

Call for Evidence

Information Session

14 May 2026



UK OPEN
GOVERNMENT
CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK



Agenda

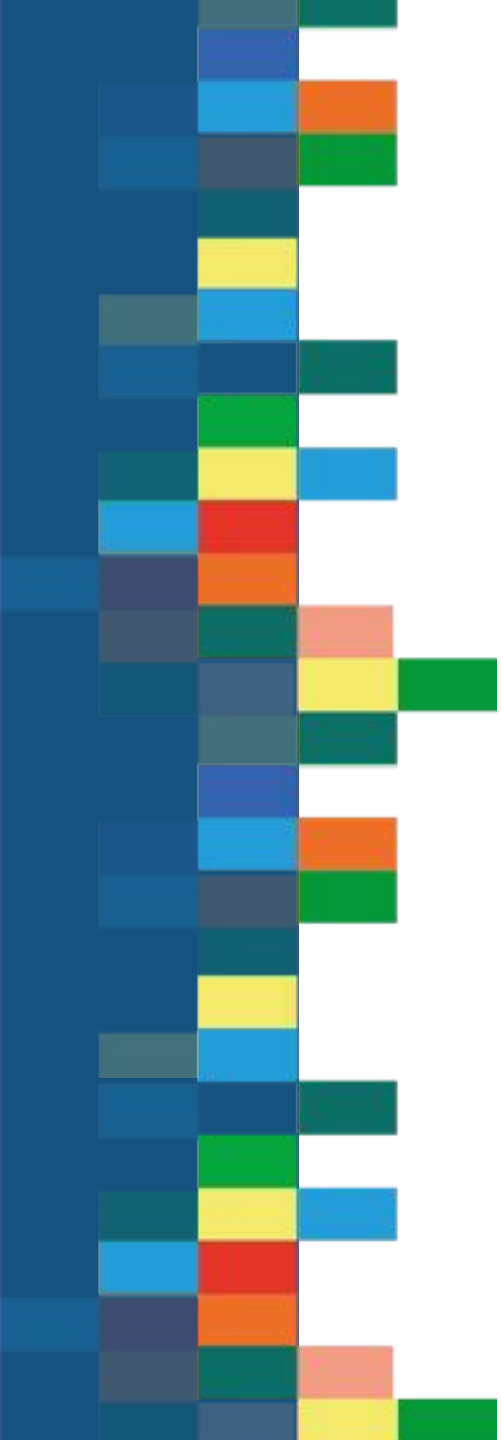
- Introduction

Kevin Keith

*Chair of the UK Open Government Network
Co-Chair of the UK Mutli-stakeholder Forum*

- Context (10 min)
- Cabinet Office perspective (5 min)
- What a strong submission looks like (15 min)
- Your turn — draft your idea (10 min)
- Questions and next steps (15 min)
- **Drop questions in the chat at any time throughout**

What is Open Government and why it matters



- A culture of governance based on accountability, transparency and participation.
- It is how trust gets earned - visible evidence, accountable decisions, a shared role in shaping outcomes

OECD Trust Survey (2024)

69% of those who feel they have a say in government actions trust national government versus **22%**

- It has never been more important: from disinformation to AI to corruption, these are not abstract problems

Structures

- **Civil Society Coordination**

- [UK Open Government Network](#)
- Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Greater Manchester, Glasgow
- Forerunner to and supports the [Civil Society Covenant](#)

- **UK Government Coordination**

- Cabinet Office
- Foreign Commonwealth Development Office

- **[UK Multistakeholder Forum](#)**

- Joint government and civil society
- Oversees National Action Plan process

- **Global coordination**

- [Open Government Partnership](#)
- 70+ countries
- 150 additional nations, regions and local government
- [UK to co-chair](#) (alongside civil society partner) from October 26 to Sept 27



The National Action Plan

- Every few years, government and civil society co-create a UK National Action Plan for Open Government - a programme of practical reform commitments. The seventh is now being developed.
- Past plans have delivered real reforms - some ideas begin from outside government, often not much longer than what you might write

Beneficial ownership

Exposed Russian kleptocrats hiding billions in UK property

Adopted by 100+ countries

Supports the response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine

Helps crack down on dirty money

Started as civil society advocacy

Open contracting

Opened up how government spends taxpayer money on contracts

50+ governments now follow the UK's lead

Fights corruption and improves value for money

Algorithmic transparency

Departments publish how they use algorithmic tools in public-facing decisions

Transparency of these decisions is available for the first time

Began as a civil society ask

Cabinet Office perspective

- **Dr Matt Donnelly**

*International and Open Government Lead,
Civil Service Strategy Unit, Cabinet Office*

- **What we are looking for:** Ideas on areas of potential focus
- **How submissions are assessed:** They will be reviewed alongside internal government engagement and analysis, and published ahead of the June Multistakeholder Forum.
- **What tends to work:** short submissions focused on a single theme or topic (however broad or narrow). Indicate if you and others interested in contributing to co-creation.
- **What doesn't:** vague aspirations, things government is already doing, ideas outside transparency / accountability / participation

The three criteria

- Submissions are assessed against the three criteria.
- You don't need to address them explicitly — but thinking about them helps.
- A strong submission usually meets all three.

Relevance

Transparency

Accountability

Participation

Ambition

Could it move government beyond its current state of practice?

Is it a totally new idea, is it improving something that government already does?

Each idea is clear no matter how broad or narrow.

Co-creation potential

Indicate if you, or the community / organisation you are representing, are interested in contributing to the co-creation of a commitment.

Could a department and a civil society partner credibly work on this together?



A simple structure 250 words

- You can structure your submission however you like.
- This four-part shape might be helpful. Maximum 250 words, single theme per submission.
 - **Problem or opportunity:** How can participation, accountability or transparency be improved? Why does it matter? (2-3 sentences)
 - **What could be done:** What ideas do you have? Can be broad but better if specific. (2-3 sentences)
 - **Why do you think it's feasible?** Existing work to build on? Willing partners? Networks? (1-2 sentences)
 - **Interest in co-creation:** Would you or your community or organisation like to help develop it further? (1 sentence)
- Remember: Short is encouraged - lived experience and frontline insight are valuable
- Multiple submissions are welcome: one theme each. You can submit multiple ideas in one go, or in separate submissions.
- The first chance for co-creation is in June 2026 - but an idea make take months to come to fruition.

From vague to specific

- The most common weakness is being too general. Here's how to move from broad concern to actionable idea.
- Worked example: algorithmic transparency

Weak

“Be more open about AI.”

Vague / Untargeted.

Nothing to act on.

Better

“Publish information about where algorithms are used.”

More specific.

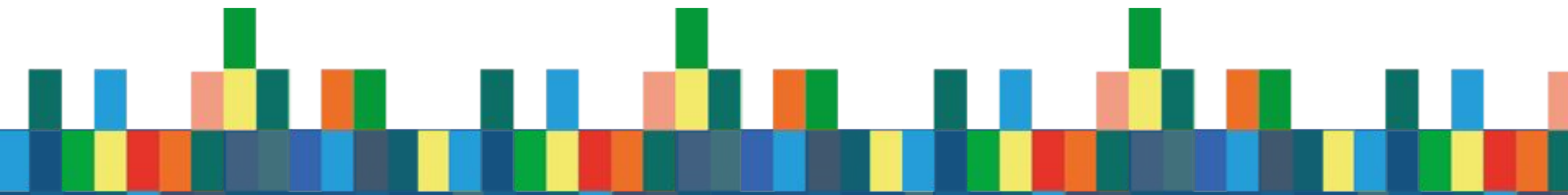
Something to act on,

Strong

“Publish standardised records of algorithmic tools, with a timetable.”

Specific. Named mechanism.

Accountability built in.



Prompts to get you started



Where and how could government be more open?

- Where is public accountability too weak — and what would strengthen it?
- Where do people need a stronger voice in how government decisions are made?
- What information does government hold that should be more accessible?

How could the use of technology be more open and accountable?

What does the government do well?

Your turn

10 minutes

- Open a doc. Write a single sentence: what's the issue or opportunity you'd most like to put forward?
 - Then build outwards: what could be done about it?
 - Is there existing work and willing partners in civil society to build on?
 - Would you or your organisation help develop it further?
- Drop a sentence in the chat if you like - we'll share a few in ten minutes.
- You don't need to finish - you need to start

Next steps

- DEADLINE: 5pm Monday 25 May 2026
- Submit your idea: gov.uk — search 'NAP7 Call for Evidence'

www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/seventh-uk-national-action-plan-for-open-government-call-for-evidence

- Wider participation guidance:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/participation-in-the-seventh-uk-national-action-plan-for-open-government

- Submission guide and recording of this session: opengovernment.org.uk
- OGP case studies
- Use Open Government Partnership webpage for further inspiration
- Further partner event on May 18
- Questions or help drafting: uk@opengovernment.org.uk