



Julia Lopez MP  
Parliamentary Secretary  
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Our reference: MC2021/05040

Sanjay Pradhan  
Open Government Partnership  
1110 Vermont Avenue NW  
Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20005  
United States

By email

5 March 2021

Dear Sanjay Pradhan,

Thank you for your letter on February 10, notifying of the United Kingdom's placement on special measures in response to the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) finding that the UK acted contrary to the Open Government Partnership process on two occasions. While these findings date from a prior administration and organisational structure, I am committed to addressing the issues raised.

We acknowledge the issues raised around failure to meet OGP minimum requirement for public influence during co-creation of the National Action Plan (NAP), and the late release of the 2018-2020 NAP itself. In spite of these problems officials worked hard to secure the best possible outcomes amid challenging circumstances and have continued to develop policies that reflect the concerns of Civil Society, as evidenced from the recent 'Transforming Public Procurement' Green Paper.

We have learned the lessons from previous NAP processes and are committed to the following measures to ensure that we meet and exceed expectations of transparency and inclusivity in the development of our next generation of commitments:

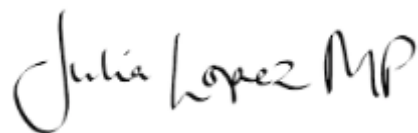
1. A broader, more open public consultation during the Multistakeholder Forum (MSF) stage of the process. My officials have facilitated a strategic discussion and planning meeting in December 2020, co-chaired by the Director-General of the Government Digital Service and a representative from Civil Society. The meeting produced several thematic areas for development into working groups, which will be populated by both government stakeholders and civil society partners in the coming weeks.

2. An action read out from the strategic discussion is publically available on the UK's Open Government Network website and will be available on the Government's website (GOV.UK) as well. Additional documentation produced during the working groups will also become available for public oversight.
3. Officials have attended multiple Civil Society events, such as the Open Government Network meetings to talk directly with external stakeholders, and to update the cross-government audience on the NAP5 process and highlight opportunities for further involvement.
4. My officials are exploring the options to work in conjunction with teams focused on open policy making and innovative participation methods, to support the working groups and deliver concrete commitments in time for the delivery of the NAP5 package within the agreed timescales.

In addition to these measures, I will be writing to Civil Society groups and offering an invite to an event to discuss concerns and ambitions around the upcoming NAP5 plan, and to offer my assurance that work is continuing across government in service of this policy area.

As a founding member of the Open Government Partnership, the United Kingdom remains deeply committed to upholding the core values of transparency, accountability, and public participation. I look forward to working closely with the OGP and Civil Society over the coming months to deliver an ambitious package of commitments, and to overcome the challenges described in the IRM report within the current NAP cycle.

**With best wishes,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia Lopez MP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Julia Lopez MP**