



Minister Paula Bennett
Minister of State Services
Government of New Zealand

April 4, 2016

Dear Minister Bennett,

We welcome the Government of New Zealand's participation in the Open Government Partnership, which now has 69 countries working to implement national commitments to promote greater transparency, accountability, and engagement of citizens in policy making.

As you are aware, the OGP Articles of Governance state that all participating countries are expected to: *publish an interim self-assessment report approximately three months after the end of the first year of action plan implementation*. All OGP participating governments are expected to develop Self-Assessment Reports that assess the government's performance in meeting its OGP commitments as outlined in its National Action Plan. Furthermore, Articles of Governance outline that a country will be considered to have acted contrary to OGP Process if *"the Self-Assessment Report is not submitted within 4 months of the due date."*

Although the Government of New Zealand did publish a draft Self-Assessment report to the Support Unit, our records note that New Zealand did not submit its final Self-Assessment Report as of January 31, 2016. We received the final version on February 8, 2016, more than four months after the deadline of September 30, 2015 and therefore, New Zealand is considered to have acted contrary to OGP process in this action plan cycle. We acknowledge that the delay is partially due to time for a broader consultation on the report, but the final submission date was too far after the deadline to change the outcome in this case. In order to ensure countries are treated fairly, these letters are sent to all countries that are late regardless of extenuating circumstances.

In order to avoid the possibility of a future review by the Criteria and Standards subcommittee, we recommend that the Government of New Zealand make every effort to meet its upcoming OGP deadlines. Please review your country's [individualized calendar](#) along with the OGP Calendar Guidance section in the [Government Point of Contact Manual](#) for full information on requirements and timelines. As you will see, the next important deadline for New Zealand is the publication of a new National Action Plan, which is due by June 30, 2016.

The OGP Support Unit and Steering Committee stand ready to support you in whatever way would be useful in creating the new action plan. Please do not hesitate to contact the OGP Support Unit if you require any assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Powell".

Joseph Powell
Acting Executive Director
OGP Support Unit

CC: Iain Rennie, State Services Commissioner, Government of New Zealand