Open Data Initiative

Description of the Policy

The objective of this policy is to lead the implementation of Open Data in an efficient, coherent and consistent manner right across the public sector.   It is intended that this will, in turn:

- Make it easier for any interested party to use, re-use and redistribute Public Service datasets
- Generate economic, social or democratic benefits

The Open Data Initiative forms a core element of Open Government Partnership first Action Plan. It is also part of the Public Service's reform activities and is closely aligned with the Public Service Reform Plan, the ICT Strategy, and the Civil Service Renewal Plan.

FAQ's

Q. 1 What is Open Data?
The concept of Open Data is about making data held by public bodies available and easily accessible online for reuse and redistribution.

Q.2 Why is Open Data being prioritised?
As public bodies have progressed in areas like eGovernment and data analytics, the potential of data and, in particular, Open Data to help deliver economic, social and democratic benefits has become clearer.

Q.3 What is data.gov.ie?
The data.gov.ie portal brings these open datasets together in a single searchable website.

Data.gov.ie is intended to provide easy access to datasets that are free to use, reuse, and redistribute. The portal is operated by the Government Reform Unit of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

Further Information

Much progress has been made todate including the development of a portal, data.gov.ie. The development of a Technical Framework to underpin the publication of datasets on the portal, the establishment of the Open Data Governance Board, a number of events have been held to raise awareness. The number of datasets available on the portal continues to grow.

Further information on the Open Data Initiative is available at the following links:

http://www.per.gov.ie/en/open-data/
https://data.gov.ie

Guidelines

The Open Data Unit developed, in collaboration with the Public Bodies Working Group, a Technical Framework for Open Data. This Technical Framework (https://data.gov.ie/technical-framework) underpins the publication of datasets meeting Open Data formats and standards in line with best practice internationally.

The Technical Framework is complemented by a Guide for existing and potential Open Data publishers following the lifecycle approach set out in the Foundation Document for the development of an Open Data Strategy (https://data.gov.ie/guide-for-publishers). This guide sets of the stages of publishing Open Data: reviewing what data the organisation manages, identifying what data should be published as Open Data, ensuring the data is compliant with the recommendations in the Technical Framework, and publishing data as Open Data on data.gov.ie.

Background Information

The Public Service comprises a diverse range of Government Departments, Offices and Agencies delivering a wide range of services across all areas of society and business.

The data held by these bodies is valuable; and technology and data are being used to transform the way services are planned, delivered and managed. As public bodies have progressed in areas like eGovernment and data analytics, the potential of data and, in particular, open data to help deliver economic, social and democratic benefits has become clearer.

The concept of Open Data is about making data held by public bodies available and easily accessible online for reuse and redistribution. When a dataset falls within the definition of personal data the fundamental right to the protection of personal data must be protected through anonymisation and/or aggregation before it can be published as Open Data.

To drive progress on Open Data, consultations on the key issues that need to be incorporated into Ireland's Open Data Strategy and to identify the key elements required to achieve the potential benefits of Open Data were conducted.

Consultation

Consultation Process

The Department held a consultation process in July 2014 on the portal and research provided on behalf of the Department by Insight (NUG)

The Department also held a consultation process on Licence paper in February 2015 and again in June 2015.

On 15 June 2015, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr Brendan Howlin T.D., launched a public consultation on two key documents under his Open Data Initiative and invited observations and ideas on how Open Data can be utilised, which datasets would be of value to citizens and have a high economic and social impact, and how best to progress the initiative:-

- a Foundation Document for the development of Ireland's Open Data Strategy; and
- a Technical Framework to underpin the publication of datasets in open data format on the Government's open data portal data.gov.ie

This phase of the Open Data Initiative involved engagement with citizens, business, researchers, and public bodies and was a core element of Ireland's approach to Open Data. The portal provides for members of the public to suggest a dataset for publication.

The public consultations guided and informed the progression of the Open Data initiative.

Consultation Documents

The Foundation Document and the Technical Framework consultations were published at http://www.per.gov.ie/en/open-data/

A licensing paper which contributed to the licence statement in the Technical Framework was published at http://www.per.gov.ie/en/open-data-licensing/

The results of a general consultation with the Enterprise Sector were published at http://www.per.gov.ie/en/open-data-business-paper/

Submissions Received

Submissions in response to the Foundation Document and the Technical Framework consultations are being prepared for publication.

Submissions on the licensing paper are available at http://www.per.gov.ie/en/open-data-licensing/

Submissions in relation to the 2014 consultation are available at http://www.per.gov.ie/en/open-data/

Consultation Report or Analysis / Synopsis of Submissions Received

A synopsis of the responses to the consultations on the Technical framework and Foundation Document is being prepared and will be published at http://www.per.gov.ie/en/open-data/

As 14 submissions were received in response to the Open data licences consultation, these were published in full.

Submission received can be located at the following link: http://www.per.gov.ie/en/open-data-licensing/