

RE-IMAGINE  
DEMOCRACY 



LOTTERY FUNDED

## Open Government Network Conference

The MAC, Exchange Street, Belfast  
15<sup>th</sup> March 2018

*Imagine a country where decisions are honestly made,  
transparent and accountable, where outcomes cannot be  
bought or manipulated and where policy-making  
processes enhance democratic participation  
and connection...*



# RE-IMAGINE DEMOCRACY

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

### **09:45AM: Welcome & Scene Setting**

Peter Osborne, Host

### **10:00AM: What's the point of Open Government?**

Three deliberative dialogues to explore the intrinsic and instrumental value of open government.

Dialogue 1: Transparency, accountability & the public's right to know  
Mandy McAuley, BBC Spotlight

Dialogue 2: Who owns our democracy?  
Peter Geoghegan, OpenDemocracy

Dialogue 3: Unmasking the Corrupt – The Paradise Papers  
Alex Cobham, CEO of the Tax Justice Network

## **11:30AM: BREAK**

### **12:00PM: Leave No One Behind: Open Government and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

Three Lightning Talks followed by a Q&A and open discussion on the relevance of the SDGs for the UK and Ireland.

Lightning Talk 1: Open Government and the UN SDGs – The Pioneer Project  
Lucy McTernan, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO)

Lightning Talk 2: Progress with implementation plan for SDGs  
Farooq Ullah, Co-Chair of UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD)

Lightning Talk 3: Climate Change & Environmental Protection after Brexit – SDG13  
Jim Kitchen, former Head of Sustainable Development Commission in NI

## **1:00PM: LUNCH**

### **2:00PM: The Future of Open Government – What's the Story?**

Keynote from Robin Hodess, Transparency International and the OGP Steering Group

### **2:30PM: How can Open Government tackle the issues that matter to you?**

Workshop to identify and discuss potential new commitment areas & ideas

## **4:30PM: CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSE**

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### SPEAKER BIOS

#### Mandy McAuley, BBC Spotlight



Mandy McAuley is an award winning investigative journalist for BBC Spotlight. She is a former News/Current Affairs Broadcaster of the Year and Journalist of the Year; and her Spotlight expose on the world of illegal dog-fighting won a Royal Television Society award.

Mandy's Spotlight investigations have shed light on a number of recent public scandals including, NAMA, Red Sky and Stormont expenses. A programme focusing on Nama exposed "corruption around the Republic of Ireland's "bad bank", which once controlled billions of pounds' worth of property in Northern Ireland. The Red Sky programme investigated the alleged interventions by senior DUP members on behalf of the East Belfast based Red Sky maintenance company, whilst the programme on Public Figures provided a two-part report on the inappropriate spending of taxpayers' money.

#### Peter Geoghegan, OpenDemocracy



Peter Geoghegan is an Irish political writer, journalist and broadcaster based in Glasgow. He has worked on investigative television programmes for Channel 4 and reported for the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the London Review of Books, the Guardian, the Evening Standard and the Irish Times.

Peter has written books on the Scottish independence referendum and Northern Irish politics - his most recent book is 'The People's Referendum - Why Scotland Will Never Be the Same Again'. He is a Journalist, Director and Treasurer with 'The Ferret', an award-winning investigative journalism platform that was awarded a Google Digital News Initiative grant to build Scotland's first fact-checking website. Peter has also produced a series of articles for OpenDemocracy on the theme of 'Dark Money'.

#### Alex Cobham, Tax Justice Network



Alex is chief executive at the international Tax Justice Network, a development economist and visiting fellow at King's College, London. His recent research includes analysis of the scale of global profit-shifting, and an assessment of the potential for the Sustainable Development Goals to challenge the relationships between power, inequality and what goes uncounted.

Alex's work has mainly focused on issues of taxation, horizontal and vertical inequality, and illicit financial flows. He is a co-creator of both the Financial Secrecy Index (the global 'tax haven' ranking), and the Palma ratio of inequality. He played a central role in the establishment of the first major development INGO campaign on tax justice at Christian Aid; and created the original proposal for what is now the leading international tax revenue database, the ICTD-WIDER GRD.

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### SPEAKER BIOS

#### **Lucy McTernan, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations**



Lucy is currently leading the staff team at the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and is responsible for all SCVO external-facing operations, cross-directorate planning and strategy. She reports directly to the Board, who are elected from our membership organisations. Lucy has a wealth of experience in Scotland's third sector. She has worked for SCVO for over 20 years and is a former member of the Scotland committee of the Big Lottery Fund. Lucy works closely with the Scottish Government at all levels to advance the interests of the third sector.

#### **Farooq Ullah, UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development**



Farooq is the Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD) and a Director of Stakeholder Forum (SF); an international NGO advancing sustainable development through good governance and participatory decision-making at all levels.

Farooq also holds several non-executive positions. He is the Chair of Future Earth's Engagement Committee, an Associate of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), an Associated Partner of the European Sustainable Development

Network (ESDN) and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (RSA). Farooq has also been appointed as a Peer to the 3rd International Peer Review Panel feeding into the 2018 German National Sustainable Development Strategy.

Farooq holds a BComm in Management Science from the University of Alberta (UofA) and an MSc in Public Policy from the London School of Economics (LSE).

#### **Jim Kitchen**



Jim Kitchen has recently retired as Director of Sustainable Northern Ireland, working with partners to promote the adoption of sustainable development principles by public authorities and others. Previously, Jim was the Northern Ireland Director of the Sustainable Development Commission, working with Ministers, advisers and officials to embed sustainability in government policy. Prior to that, he established and developed the NI office of WWF, the world's leading environmental organisation.

Jim is a Visiting Professor on sustainability at Ulster University. He is a Board member of Northern Ireland Environment Link and sits on the Steering Group of Climate Northern Ireland. His early career was as a teacher and Headmaster, thirteen years of which were spent in Zambia, where he indulged his passion for the natural world and its wildlife.

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### SPEAKER BIOS

#### **Robin Hodess, Transparency International**



Robin became Internal Managing Director at Transparency International, focussed on strategy, in October 2017. She was previously Interim Managing Director and group director for advocacy, policy and research. She also led the work on financial integrity, and from September 2016 has been a civil society member of the Open Government Partnership Steering Committee.

Prior to joining Transparency International, Robin developed a programme on economic globalisation for the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs. She has taught Media and Politics at the Free University of Berlin and the University of Leipzig, as well as serving as Assistant Director for international security programmes at the Center for War, Peace and the News Media at New York University. Robin holds a PhD and MPhil in International Relations from Cambridge University and a BA in History from the University of Pennsylvania.

#### **Peter Osborne, Conference Host**



Peter has been involved in political engagement, policy, participation, dispute resolution and reconciliation for over 25 years. He is Chairperson of the Community Relations Council and chair of the regional board of Remembering Srebrenica and a member of its UK Board.

Peter was an elected representative for 12 years from 1993-2005, during which time he chaired the Alliance Party, was a delegate to the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation and to the talks process that led to the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. He was a director of Extern and Extern Ireland and was a Northern Ireland board member of the BIG Lottery Fund. He was a director of the Building Change Trust; he helped to found the Open Government Network on behalf of Building Change Trust; and he chaired the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland.

Peter recently received an Inter Faith award for his contribution to inter-faith understanding and co-operation. You can follow Peter on Twitter @OsborneTweets

This event is funded by the Big Lottery Fund



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For information on our UN Sustainable Development Goals project visit:

<http://globalgoalsni.org>

For conference resources visit:

[www.opengovernment.org.uk/event/re-imagine-democracy-conference](http://www.opengovernment.org.uk/event/re-imagine-democracy-conference)