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NEW ZEALAND

Fourth National Action Plan Progress Report December 2024



Commitment 1 – Adopt a Community Engagement Tool

Lead Agency: Te Kawa Maataho Public Service
Commission



Commitment One

Commitment Description

This commitment aimed to support meaningful engagement that is well-designed, planned and delivered through three elements: a Policy Community Engagement Tool (PCET) to guide good practice; a Community of practice; and a model standard to set expectations around the use of the PCET for significant initiatives.



Progress at December 2024

- The PCET supports recommendation 38 of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain (RCOI). It requires all public sector community engagement to be in accordance with New Zealand's OGP commitment. The first PCET was launched in January 2022 and piloted by agencies involved in the RCOI. After a year-long pilot, the PCET was revised to incorporate feedback from all participants. The second edition of the PCET published in October 2023.
- Rather than introduce a model standard, the Public Service Commission (PSC) and Policy Project have focused on promoting the PCET and providing case study examples, to encourage agencies to use the PCET.
- The Cross Government Stakeholder Community of Practice continues to support engagement best practice and run in-person and online events for its approx. 160 members. It operates a dedicated website for members to share information and resources, including case studies, wherever they are in New Zealand.



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

- As part of policy stewardship across the Public Service, the Policy Project in DPMC and the PSC continue to promote the Policy Community Engagement Tool, in addition to engagement guidance and resources, and to support the Cross Government Stakeholder Community of Practice.
- Information about the work of the Policy Project's work in stewarding community engagement in Public Service policy practise, including their seminar series, can be found [here](#).



Commitment Two – Research Deliberative Processes for Community Engagement

Lead: Te Kawa Maataho Public Service
Commission



Commitment 2

Commitment Description

This work involved 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 servants' awareness and capability in deliberative processes. The case studies 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, is posted on the Public Service Commission's website. Wellington City Council and Watercare have also posted information about the citizens' assembly on their websites.
- In addition to the Watercare example, recent case study examples of central and local government use of deliberative processes are published on the Public Service Commission website.



Commitment 2

Links

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 \(watercare.co.nz\)](#)

[Deliberative processes – citizens' juries and citizens' assemblies - Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission](#)

Challenges

- Sufficiency of resources and competing priorities.

Next Steps

- Work on the commitment is completed.



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 aimed 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 at December 2024

- DIA has continued to be unable to resource and prioritise work on commitment 3.

Challenges

- The GCDO's funding and resourcing. Resources needed included specialist expertise (engagement, channel strategy, service design) for this work.



Commitment 3

Links

For more information, see:

<https://www.digital.govt.nz/digital-government/strategy/strategy-summary/service-modernisation-roadmap>

<https://www.digital.govt.nz/digital-government/strategy/insights-and-commentary/delivering-a-unified-customer-service-experience-for-digital-government-services>

Next steps

- The Minister for Digitising Government has tasked the Government Chief Digital Officer (GCDO) with leading and guiding public service agencies to deliver an improved and more unified customer service experience for digital government services.
- The GCDO has developed an All-of Government Service Modernisation Roadmap to help drive progress towards this outcome. Through this work, the GCDO expects to deliver and oversee the delivery of a range of initiatives, several of which align with the focus of Commitment 3.



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 at December 2024

- Joint agency work on a national strategy on counter fraud and corruption remains in the development phase, awaiting Ministerial direction from the Minister of Police/the SFO and the Minister of Justice. Decisions on next steps for a national strategy, including timeframes, are yet to be made. Agencies have prepared additional advice to support Ministers in this decision-making process.

Challenges

- The agencies' ability to resource and fund this work has been an ongoing challenge.

Next Steps

- Ministerial decisions on the next steps are yet to be made.



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 at December 2024

- In August 2024 the Minister took forward decisions to introduce a unique identifier but not a beneficial ownership register. While modernising the legislation, the reforms do not involve making beneficial owners' identifying information available on a public register. See: [Modernising the Companies Act 1993 and Making Other Improvements for Business - Cabinet paper](#)

Challenges

- Electoral change has resulted in a different policy direction. The previous Government's decision to make beneficial owners' identifying information available on a public register is not being advanced in legislation at this time.

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 the capture and sharing of 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
- undertaking changes to the tender completion process to provide procurement officers several reason codes to select from when a tender is not awarded.

Developing a digital data Procurement platform:

- the 'Ready Buy' (guided buying) module, has been launched on the government procurement website;
- 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 June 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 at December 2024

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has:

- reviewed a sample of existing exemption clauses and the communications about the clause 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](#)
- developed and circulated guidance on OIA exemptions to raise the profile of this policy issue and published this guidance publicly.



Commitment 7

Challenges

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

Next Steps

- MoJ has completed work on this commitment.
- As part of its ongoing, regulatory stewardship role, MoJ will:
 - continue to improve understanding and the guidance to public sector agencies about exemptions to the OIA and their scrutiny;
 - continue to work with other agencies and stakeholders on potential changes to improve process and guidance in relation to exemptions (for example, disclosure statements) over the longer-term.



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

Two of the commitment's milestones are 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. Resource constraints have meant that Stats NZ's engagement with stakeholders of the remaining recommendations from the One Year Review have been limited.
- **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

- The Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation will continue to promote the Algorithm Charter and the Algorithm Impact Assessment toolkit with Government agencies as a useful tool for ensuring transparency of government Algorithms, including AI.
- Wider public engagement will be part of the wider work the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation undertakes as part of trust and confidence in government data. Stats NZ and the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation continue to work across government on the wider AI work programme.



You are welcome to send any questions about the commitments and this progress update to:

- ogpnz@publicservice.govt.nz

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

