

The Government I lead will be the most open that Scotland has ever had

Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister

Open
Government
Partnership



Open Government Partnership

Pioneer Status – what does it mean for Scotland

The First Minister **set out her ambition**

*To have “An outward looking Government which is more **open and accessible to Scotland’s people** than ever before”*

Making clear that she is “talking about transformative reform, not incremental reform. And as far as possible I want this to be reform which you design and deliver jointly with other organisations and the people using your services, and lead through to delivery.”

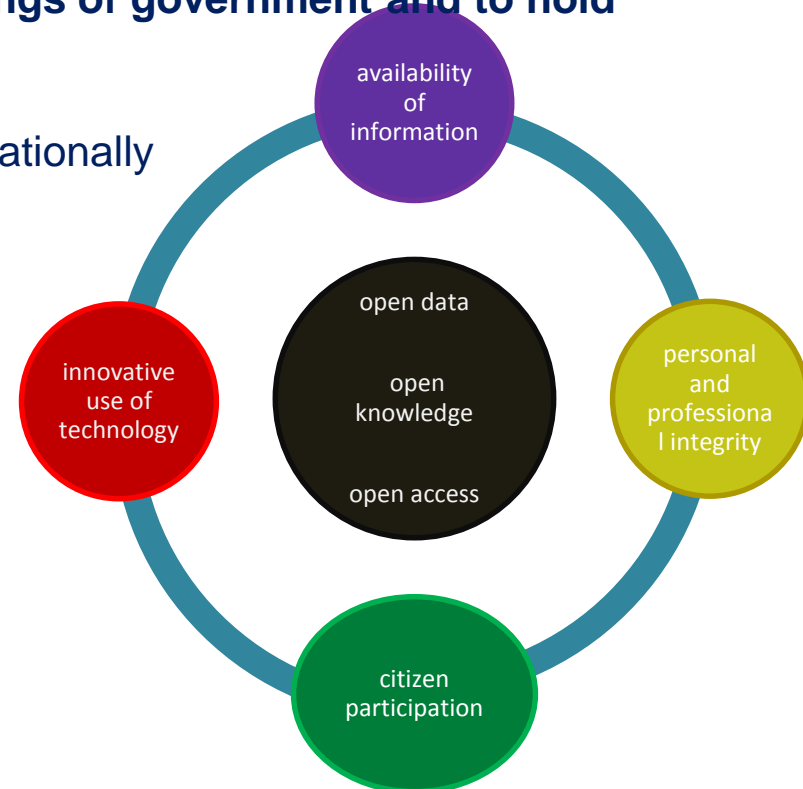


Open Government Partnership: In the Scottish Context

OGP was launched in 2011 to provide an international platform for those committed to making governments more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens.

It has grown from 8 countries, including the UK, to 69 participating countries. In each member country, government and civil society are working together to develop and implement open government reforms which ensure people can see, understand, participate in and influence the workings of government and to hold government to account

- It provides a credible framework, recognised internationally
- It is supported by civil society partners and NGOs
- It is a dynamic network of 69 countries
- Countries develop action plans on a 2 yrly cycle
- In April 2016 Scotland has been selected for OGP Pioneer status, one of 15 governments around the world to bring innovation and leadership to OGP from all levels of government
- UN identified OGP as the vehicle to report on progress to deliver Sustainable Development Goals



There are four eligibility criteria for joining the Open Government Partnership; these, along with 5 Grand Challenges provide the framework

Criteria

- **fiscal transparency** – the timely publication of essential budget documents forms the basic building blocks of budget accountability and an open budget system
- **access to information** – an access to information law that guarantees the public's right to information and access to government data is essential to the spirit and practice of open government
- **disclosures related to elected or senior public officials** – rules that require public disclosure of income and assets for elected and senior public officials are essential to anti-corruption and open, accountable government
- **citizen engagement** – open government requires openness to citizen participation and engagement in policy making and governance, including basic protections for civil liberties

Challenges

- **Improving public services** – measures that address the full spectrum of citizen services including health, education, criminal justice, water, electricity, telecommunications and any other relevant service areas, by fostering public service improvement or private sector Innovation
- **Increasing public integrity** – measures that address corruption and public ethics, access to information, campaign finance reform, and media and civil society freedom
- **More effectively managing public resources** – measures that address budgets, procurement, natural resources and foreign assistance
- **Creating safer communities** – measures that address public safety, the security sector, disaster and crisis response, and environmental threats
- **Increasing corporate accountability** – measures that address corporate responsibility on issues such as the environment, anti-corruption, consumer protection and community engagement

In April 2016 Scotland was selected to join an Open Government Partnership Pioneer programme

Under the Programme each Pioneer will:

- work directly with OGP and with its local civil society
- develop a national action plan by December 2016
- it will be implemented and independently reported upon in 2017
- seek to involve the public

OGP aims to:

- Bring in more diverse political leadership.
- Learn how OGP can best work with subnational governments
- Discover and promote new and innovative open government practices
- Create practical opportunities for pioneers to share experiences
- Broaden and deepen participation of civil society organizations in OGP.

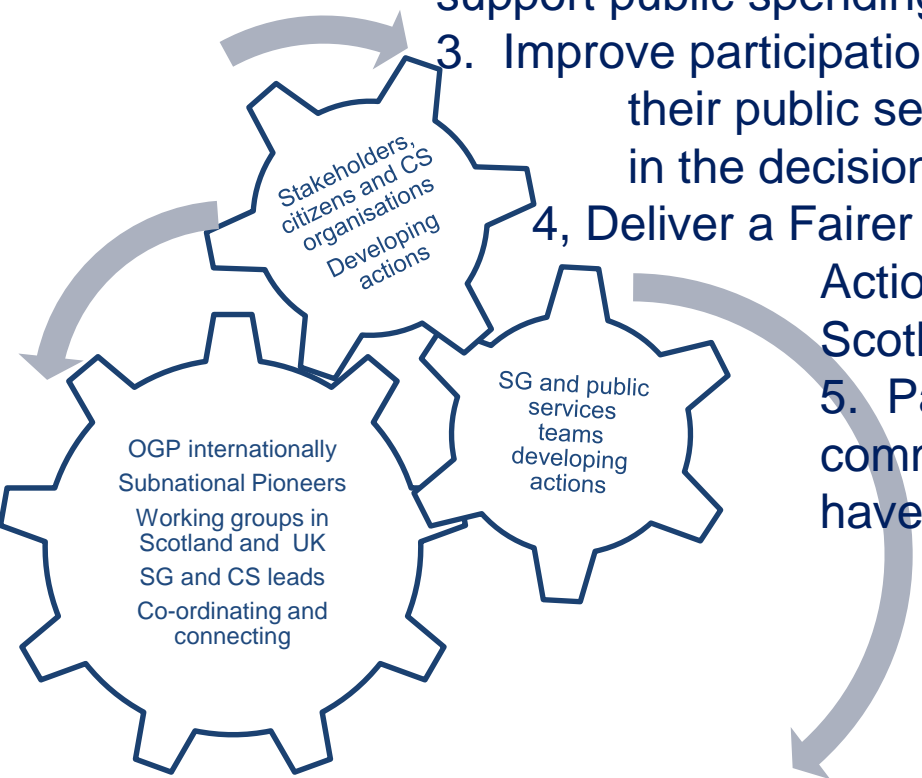
Pioneer Programme Governments

[Austin, United States](#); [Bojonegoro, Indonesia](#); [Buenos Aires, Argentina](#); [Elgeyo Marakwet, Kenya](#); [Jalisco, Mexico](#); [Kigoma, Tanzania](#); [La Libertad, Peru](#); [Madrid, Spain](#); [Ontario, Canada](#); [Paris, France](#); [Sao Paulo, Brazil](#); [Scotland, United Kingdom](#); [Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana](#); [Seoul, South Korea](#); [Tbilisi, Georgia](#)

OGP require Pioneers to have a small number of transformation commitments

The current draft Scottish Commitments include

1. Measure Scotland's progress: by making understandable information available through the National Performance Framework, which will be reviewed to reflect our commitments to Human Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals
2. to clearly explain how public finances work, so people can understand how money flows into and out of the Scottish Government, to support public spending in Scotland
3. Improve participation – in places and ways that people can shape their public services, have more control over their lives and in the decisions affecting them.
- 4, Deliver a Fairer Scotland: through implementation of the Actions developed with civil society in the Fairer Scotland action plan
5. Participatory budgeting: to empower communities through direct action ensuring they have influence over setting budget priorities



Our Aims for 2017 are:

- To take the opportunities at home and abroad offered by Open Government Pioneer Status to set out our transformational agenda
- To build a movement in Scotland and value the partnership with civil society - the network here has about a 100 members coordinated by SCVO
- Make sure we tell our story, to the public, civil society, politicians; government as well as wider public services – so that we can all benefit from an open government
- To provide a strong base on which to highlight Scotland's reforms, design and innovate the design of public services, recognising the importance of new technology and data
- To strengthen intergovernmental relations by sharing learning on open government

The ask of us all today on Open Government?

- The 2016 review of OGP commitments world wide found fewer than 2% related to health, education or climate change

In this year as Pioneers for OGP we have a unique opportunity to put Scotland at the forefront of global openness and transparency and take real steps to build on our history of progressive, rights based government.



Image: Robert Young (CC BY 2.0) (Cropped with apologies to Northern Irish Colleagues