

# Open Government Partnership New Zealand

## National Action Plan 2018-2021

### End of Term Report

#### Commitment 12: Open Procurement

**Lead agency:** The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)

**Objective:** To publish the data on government-awarded contracts that is currently publicly available on the Government Electronic Tenders Service (GETS) as open data.




**Ambition:** It will be easy for people to find, and access published GETS information for contracts awarded by government agencies that are subject to the Government Procurement Rules. This will increase the level of trust the public has in procurement as it will be possible to analyse what contracts government agencies are awarding, what the expected spend is and which businesses have been awarded contracts.

**OGP values:** Transparency, Accountability and Technology and Innovation.

#### **What we achieved:**

New Zealand regularly makes available (on a quarterly basis) as open data, data on government-awarded contracts that is currently publicly available on GETS.

#### **Summary**

Milestones		Progress
1	Design with Stats NZ and the public a more usable format for this data. <i>Start/End dates: October 2018 - June 2019</i>	
2	Publish the results of the first milestone, for example information on what format the data will be released in and if we need to publish supporting material to help people interpret the data. <i>Start/End dates: July 2019 - December 2019</i>	
3	Publish the Contract Award notices online in the agreed usable format. <i>Start/End dates: June 2020 - On-going</i>	

**Progress key:**



some delays



underway



completed

#### **What we achieved**

##### Milestone 1

In June 2019 MBIE completed enhancements to the GETS system to improve and simplify completing contract award data for government agencies and provided training to agency GETS users on these changes.

## Milestone 2

This Milestone was completed in the final quarter of 2019, and information on what was intended was provided to agencies and stakeholders. A workshop was held to align the Award data with the Open Data Contracting Standard. Stakeholders had also sought inclusion of historic data, and consideration of this proposal was considered. This proved not to be practicable. This finding is consistent with experience in other comparable international jurisdictions on this.

## Milestone 3

This milestone was completed in January 2020 with the publication of the second procurement open data report, covering the period July 2019 to December 2019. This work has now transitioned to business as usual.

Work commenced on some areas needing further work to complete mapping to the Open Data Contracting Standard and to consider release of historic data.

2,400 unique webpage views of our open data page, with the award notice file (the main file of four available) being downloaded almost 1,000 times (obviously people download new copies each quarter). We also made historical data available, and this has also been downloaded ~400 times.

### **Commitment links:**

MBIE website: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/cross-government-functions/new-zealand-government-procurement-and-property/open-data/>

govt.nz website: <https://catalogue.data.govt.nz/dataset/new-zealand-government-procurement-award-notices>

NZGPP newsletter item about the Open Data Open Potential event hosted by Statistics New Zealand <https://www.procurement.govt.nz/about-us/news/open-data-open-potential-event/>

Blog story about our work on the data.govt.nz website <https://www.data.govt.nz/blog/making-procurement-data-more-accessible/> <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/cross-government-functions/new-zealand-government-procurement-and-property/open-data/>

### **Impacts:**

The data is public and accessible, the impact will depend on the use to which organisations and individuals put the information they are now able to access and manipulate.

### **Where to from here:**

Consideration is being given to how to make further improvements to the transparency of government procurement data.

With regards to future plans, we are looking at improving the data quality to give a more granular data, which will be possible by our recent platforming of the GETS system to Azure. We are also working with agencies to improve the data quality and timeliness of the data provided.

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## National Action Plan 2018-2020

### Progress Report: (Commitment Complete)




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Progress key:



some delays



underway



completed

#### WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

This Commitment is complete

#### LINKS – EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS AND MILESTONES ACHIEVED

New Zealand procurement open data report:

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**The New Zealand Government Procurement Open Data Project Team**



*From left to right: Dave Price, Alison Goffin, Alex Collie, Eileen Moughan, and Dan Palazzetti*

# Open Government Partnership New Zealand

## National Action Plan 2018-2020

### Progress Report: October – December 2019




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completed

#### WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

- In early November, New Zealand Government Procurement and Property (NZGPP) released the first procurement open data report on the MBIE website. Open data was provided for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 September 2019. We will update the report quarterly. A schema was also provided to help people navigate and interpret the data.
- In September prior to the release of the report, we worked closely with government agencies to inform them of the work, and provide an opportunity to check the data.

- On 6 November, we emailed our key stakeholder group to let them know the report was available. We received a suggestion from our stakeholders to release historical data and commenced considering how we could achieve this.
- On 15 November, we published a newsletter item on the NZGPP website and included information on GETS about the release of the first report including links to where people could access it. We responded to agency enquiries via our Account Managers and email helpdesk.
- On 4 December, we invited Duncan Dewhurst from the Open Data Services Co-operative to run a workshop with us to help align our data with the Open Data Contracting Standard (the Standard). We will commence mapping our fields to the Standard in January 2020.
- We have been planning the next steps for early 2020. This includes how we will engage with, and respond to our stakeholders' suggestions such as the release of historic data, improving open data quality, and alignment with the Standard.

## HOW WE ARE INCLUDING DIVERSE VOICES

- We are working closely with our key stakeholders and will look to bring them together in early 2020. We are listening to their suggestions and considering how we can respond.

## HOW WE ARE KEEPING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES INFORMED

- We are communicating with our stakeholders via an email list and keeping them up-to-date with our progress including the release of open data reports.
- As new stakeholders make contact with us, we will invite them to participate in our stakeholder group.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

- We will release the next quarterly report in January 2020.
- We are considering how we could release historic data in line with the April 2020 quarterly release.

## LINKS – EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS AND MILESTONES ACHIEVED

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- **NZGPP newsletter item:** <https://www.procurement.govt.nz/about-us/news/first-report-on-new-zealand-government-procurement-open-data-now-available/>
- **GETS:** <https://www.gets.govt.nz/ExternalReportList.htm>

# Open Government Partnership New Zealand

## National Action Plan 2018-2020

Progress report for: June 2018 – January 2019


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Progress key:



some delays



underway



completed

### WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

- We have established a working group within the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to lead this commitment.
- We have started developing a communications plan to communicate to stakeholders what this commitment is / how it affects them and how they can be involved.
- We have set up a workshop where we can have an initial conversation to discuss format with interested parties on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February.

### HOW WE ARE INCLUDING DIVERSE VOICES



- We intend to extend the opportunity to be involved in this work widely so that anyone with an interest in Open Data is able to be involved in some capacity.

#### HOW WE ARE KEEPING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES INFORMED

- We plan to use existing Open Government Partnership mechanisms to keep diverse communities informed.
- We will also work with Statistics New Zealand to identify individuals and groups with an interest in Open Data.
- Anyone who would like to be involved or obtain future information should contact [procurement@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:procurement@mbie.govt.nz).

#### WHAT'S NEXT?

- Holding a workshop and follow-up engagement to design the format for the Open Data.
- Direct communications to Government agencies and suppliers to Government to inform them of this work.
- The workshop will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment in Wellington. If there is interest in this work from those placed outside of Wellington we will use other means to enable them to be involved.

#### LINKS – EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS AND MILESTONES ACHIEVED

- When the first milestone has been achieved the results will be published on [www.procurement.govt.nz](http://www.procurement.govt.nz).

# Open Government Partnership New Zealand

## National Action Plan 2018-2020

### Progress Report: January – June 2020 (Commitment Complete)




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#### WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

- In January 2020, New Zealand Government Procurement (NZGP) released the second procurement open data report on the MBIE website. Open data was provided for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019.
- In January, we teamed up with Paul Stone from the New Zealand Open Government Data Programme to help promote the *Open Data, Open Potential* event on the 6 March hosted by Statistics New Zealand.
  - To help promote the event to government agencies, on 5 February we ran a story on our website and on 11 February we included it our Contract Bulletin.

- In the lead-up to the event, on 27 February 2020, we posted a blog about the work we are doing on the [data.govt.nz](https://data.govt.nz) website.
- In January, we analysed GETS data fields against the Open Data Contracting Standard and identified some areas needing further work to complete mapping to the standard.
- On 9 March, we met with Keitha Booth, the Independent Reporter on New Zealand's Open Government Partnership National Action Plan. We shared with her the work we are doing and confirmed we were on track to achieve our commitments.
- During March we worked with government agencies to prepare for the release of historic contract award notices (prior to 1 Jul 2019) as open data by encouraging agencies to check the accuracy and quality of their data. Due to COVID-19 the date for the release of the historic data has been deferred until July.
- On 1 May, the third quarterly report was published for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 March 2020. There was a slight delay due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The next quarterly report is due to be released in July 2020.

## **HOW WE ARE INCLUDING DIVERSE VOICES**

- We have established a key stakeholder group and as new stakeholders make contact, we invite them to participate in the group.
- We planned to bring our stakeholders together in April to discuss procurement open data and provide a forum through which to receive suggestions. Due to COVID-19 this was postponed to a later date.
- Stakeholder communication has been two-way with some interested parties such as Transparency International New Zealand (TINZ) reaching out to offer support and suggestions.

## **HOW WE ARE KEEPING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES INFORMED**

- We communicate with stakeholders via an email list keeping them up-to-date on our progress including the release of open data reports. On 19 May 2020, we emailed the group to let them know the third report was available.
- Other communication channels include our website and blog post on the [data.govt.nz](https://data.govt.nz) website.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

- We will release the next quarterly report in July 2020.
- We are considering how we could release historic data in line with the July 2020 quarterly release.
- We will look to bring our stakeholders together to gather their suggestions.
- We are considering what actions we could implement over the next 12 months.

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Progress report to: April – June 2019


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### WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

- We communicated with interested open data stakeholders on progress towards the commitment. We advised them that following their feedback at our initial workshop we have revised our timeframes and we are looking to issue the first iteration of contract award notice data in October.
- In May we published a second news item on New Zealand Government Procurement's website highlighting that we will start releasing contract award notices on a quarterly basis from October. We also continued to communicate to government agencies through direct mail and newsletters.

- In June we completed enhancements to the GETS system to improve and simplify completing contract award data for government agencies. We also provided training to agency GETS users on these changes.
- We scheduled a second workshop for July to further consult stakeholders on the commitment and gather their feedback on the format of the data to be released.
- We conducted an initial desktop review of the Open Contracting Data Standard and other applicable data standards to GETS data.

#### **HOW WE ARE INCLUDING DIVERSE VOICES**

- By publishing contract award notices as open we are making government spending more transparent and accessible to all New Zealanders.

#### **HOW WE ARE KEEPING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES INFORMED**

- We have been communicating with stakeholders interested in open data and plan to extend our reach through other partner networks.

#### **WHAT'S NEXT?**

- Further engagement and communications on improving the format that the data will be released in and progress towards the commitment.
- Confirmation of the format and supporting messages for the data to be released.

#### **LINKS – EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS AND MILESTONES ACHIEVED**

- <https://www.procurement.govt.nz/about-us/news/contract-award-data-to-be-open-from-october/>

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**Objective:** To publish the data on government-awarded contracts that is currently publicly available on the Government Electronic Tenders Service (GETS) as open data.

**Ambition:** It will be easy for people to find and access published GETS information for contracts awarded by government agencies that are subject to the Government Rules of Sourcing. This will increase the level of trust the public has in procurement as it will be possible to analyse what contracts government agencies are awarding, what the expected spend is and which businesses have been awarded contracts.

**OGP values:** Transparency, Accountability, Technology and Innovation

Milestones		Progress
1	Design with Stats NZ and the public a more usable format for this data. <i>Start/End dates: October 2018 - June 2019</i>	
2	Publish the results of the first milestone, for example information on what format the data will be released in and if we need to publish supporting material to help people interpret the data. <i>Start/End dates: July 2019 - December 2019</i>	
3	Publish the Contract Award notices online in the agreed usable format. <i>Start/End dates: June 2020 - On-going</i>	N/A

Progress key:



some delays



underway



completed

#### WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

- New Zealand Government Procurement and Property (NZGPP) facilitated a second workshop in August to provide an update on progress towards this commitment and gather feedback on how to make the data more accessible to a wider audience.
- We updated the group that we have revised our timeframes and are looking to release the data quarterly from October this year, for the previous three months. The data will be released in a .csv file on [www.mbie.govt.nz](http://www.mbie.govt.nz) and on [www.data.govt.nz](http://www.data.govt.nz).

- NZGPP has been working with agencies to encourage them to complete their contract award notices before this data is released.
- In late June we sent an email to agencies notifying them that contract award data will start being released as open data in October. We also advised them of upcoming training sessions which will help them prepare for the change.
- We continued to hold Government Electronic Tenders Service (GETS) training sessions in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch in July. This training included detail about changes to the GETS system to improve and simplify completing contract award data.
- In September we published a third news item on New Zealand Government Procurement's website, which was also sent to agencies in our newsletter. This story provided more detail about what would be released as open data.

### **HOW WE ARE INCLUDING DIVERSE VOICES**

- By publishing contract award notices as open we are making government spending more transparent and accessible to everyone.

### **HOW WE ARE KEEPING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES INFORMED**

- We have been communicating with stakeholders interested in open data.

### **WHAT'S NEXT?**

- We plan to release the first set of open contract award data in October 2019. Following the initial release, we will continue to work with stakeholders to review and revise the format of the data.
- Confirmation of supporting messages to accompany the dataset.

### **LINKS – EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS AND MILESTONES ACHIEVED**

- <https://www.procurement.govt.nz/about-us/news/contract-award-data-to-be-open-from-october/>
- <https://www.procurement.govt.nz/about-us/news/contract-award-notices-to-be-published-as-open-data/>