

UK National Action Plan Progress Update April 2016

The Cabinet Office is aiming to have the UK Open Government Action Plan published by June 2016. All UK devolved nations have been requested to develop commitments for inclusion in the Action Plan. To this end, the NIOGN has been working in collaboration with the Department of Finance and Personnel to design Northern Ireland specific commitments. In December 2015 the process of engagement was completed, which involved considerable deliberation between DFP officials, NIOGN representatives and a variety of public sector representatives. Twelve co-designed commitments were agreed for Ministerial consideration.

We have received minimal feedback from government since December. In response to a recent question by John McAllister, Minister Storey said:

“Public Sector Reform Division (PSRD) within DFP are providing a central co-ordination and contact role, supported by other public sector colleagues, to progress Northern Ireland’s regional input into the third national action plan. This work has involved undertaking a programme of engagement with a range of representatives from civic society and public sector to seek input on potential NI commitments for the Action Plan. I, along with my officials, am currently considering the outputs from these engagement activities.”

Given that the commitments require sign off from the NI Executive and having entered Purlah, the Network has written to the DFP Permanent Secretary, David Sterling requesting an update on progress with the commitments and an assurance that the Cabinet Office June deadline will be met.

