government agencies, and strengthening agencies' ability to prevent, detect and investigate fraud and corruption. It aims to improve the experience of fraud victims and promote prevention and awareness activities.

Progress in 2024

- The strategy, involving the SFO, Ministry of Justice and NZ Police, remains in design and development and has been paused, due to resourcing issues, pending Ministerial direction.

Challenges

- The agencies' ability to access the resourcing and funding necessary to undertake and implement this work has been an ongoing challenge.

Next Steps

- Until the agencies receive Ministerial direction, no estimate can be given for the work that might be completed in 2024.



Commitment Five - Increase Beneficial Ownership Transparency for companies and limited partnerships

Lead: Buildings, Resources and Markets, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment



Commitment 5

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 in 2024

- Policy decisions were made at the end of 2021. MBIE is working with the Government to understand their priorities for this work.

Challenges

- The Government is considering how to proceed with the 2021 policy decisions.

Next Steps

- Next steps in relation to the creation of a beneficial ownership register will depend upon how the Government decides to proceed.



Commitment Six – Improve Government Procurement Transparency

Lead: Government Procurement and Property,
Ministry of Business, Innovation and
Employment



Commitment 6

Commitment Description:

Improve the transparency of government sourcing activity and establish practices to better support capturing and sharing procurement information through:

- 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 platform to capture procurement information, in alignment with the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS).



Commitment 6

Progress in 2024

GETS changes to improve compliance with publication requirements under the Rules include:

- changes to GETS to improve capture of supplier organisation information;
- user interface manual response dialogue changes to GETS; and
- currently undertaking changes to implement mandatory responses for tender.

Developing a digital data Procurement platform:

- user experience testing being carried out on “Ready Buy” (guided buying module), with internal and external audiences;
- functional testing continues on Procurement Platform SaaS solution, upon which user acceptance testing can commence.

Work on foundations for the integrated data systems work has involved:

- completing the mapping of an approach for transforming current services into an integrated system and the design and approval of the Data integration plan;
- completing mapping on current datasets and moving into delivery of the integrated procurement data, to be used to analyse and evaluate procurement performance.



Commitment 6

Challenges

- Data collected in silos, data Standards, data availability, using different systems, quality of data and indiscriminate data collation

Next steps

- Establish integrations with source data systems and MBIE's Cloud Data Platform.
- Work progresses on publishing fit-for-purpose data dashboards for agency & public use.
- Milestone measures for laying the foundations for integrated data system capability are slated to be completed by February 2025 in the Action plan and are currently on track.



Commitment Seven - Strengthen Scrutiny of OIA exemption clauses

Lead: Democracy and Open Government
Policy, Ministry of Justice



Commitment 7

Commitment Description

To strengthen the scrutiny of legislative clauses that propose to override the disclosure requirements of the Official Information Act 1982. This work has the potential to support policy makers, increase transparency and support good regulatory stewardship.

Progress in 2024

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has:

reviewed a sample of existing exemption clauses and the communications about the clause with MoJ before the exemption clauses were included in legislation

reviewed current policy processes and guidance on the scrutiny of legislative clauses that propose to override the OIA

met with stakeholders, including the Treasury and the Legislation Design and Advisory Committee (LDAC), to consider options for strengthening the policy process and guidance on exemptions

consulted on the proposals to strengthen the scrutiny of OIA exemptions. A copy of all submissions, and a summary, can be found on the OGP website [here](#).



Commitment 7

Challenges

- Different kinds of OIA exception clauses which are not always easy to identify.

Next Steps

- MoJ is looking at ways to continue to improve understanding and guidance for public sector agencies about potential exemptions to the OIA.
- MoJ's current plans include developing and circulating guidance on OIA exemptions to raise the profile of this policy issue and to publish this guidance on MoJ's website.
- MoJ will continue to work with other agencies and stakeholders, including the new Ministry for Regulation and LDAC, on changes to process and guidance documents, (for example, disclosure statements). Changes may take longer to implement.



Commitment Eight - Improve Transparency and Accountability of Government Algorithm Use

Lead: Statistics NZ



Commitment 8

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. The milestones are:

1. Establish a community of practice or network to share knowledge and best practice, and build capability across signatories of the Charter (by June 2023);
2. Work with stakeholders to prioritise recommendations from the Charter's One Year Review and design an implementation plan for the high priority recommendations (by December 2023); and
3. Provide tools, guidance and other supports to signatories to help them meet the transparency and accountability objectives of the Charter (by December 2024).



Commitment 8

Progress in 2024

Two of the commitment's milestones have been completed and a third milestone has been partially completed.

Milestone 1: the community of practice for Algorithm Charter signatories continues to meet quarterly to share experiences and advice, discuss how to raise agency algorithm maturity, and support each other in implementing the Charter commitments. A summary of each CoP wānanga is published on data.govt.nz.

Milestone 2: Stats NZ has published a [high-level phased approach](#) to implementing the recommendations from the One Year Review.

Milestone 3: In December 2023 Stats NZ published the Algorithm Impact Assessment Toolkit, a series of tools for agencies to use to facilitate informed decision-making about the benefits and risks of government use of algorithms. In July 2024, the AIA Toolkit was included in an interactive [Catalogue of Tools and Metrics for Trustworthy AI](#) published by OECD.AI, a global hub provided by the OECD for AI practitioners.



Commitment 8

Challenges

Resource constraints are the biggest challenge – Stats NZ currently cannot resource engagement with stakeholders or implementation of the remaining recommendations from the One Year Review.

Next Steps

Stats NZ will not be undertaking any further work on Milestone 2 – stakeholder engagement – for the remainder of 2024.



You are welcome to send any questions about this update to:

ogpnz@publicservice.govt.nz

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

