



Report Title:	Cabinet paper for lodging and talking points - “Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 5”		
Report No:	MoSR 2025-0626		
Date:	28 July 2025		
To:	Hon Judith Collins KC, Minister for the Public Service		
Action Sought:	Lodge Cabinet paper and note advice	Due date:	7 August 2025
Contact Person:	Dean Rosson, Manager, Strategy, Policy and Integrity, 9(2)(a) privacy		
Encl:	Final Cabinet paper; Talking points (Appendix 1)	Priority:	High
Security Level:	IN CONFIDENCE		

Purpose of report

1. This report provides you with:
 - a. a final version of the Cabinet paper “Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 5”, which you have agreed to lodge on 7 August 2025 for consideration by the Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee (EXP) on 12 August 2025 (MoSR 2025-0614 refers).
 - b. suggested talking points to support you introducing the item (**Appendix 1**).

Recommended action

We recommend that you:

- a **note** we have provided a final version of the Cabinet paper “Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 5” to lodge for the Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee on 7 August 2025, for consideration at their meeting on 12 August 2025;
- b **note** that we have provided suggested talking points to support you introducing the item;
- c **agree** that the Public Service Commission release this briefing in full once final decisions have been taken.

Agree/disagree.

Hon Judith Collins KC
Minister for the Public Service

IN CONFIDENCE

Background

2. You have previously agreed to our approach to developing the next Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan (NAP5), including alignment with the action plan to strengthen integrity (MoSR-2025-0449 refers). Given that NAP5 needs to be approved by 31 December 2025, we recommended you ask Cabinet to delegate approval for NAP5 consultation and finalisation to you.
3. Ministerial and agency consultation were undertaken in parallel on a draft Cabinet paper “Action plan to strengthen integrity and tackle corruption” (MoSR 2025-0513 refers). Based on feedback, the Cabinet paper was changed to focus on key decisions for NAP5.

Further consultation and lodging

4. You agreed to lodge the paper “Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 5” for consideration by EXP on 12 August 2025, subject to any further Ministerial feedback (MoSR 2025-0614 refers). Your office informed us there was no further feedback.
5. We have made minor proofing changes and expanded the ‘Risks’ section with the implications of not agreeing to the proposal. A final version of the paper is attached for lodging. Suggested talking points to support introducing the item are in **Appendix 1**.

Risks

6. If Cabinet does not agree to delegate the approval for plan development and finalisation to you now, it is likely to delay delivery of NAP5. This is because you would need to take further proposals to Cabinet in late November or early December to approve the plan for public consultation, and potentially also finalisation.
7. It is likely to be challenging to get OGP prioritised for Cabinet at this time of year and will therefore prevent us from achieving the OGP’s 31 December 2025 deadline for NAP5. If we miss the deadline it would result in an OGP ‘contrary to process’ letter (a relatively common form of public censure) and stakeholder criticism.

Next steps

8. If Cabinet agrees to the proposal, we will publish the Government's approach to developing NAP5, including a timeline, on our website and share it with stakeholders. Some key milestones are outlined in the table below.

Action	When
PSC publishes action plan to strengthen integrity	July 2025 (complete)
PSC publishes approach to NAP5 on website (at least two weeks before NAP5 engagement starts)	Soon after confirmation of Cabinet decision, August 2025
PSC invites public input & feedback/engagement	September to mid-October 2025
PSC engages with Minister on draft NAP5	Mid to end-October 2025
Minister approves plan for consultation	Early November 2025
Public consultation on draft plan (minimum 2 weeks)	November 2025
Minister approves final plan after receiving feedback	Early December 2025
OGP publishes plan, PSC publishes how feedback used	By end December 2025

9. Officials are available to discuss the Cabinet paper and timeline for NAP5 with you, including any announcements you would like to make about NAP5 milestones.

Appendix 1: Suggested talking points for discussion of the Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 5 at EXP on 12 August 2025

Proposal	Cabinet is asked to delegate authority to approve the Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan (NAP5) for public consultation and finalisation to me, as Minister for the Public Service, subject to Ministerial consultation where required.
Relationship to priorities	The Government is expected to deliver New Zealand's fifth Open Government Partnership National Action Plan by 31 December 2025.
Background	New Zealand has been a member of OGP since 2013 and has delivered four national action plans. NAP4 ended 31 December 2024.
The OGP plan development process would benefit from being streamlined	The OGP national action plan is expected to contain commitments co-designed with civil society stakeholders. In the past, stakeholders have expected that decision-making will be fully shared with Ministers. I believe we need a focused NAP5, well-aligned to Government priorities, developed through a streamlined process. I will signal this to stakeholders to support more focused and efficient consultation.
I will align the content of NAP5 with work by the Public Service Commission to strengthen integrity	I have recently agreed that the Public Service Commission will deliver an action plan to reset the public sector's approach to strengthening integrity. The action plan has four focus areas: • Resetting the expected standards of integrity and improving agency practice • Improving conflict of interest management • Improving complaints management, and • Progressing commitments to help reduce corruption and fraud. These are highly complementary to the principles of open government so I intend to use the action plan focus areas to guide consultation and NAP5 content. For example, NAP5 commitments could relate to: • making better use of data to monitor agency integrity practice, or • increasing transparency around CE and board chair interests. If the proposed commitments relate to other Ministers' portfolios or agencies, I will consult with them before approval.

	The approach of aligning OGP action plans to Government priorities has been used by other jurisdictions, and by the National-led government that approved the first National Action Plan in 2013.
We are likely to receive criticism for this approach...	Based on previous experience, I expect some stakeholders will criticise this more streamlined approach as offering reduced opportunities for co-design. Such criticisms have been long-standing. PSC will support me to meet OGP minimum requirements.
...but the alternative is more cumbersome	Without this decision, I will need to bring draft and/or final plans back to Cabinet for decisions later this year. I expect it may be challenging to prioritise OGP in Cabinet's work programme for November or December, causing us to miss the NAP5 deadline of 31 December 2025. If that happens, I expect we will be criticised by stakeholders and receive a 'contrary to process' letter from OGP, a form of public censure.