

**OGP UK National Action Plan 2013-15
Commitment progress update**

Commitment title		
Open contracting		
Lead department(s)	Cabinet Office	
Civil society organisation(s) involved in implementation to date	CAFOD, Campaign for Freedom of Information, Compact Voice, Global Witness, Integrity Action, ONE, Open Knowledge Foundation, The Institute for Government	
Report date	31 January 2015	
Overall commitment status	In progress	
Overall progress against commitment		
Mixed progress has been made against this commitment, primarily due to resource issues.		
Progress against milestones/activities		
1.	Endorse, implement and champion internationally the Open Contracting Principles at the end of October 2013 and continue to assist in the development of a set of open contracting data standards	On track
<p>The UK officially endorsed the Principles at the Open Government Partnership summit on 31 October 2013.</p> <p>The OGP provides a forum to work with other countries on this agenda and to explore opportunities to collaborate and share experiences on open contracting. We will also continue to share knowledge through participation in group discussions, e.g. conferences, events and webinars organised by the Open Contracting Partnership. We welcomed and contributed to the Open Data Institute's open data training course for procurement officers.</p> <p>Over the course of this year, the objective of the Open Contracting Data Standard team will be to continue working with data publishers, including those in the UK, and data users to build a flexible, modular and adaptable standard that is able to meet their needs.</p>		
2.	subject to technical capability, enhance the scope, breadth and usability of published contractual data on	Behind Schedule

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<p>the Contracts Finder system to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● providing greater transparency of contracts awarded overseas, beginning October 2013● delivering a new procurement pipeline in November 2013● investigating the feasibility of providing greater transparency of design competitions run by the Technology Strategy Board● engaging with prime contractors to encourage them to provide improved visibility of supply chain opportunities, and explore a means of standardising the publication of sub-contractor details through Contracts Finder to make this data more accessible● investigating the use of open corporate identifiers to allow the data to be more easily compared and linked to other data held about contracting authorities and suppliers● working with a user group to look at ways of improving site usability to make it easier to publish data and to find opportunities and other data of interest	
<p>DFID and FCO committed to publish overseas contracts and tenders on Contracts Finder, beginning in October 2013. In Q4 of 2013/14 DFID published 88 contracts, of which 21 were published by overseas offices. In Q1 of 2014/15 DFID published 56 contracts, of which 11 were published by overseas offices. Q2 2014/15 data is currently being compiled.</p> <p>In 2014 the FCO published over 400 contracts and tenders from multiple countries fully clearing its previous backlog. In 2015 the FCO proposed a pilot scheme to publish supplier datasets from its overseas network to reflect the difficulties that became apparent when attempting to publish all £10k+ contracts in full from all posts. The FCO will also supply a monthly breakdown of spend with its largest suppliers globally. The FCO has discussed this change with representatives from civil society and the reasoning behind the pilot, including the choice of posts for initial contract publication (Brazil, Croatia, Estonia, France, Georgia, Indonesia, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, Philippines, South Africa, South Korea, Tanzania, United States of America).</p> <p>Procurement pipelines are refreshed on an ongoing basis, and have been refreshed in December 2013 and December 2014, when potential future opportunities worth up to £177 billion and £191 billion were publicised. They will continue to be updated as part of Contracts Finder 2 (the redeveloped Contracts Finder), where there is a separate tab to highlight future opportunities.</p>	

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The Transparency Team is working with the Crown Commercial Service on the potential to include open corporate identifiers in the new Contracts Finder. These discussions are still ongoing and we will report back on progress.

All other actions will be taken forward as part of the redevelopment of the Contracts Finder website (Contracts Finder 2) which will be delivered at the end of February 2015¹.

3.	Look to introduce standard transparency clauses into central government contracts in consultation with civil society organisations and the business community	On Track
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The [Model Services Contract](#) published in January 2014 is designed for use with large services procurements (typically £10m-£100m) across a range of business services that Government purchases and in particular for Business Process Outsourcing (“BPO”) and/or IT delivery services. The Model Services Contract reflects Government priorities and recommended ways of doing business.

In particular it contains the following Transparency provisions:

- sharing of confidential information is allowed across government
- the option to publish openly the details on non-compliant supply chain payment
- the option to publish openly details of the supplier’s performance against the agreed contractual measures

In line with the activities described at milestone 5 below, these provisions will be reviewed to support the principle of promoting greater transparency.

4.	Build on the findings from a pilot programme by launching the new Solutions Exchange website during Winter 2013 for small and medium-sized enterprises to pitch innovative solutions to government outside of the formal procurement process, and for government to conduct informal pre-market engagement by providing greater transparency of the challenges and themes to which solutions are needed	Completed
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Work on Solutions Exchange has been discontinued. Contracts Finder 2 will include space for PPD/Innovation.

¹ Since this update was drafted, a new version of [Contracts Finder](#) has been launched. We are continuing to work with interested parties to continue to improve site usability and the availability of data.

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5.	Take steps to ensure transparency about outsourced services is provided in response to freedom of information requests, by encouraging the use and enforcement of contractual provisions to maintain the levels of transparency provided by the Freedom of Information Act 2000: revised guidance will be issued in 2014.	Behind Schedule
<p>Provision of guidance relating to use of the Model Services Contract has been delayed due to lack of resource. Discussions are currently underway to determine with which team this responsibility best rests to enable the matter to be progressed.</p> <p>Work continues separately with the IFG and other interested parties, including NCVO, to pursue a more ambitious approach towards transparency in government procurement through enhanced contractual provision. We will consult with civil society representatives in March on this workstream. The ultimate deadline to deliver the applicable provision of information clause is October 2015 although we hope to complete the task in a shorter timescale.</p>		
6	Publish contracts using the local language where contracts are drawn up with overseas suppliers; we will consider what further steps can be taken to provide greater transparency of contracts to affected communities where additional language barriers occur.	Behind Schedule
<p>The FCO publishes contracts in the local language where they are written and agreed in that language. However the volume of contracts in English means that it is not practical to routinely translate contracts into a local language without incurring disproportionate costs.</p>		

More information about this commitment and previous progress updates are available on the [OGP website](#).