



OGN Meeting with Officials from the Department of Finance and Personnel

18th September, 2015, Clare House, Belfast

Present: Jonathan Bell, Colm Burns, David McBurney, Anthony Soares, Kathryn Semple, Gavin Quinn, Claire McMillan

UK NAP iii

DFP are in ongoing contact with the Cabinet Office, Scottish and Welsh representatives through a weekly teleconference. DFP are coordinating the NI Government input to the NAP and have submitted a paper to the DFP Minister updating her on progress and requesting her support

NI OGN have produced a series of draft commitments and actions under the five thematic areas around which the NAP is being developed. This is very much a living document which is currently being refined and developed through input from the OGN network, via the online Forum. Network members have until 30th September to input.

DFP have initiated a process to develop commitment ideas. A stakeholder meeting was held with selected stakeholders including representatives of the PSNI, Belfast CC, OFM DFM DETI, NISRA to identify commitments for the UK NAP. Two commitments have so far been proposed. A further meeting with Belfast CC is scheduled for 25/9. It was suggested that this stakeholder grouping should include OGN representatives.

November is the deadline for each of the devolved regions to submit commitments to the Cabinet Office. In this context the following timescale was agreed:

- End of September – OGN secretariat to finalise the commitments and actions identified by OGN and civic society and forward to DFP
- DFP to include additional commitments or actions identified through stakeholder engagement. At this stage the Joint Draft will be circulated to other government Departments
- End of October - Host Joint OGN/DFP workshop to confirm/refine the proposed commitments
- Beginning of November – finalise the commitments and actions and seek Ministerial approval before submitting to the Cabinet Office.

Mexico OGO Summit

DFP have yet to confirm whether a government official will attend the Summit. Colm Burns from OGN has confirmed he has received grant support from OGP and will attend on behalf of the Network.

Other

The DFP Minister is keen to produce materials or programmes to help people understand how government and the budgeting process works.



In advance of the joint workshop, DFP agreed to consider writing a blog for the OGN website explaining government's perspective on open government in NI and the NAP process.

DFP to enquire about a Ministerial address at the workshop.

Next meeting

TBC – possibly mid-October to discuss draft commitments and the workshop format