

Open data

Open data is the raw material that drives transparency, accountability and responsiveness.

It improves democracy. It empowers citizens to follow the flow of public money and see who their governments are doing business with. It enables them to monitor and compare the performance of public services and engage in their delivery. It allows businesses and individuals to innovate and develop new products and services that benefit society and the economy.

We have made great progress in opening up public sector data and encouraging its innovative re-use. We now need to build on this strong foundation and harness the potential of data to drive transformational change in government, the economy and society.

The challenge

To realise the full potential of data for citizens, our economy and our public services, and transform the way government uses data to drive benefits for society.

This means:

- using data to support better decision making and deliver new digital services
- enshrining common policies, standards and ethical guidelines for the use of data
- driving up the quality, availability and usability of government data
- maintaining a sustainable dialogue with data users to ensure that the data released is reusable and demand driven, and
- enabling citizens and public servants to get the most out of government data.

The outcome

By 2018 we will be well advanced in modernising government's data infrastructure. Data capabilities across the public sector and in society as a whole will be improving and discussions around open data and its policy will be accessible and inclusive.