



Open Government Partnership Independent Reporting Mechanism

Results Report: Ireland 2023-2025 Comments Received

Comments Received from Siobhain Duggan, GS1 Ireland (13 October 2026)

Executive Summary

GS1 Ireland welcomes the publication of the Independent Reporting Mechanism Results Report for Ireland's Open Government Partnership Action Plan 2023-2025 and supports its overall findings. We particularly welcome the progress achieved under Commitment 1, Open Data, including increased dataset availability, wider use of APIs, improved interoperability and stronger foundations for the reuse of public sector information. We also support the report's emphasis on clearly scoped commitments, alignment with existing policy frameworks, meaningful stakeholder participation and sustained implementation oversight.

As Ireland develops future Open Government commitments, there is an opportunity to build on this progress by placing greater emphasis on data interoperability, common standards, machine-readable information and practical reuse across the public sector and wider economy. GS1 Ireland's experience across healthcare, construction and retail on product data ecosystems demonstrates that the greatest value from data sharing is achieved when organisations adopt common standards and trusted identifiers that allow information to be consistently understood and reused. These priorities can strengthen transparency, participation and accountability while improving the long-term value of public information.

Observations

The report identifies that the strongest results were achieved where commitments were clearly defined, supported by established policy frameworks and capable of practical implementation. Commitment 1 demonstrates how investment in open data infrastructure, publishing standards and interoperability can support measurable outcomes.

The next phase of Ireland's Open Data journey should focus not only on making data available, but also on ensuring that information can be consistently understood, shared and reused across organisations and systems. This could include greater attention to:

- common identifiers and reference data;
- consistent metadata and data governance approaches;
- interoperability between systems and datasets;
- machine-readable information structures; and
- evidence of practical reuse and public value.

These priorities are a practical extension of the progress recognised in the report and would support more consistent implementation across government.

Irish experience also demonstrates the value of standards-based approaches in complex, multi-stakeholder environments. In healthcare, Digital for Care and Scan4Safety illustrate how common identification and data standards can support interoperability, traceability and information sharing. In construction, common identifiers and structured data are being applied to Building Information Modelling and asset management. Preparations for Digital Product Passports similarly highlight the importance of interoperable, machine-readable and trusted information across supply chains and regulatory systems.

These examples are relevant because they show that effective data reuse depends on more than publication. It also requires agreed standards, consistent implementation and collaboration among the organisations that create, maintain and use the data.

GS1 Ireland also supports the report's conclusions regarding participation and co-creation. Ongoing engagement across government, civil society, industry and relevant subject matter experts should continue through both the design and implementation of future commitments. This would help ensure that commitments remain practical, relevant and focused on outcomes.

Recommendations

- 1. Strengthen interoperability.** Promote greater consistency in standards, identifiers, metadata and data governance approaches across public sector datasets and services, recognising that common standards and trusted identifiers are foundational enablers of effective data sharing and reuse.
- 2. Focus on usability and reuse.** Build on publication targets by assessing whether data can be readily discovered, understood, combined and reused, and by demonstrating the public value achieved.
- 3. Design for machine readability.** Ensure that future data initiatives support structured, machine-readable information and clear provenance so that public information remains usable in evolving digital environments.
- 4. Sustain participation and oversight.** Maintain stakeholder engagement throughout implementation, with clear accountability, regular progress reporting and opportunities to review outcomes and address barriers.

Conclusion

GS1 Ireland welcomes the progress reflected in the Results Report and supports the continued development of Ireland's Open Government agenda.

The foundations established through the Open Data programme provide a strong basis for future progress. Continued focus on interoperability, usability, stakeholder engagement and measurable outcomes will help maximise the value of public sector information and further strengthen transparency, participation and accountability.

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this consultation and would welcome continued engagement as future Open Government commitments are developed. Drawing on practical experience in healthcare, construction, product data and interoperability, GS1 Ireland would be pleased to contribute further to future discussions on standards, trusted identifiers and data reuse where this would be helpful.