

Combined DIA and Open Government Data and Information Re-use Programme Secretariat response to the independent review of data.govt.nz, November 2011



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Summary

The independent review of data.govt.nz was received by the Data and Information Re-use Chief Executives Steering Group on 15 December 2011 and its recommendations received and noted. This paper sets out a combined DIA and Secretariat response to the recommendations.

Background

The Internal Affairs run website data.govt.nz is a directory of non-personal, unclassified open government datasets, which was launched as a pilot in November 2009. The website was independently reviewed over October and November 2011 by Andrew Stott, the former Director of Transparency and Digital Engagement for the UK Government.

Although the TOR for the review referred specifically to data.govt.nz it was impossible to review it in isolation, as it is a part of the wider Open Data Programme and a major delivery vehicle for the Declaration on Open and Transparent Government.

The reviewer made 31 recommendations covering the Open Data Programme governance, delivery and communication/education; data.govt.nz operations, enhancements and communications/education; and cross-system implications.

Recommendations	Categories	Response
1. Use data.govt.nz for the delivery of the Open Government Programme.	Programme delivery	The home page of data.govt.nz now has links to the programme information on ict.govt.nz. The Guidance and Advice to agencies to recommend they notify all public data releases on data.govt.nz.
2. Continue to monitor user behaviour and collect feedback, and enhance data.govt.nz accordingly.	data.govt.nz enhancements	DIA to update data.govt.nz strategy and product plan.
3. Periodically assess the re-usability of datasets published on data.govt.nz on the 5-star scale.	Programme communications/education data.govt.nz operations	Secretariat to refer to the 5 star scale in its Guidance and Advice DIA to periodically report to the Steering Group on attainment of the 5-star scale.
4. All government datasets being made available for public access should be on data.govt.nz	Programme delivery Programme communications/education	The Guidance and Advice to agencies to recommend they notify all public data releases on data.govt.nz.

Recommendations	Categories	Response
5. Putting a dataset on data.govt.nz should be the responsibility of the agency owning the dataset.	Programme communications/education data.govt.nz communications/education	The Guidance and Advice to agencies to recommend they notify all public data releases on data.govt.nz.
6. data.govt.nz should point to data. Current landing pages should be phased out.	data.govt.nz operations data.govt.nz communications/education data.govt.nz enhancements	DIA to consider in updated data.govt.nz strategy and product plan.
7. The facilities for listing data on data.govt.nz should be improved along the lines indicated in paragraph 31: 1) Agencies to manage their own dataset listings by logging in to data.govt.nz using the iGovt authentication service. 2) Keep under review the functionality for non-government users to list datasets on data.govt.nz. 3) Introduce stricter rules and processes for dataset metadata validation to reduce manual intervention. 4) data.govt.nz operations put more effort into active metadata curation and quality assurance. 5) Stronger direction towards the use of the default Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) licence.	data.govt.nz enhancements data.govt.nz operations	DIA to consider in updated data.govt.nz strategy and product plan.

Recommendations	Categories	Response
<p>8. The reasons for the apparently high level of use of restrictive licences should be investigated, and changes made to NZGOAL procedures as necessary.</p>	<p>Programme communications/education</p>	<p>NZGOAL agency training to be continued in 2012</p> <p>DIA to amend the data.govt.nz licensing section to strongly recommend that agencies apply the NZGOAL-recommended default Attribution licence unless restrictions apply.</p> <p>Progress reports on Declaration uptake to include NZGOAL licence selection</p>
<p>9. data.govt.nz should continue to catalogue all publicly available government datasets, even those currently with a non-open licence.</p>	<p>data.govt.nz operations</p>	<p>DIA to continue current practice.</p>
<p>10. Improve the data request procedures along the lines set out in paragraph 38:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Appointment of Senior Data Champions within each agency as a single point of contact. 2) Steering Group to set a 'SLA' for a maximum time for response. 3) Requested data should be considered a priori high value. 4) enable and encourage direct contact between the requester and data owner. 5) Periodic reporting to the Steering Group of requests made and decisions taken 6) Publish statistics on progress of requests similar to data.gov (US). 	<p>Programme governance</p> <p>data.govt.nz enhancements</p> <p>data.govt.nz operations</p>	<p>Secretariat to consider for inclusion in Guidance and Advice to agencies</p> <p>DIA to consider in updated data.govt.nz strategy and product plan.</p>
<p>11. Put in place urgently a clear and resourced internal and external communication strategy for the implementation of the Cabinet Declaration including the role of data.govt.nz.</p>	<p>Programme delivery</p> <p>Programme communications/education</p>	<p>Secretariat preparing updated Communications Strategy</p>

Recommendations	Categories	Response
<p>12. Increase the awareness of data.govt.nz within government agencies by using it as a communications vehicle for the Open Government Programme as a whole.</p>	<p>Programme delivery</p> <p>Programme communications/education</p> <p>data.govt.nz enhancements</p>	<p>Secretariat to consider options in consultation with the Office of the OGCIO and make recommendation to Steering Group.</p> <p>If agreed by the Steering Group, DIA to consider relevant changes to the website's information architecture in the updated data.govt.nz strategy and product plan.</p>
<p>13. Extend data.govt.nz metadata along the lines discussed in paragraphs 46-51:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increase the number of required metadata fields, and increase its accuracy. 2) Extend the range of metadata to include documentation. 3) Incorporate some specialist metadata from other federated data catalogues. 4) Improve search facility with better keyword curation. 	<p>data.govt.nz enhancements</p> <p>data.govt.nz operations</p>	<p>DIA to consider in updated data.govt.nz strategy and product plan.</p> <p>DIA to consider options for redeveloping either the whole website and/or the back-end database. Any redevelopment would likely reuse available platforms or services.</p>
<p>14. Publish the file of metadata for the datasets in data.govt.nz's catalogue as a dataset in its own right.</p>	<p>data.govt.nz enhancements</p>	<p>DIA to consider in updated data.govt.nz strategy and product plan.</p>
<p>15. Consider migration to a well-supported, open-ended specialist metadata repository package</p>	<p>data.govt.nz enhancements</p>	<p>DIA to consider in updated data.govt.nz strategy and product plan.</p>
<p>16. The communications strategy for the Open Government Programme should require cross-promotion between the different government websites involved.</p>	<p>Programme communications/education</p>	<p>Secretariat preparing updated Communications Strategy.</p>
<p>17. data.govt.nz should have some material about itself and the Open Government Programme aimed at general public visitors, but it should not at this stage aim to cater further for them.</p>	<p>Programme governance</p> <p>data.govt.nz communications/education</p>	<p>Done. The home page of data.govt.nz now has links to the programme information on ict.govt.nz.</p>

Recommendations	Categories	Response
18. The communications strategy should include specific messaging and engagement with relevant businesses including IT firms.	Programme communications/education	Secretariat preparing updated Communications Strategy.
19. Open Government Plans should include resources for external awareness, particularly to prospective data re-users; as part of this an “evangelist” role should be considered.	Programme delivery Programme communications/education	Secretariat preparing updated Communications Strategy
20. data.govt.nz should showcase prominently on its own site examples of data reuse, drawing on material already available including “List a Reuse” responses.	data.govt.nz enhancements	<p>Done. The home page of data.govt.nz now has links to the programme information on ict.govt.nz.</p> <p>The Guidance and Advice for agencies by the Programme Secretariat to include case studies.</p> <p>DIA to consider supporting enhancements in its updated data.govt.nz strategy and product plan.</p>
21. data.govt.nz and the Open Government Programme should continue to collect and highlight new examples of re-use.	Programme communications/education data.govt.nz communications/education data.govt.nz enhancements	<p>Case study preparation already in Open Government 2011/2012 work programme</p> <p>DIA to consider in updated data.govt.nz strategy and product plan.</p>
22. Open Government Programme should consider the case for modest grants to develop selected proof-of-concepts into sustainable, if beta, live services.	Programme governance	Secretariat to consider for next stage of the Open Government programme.
23. Each dataset itself should remain the responsibility of the agency which owns it.	Programme communications/education data.govt.nz communications/education	<p>Already covered by the NZ Data and Information Management Principles, August 2011</p> <p>DIA to include in agency communications.</p>

Recommendations	Categories	Response
24. data.govt.nz should be the single, comprehensive government data catalogue for New Zealand.	Programme governance Cross-system implications	Considered by Steering Group on 15 December 2011. They agreed that data.govt.nz should be comprehensive, but not the only government data directory for NZ.
25. There should be a strong presumption against any new data portals.	Programme governance Cross-system implications	Agreed by the Steering Group on 15 December 2011 who also noted that agencies should apply the Rethink Online framework prepared by DIA.
<p>26. The case for continuing the operation of each of the existing portals should be rigorously tested by the Chief Executives Steering Group with a view to rationalisation along the lines suggested in paragraph 81:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Re-consider the case for geodata.govt.nz 2) Examine the need for DigitalNZ and data.govt.nz to be completely separate. 3) Consider if the visualisation functionality of the LINZ data service could be leveraged to provide visualisation services for data.govt.nz. 4) Consider adding map-based geospatial search to data.govt.nz. 5) Ensure complete metadata for Statistics New Zealand datasets are exported to data.govt.nz, and consider adding a sub-brand to identify Tier 1 Official Statistics. 	Programme governance Cross-system implications data.govt.nz enhancements	<p>DIA to consider points 2), 3), 4), and 5), report to the Steering Group, and consider within the updated data.govt.nz strategy and product plan as necessary.</p> <p>LINZ and DIA to consider points 1), 3), and 4) and report to the Steering Group.</p>
27. Any other catalogues should export metadata on all their datasets, and to do so in such a way that there is no duplication of datasets on data.govt.nz.	data.govt.nz enhancements	DIA to include in updated data.govt.nz strategy and product plan.

Recommendations	Categories	Response
<p>28. Use data.govt.nz as the online communications platform and external brand of the Open Government Programme, and extend its content along the lines suggested in paragraph 84. (See also Recommendation 12.):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) News and information about the programme. 2) A “dashboard” showing progress, agency by agency, towards implementing the Declaration. 3) All the information and tools individual agencies need in order to implement the Declaration. 4) Case studies. 5) An engagement platform for those outside of government who are interested in open data and its reuse. 	<p>data.govt.nz enhancements</p>	<p>Secretariat to consider options in consultation with the Office of the OGCIO and make recommendation to Steering Group.</p> <p>If agreed by the Steering Group then DIA would include relevant changes to the website’s information architecture in the updated data.govt.nz product plan.</p>
<p>29. Create an appropriately skilled and adequately resourced team to drive implementation of the Cabinet Declaration on behalf of the Chief Executives Steering Group.</p>	<p>Programme governance Programme delivery</p>	<p>Secretariat resourcing regularly reviewed by Steering Group.</p>
<p>30. Chief Executives Steering Group should give other Chief Executives a model role description and ensure that identified leadership is in place in each agency.</p>	<p>Programme governance</p>	<p>Done. Steering Group Chair wrote to CEs on 16 December 2011 asking them to select a Senior Data Champion from their Executive leadership team. This letter included key characteristics of a data champion.</p>
<p>31. Ensure accountability and transparency of decisions on the release and licensing of individual datasets.</p>	<p>Programme governance</p>	<p>Annual progress reports to the Ministerial Committee on Government ICT on Declaration adoption will take this into account.</p>