

**MINISTERIAL ENGAGEMENT BRIEFING:  
PATRICK HARVIE, MINISTER FOR ZERO CARBON BUILDINGS, ACTIVE  
TRAVEL AND TENANTS' RIGHTS**


**Briefing for Bilateral Meeting with Secretary of State for Estonia**

<b>What</b>	This is a bilateral meeting with the Secretary of State for Estonia to promote relationships between Scotland and Estonia. This will be a discussion centered around open government practices in each country, information sharing, and identifying commonalities.
<b>Where</b>	<u>Room</u> : Goldoni  <u>Venue</u> : Roma Eventi- Fontana di Trevi Conference Centre, 4, Via della Pilotta - 00187 Roma (RM)
<b>When</b>	Tuesday 11th October 2022, 08.55 to 09.20
<b>Key Message(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Republic of Estonia will be the new chair for OGP, and will officially take over the chairmanship at this European regional meeting. This provides Estonia, an OGP Nordic+<sup>1</sup> member, significantly wider influence across the partnership.</li> <li>• This meeting will be an opportunity to discuss their vision for their chairmanship of the OGP, including where and how they plan to not only further support Nordic countries, but the wider partnership.</li> <li>• The meeting will also offer the possibility to discuss Estonia's transition to an e- government and e-state.</li> <li>• Both Scotland and Estonia are well regarded members of the Open Government Partnership (OGP)</li> <li>• As members of OGP Nordic+, Scotland and Estonia have a collaborative working relationship</li> <li>• This meeting is an opportunity to build on this, establishing closer connections and identifying shared interests and priorities</li> <li>• This meeting provides an opportunity to discuss how to inclusively deliver on commitments to public participation and engagement</li> </ul>
<b>Who</b>	Mr Taimar Peterkop, Secretary of State (Estonia)
<b>Why</b>	This is an opportunity to further build a collaborative relationship with an Open Government Partnership Nordic+ Minister across areas related to open government. The meeting will provide an opportunity to share expertise, identify key issues affecting both countries, and share ideas and solutions. It is also an opportunity to encourage a focus on particular policy areas that are important to Scotland.
<b>Expected outcome</b>	The expected outcome of the bilateral meeting is a strengthened relationship between the two countries, and an enhanced understanding on open government and local government matters, with a focus on climate governance, civic engagement, public participation and the role of government. There is particular shared relevance re. Scotland's Open Government

<sup>1</sup> [Nordic+ Fact Sheet \(August 2021\) \(opengovpartnership.org\)](https://opengovpartnership.org) OGP Nordic+ members are: Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Scotland

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	<p>Action Plan commitment around Open Data, and Estonia's long standing initiative to move to a largely digitalised society, or e-state.</p> <p>The meeting may also result, or lead to, further discussions into how the two nations could establish a closer working relationship.</p>
<b>Supporting official</b>	[redacted], Head of Open Government [redacted]
<b>Briefing contents</b>	<p><b>Annex A:</b> Biography for the Secretary of State, Republic of Estonia, and relevant initiatives (p. 4 – 5 )</p> <p><b>Annex B:</b> Top Brief- Relevant initiatives in Scotland (p. 6 – 8)</p> <p><b>Annex C:</b> Estonia's OGP commitments and climate activity (p. 9 )</p>
<b>Media Handling</b>	Communication officials are not due to attend.
<b>Social Media</b>	<p>Mr Peterkop does not have a personal twitter account.</p> <p>The partnership is encouraging attendees to use the hashtag #OGPItaly2022. The official graphic for the event is also included below.</p> <p>Participants at the event will receive an event guide to recap essential information by the end of the week (w/c 3rd October). This will also contain some graphics, hashtags and key messages.</p> 
<b>Any Planned Industrial Action (Y/N)</b>	No
<b>Greeting Party and specific meeting point</b>	[redacted], Head of Open Government [redacted] (As Scotland's Point of Contact [redacted] was in Tallinn earlier this year for a Nordic members meeting and met Mr Peterkop)

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<p><b><i>on arrival (if event is at a non SG Building)</i></b></p>	
<p><b><i>Specific entrance for Ministerial car/bicycle parking arrangements</i></b></p>	<p>The Restricted Traffic Area in Rome's old town centre is closed to traffic at the following times:</p> <p>Weekdays: from Monday to Thursday: from 06:30 to 18:00        Friday: from 06:30 to 18:00 and from 23:00 to 03:00 (night-time Restricted Traffic Area)        Saturday: from 14:00 to 18:00 and 23:00 to 03:00 (night-time Restricted Traffic Area)</p> <p>Vehicles without a special permit can enter the Restricted Traffic Area:        Sundays and public holidays        On weekdays from 18.00 to 6.30 the next day</p> <p>The minister will have to arrive on foot or by bicycle to access the venue.</p> <p>Bike Hire options:</p> <p><a href="#">Top Bike rental company</a>  <a href="#">Easy Bike Rent</a></p>

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**Briefing for Bilateral Meeting with Secretary of State for Estonia  
Annex A: Biography for the Minister for Local Government, and relevant  
initiatives**

1. Taimar Peterkop (age 45) has been the Secretary of State for the Republic of Estonia since 10 December 2018. Previously, he was in charge of the Estonian Information System, which is responsible for coordinating national cyber security and developing public IT solutions, including Estonia's e-government infrastructure and administering IT-related public funds. As Director General of the Information System Authority, he was responsible for coordinating Estonia's national cyber security and developing Estonia's e-government platform.
2. From 2000–2001 Mr. Peterkop worked as a lawyer in the Government Office, and before this he worked in the Ministry of Defence as the Director of International Law Office. Between 2005–2008 he was the Director of Operations and Crisis Management Department, and from 2008 - 2010 he worked as a Defence Counsellor in the Estonian Embassy in Washington. He has also worked as a national defence teacher in several high schools and as an international law lecturer at Estonian Business School.
3. His responsibilities as Secretary of State for the Republic of Estonia cover organising the work of the Government of the Republic and heading up the Government Office; preparing the agenda for each government sitting; ensuring draft legal acts of the Government of the Republic are in conformity with the Constitution and other legislation (co-signing all government regulations and orders as well as the minutes of government sittings); heading the work of the Selection Board of Top Executives in the civil service and; being the keeper of the state seal, alongside keeping records on use of the seal.
4. The Republic of Estonia have embraced digital transformation, and are world leaders in their use of digital technology - often considered one of the most successful transition countries in the world.<sup>2</sup> Estonia is working to enhance its quality of life and economic base without sacrificing environmental quality. The country has had an eGovernment since the 1990s, and citizens have a state-issued digital identity. The electronic identity system, called eID, is the foundation of the country's e-state, as was introduced 20 years ago. e-ID, and the ecosystem around it, is part of citizens' daily lives in the public and private sectors. The chip on the card uses 384-bit ECC public key encryption, and people can use their e-IDs to pay bills, vote online, sign contracts, shop; access their health information and prescriptions. The World Bank qualifies an eGovernment when government agencies use information technologies (such as Wide Area Networks, the Internet, and mobile computing) that have the ability to transform relations with citizens, businesses, and other arms of government'.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> [Solutions - e-Estonia](#)

<sup>3</sup> [e-Government \(worldbank.org\)](http://worldbank.org)

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5. The widespread use of digital technology offers opportunities to better deliver government services to citizens, improve interactions with business and industry, empower citizens through access to information, and supports in more efficient government management.
6. Estonia has had an ongoing initiative to move beyond consultation to meaningful co-creation, and to make digital technology more user friendly and inclusive. This has also been an ongoing theme throughout its open government work. Citizens of Estonia regularly comment and publish opinions on proposed government policies, and are active citizens when it comes to government matters.
7. When gaining views on the Estonia 2035 national strategy, the Government Office, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, conducted opinions from the public on "What kind of Estonia do you want by 2035?". Almost 14,000 people submitted their opinions between 2018-2019, and from this important value-based keywords were captured to inform Estonia's long-term goals. People were able to participate in the opinion collection e-questionnaire and by filling in a form in libraries on paper, in Estonian, Russian and English. The strategy was published in 2020.

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**Briefing for Bilateral Meeting with Secretary of State for Estonia  
Annex B- Top Brief- Relevant initiatives in Scotland**

1. Scottish Government is currently working to develop Digital Identity Scotland (DIS)<sup>4</sup>. The main aim of DIS is to improve people's access to public services by providing them a safe, reusable and easy way to prove who they are or that they are eligible for a public service. This is a commitment within Scotland's Programme for Government and digital strategy, and will benefit everyone seeking those services as well as the public sector as a whole.
2. Public engagement work to develop DIS is currently underway, working collaboratively with a range of demographics across Scotland to design a service that meets varying needs. This includes exploring options for and preferences of those who do not want to or cannot make use of online public services (e.g. due to lack of required documentation, lack of access to technology, or limited online skills).
3. Scottish Government is working to increase the number of people using digital services by helping communities to develop digital skills and confidence. Our digital participation strategy [A National Framework for Local Action](#) (April 2014), sets out how we will encourage people and businesses to get online and enjoy the opportunities offered by digital technology. We published our national digital strategy, [Realising Scotland's full potential in a digital world](#) (March 2017).
4. Scottish Government undertakes a large number of routine engagements with stakeholders, and public consultations, across all areas of its work. It also undertakes more focused and high profile participatory and deliberative engagements. These include:
  - Social Security Experience Panels and Client Panels, which involve people with direct, personal experience of the benefits that are being devolved to the Scottish Government to design these processes and services with user experience at the centre<sup>5</sup>
  - Citizens' Jury on QCovid<sup>6,7</sup> which debated ethical issues, risks and benefits associated with use of a risk prediction model that uses large datasets of personal health information
  - Participatory Budgeting (PB): since 2014, we supported and promoted PB nationally through our Community Choices Fund.
    - The fund was delivered in partnership with local authorities, communities and third sector organisations, and implemented across policy areas from policing to health and social care, transport and education.

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<sup>4</sup> [Digital Identity Scotland \(DIS\) - Digital - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Social Security Experience Panels: how to get involved - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) and [Client Panels - mygov.scot](#)

<sup>6</sup> Qcovid is a risk prediction model which uses health records to identify those at the highest risk from Covid-19

<sup>7</sup> [1. Introduction - Citizens' Jury on QCovid: Report on the jury's conclusions and key findings - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

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- In 2017 Scottish Local Authorities and the Scottish Government worked together to develop and agree a framework whereby at least 1% of local government budgets will be subject to PB by the end of 2021.
  - From 2019 the Community Choice Fund was included as part of the £11.5 million Investing in Communities Fund which is part of the Empowering Communities Programme.
  - Mini Public on post-Brexit rural priorities in Scotland<sup>8</sup>
5. The Scottish Government has made a number of recent commitments in the area of participatory and deliberative democracy:
- local deliberative engagements that culminate in a national Citizens' Assembly on the topic of local government funding (Bute House Agreement and PfG commitment)
  - to run a Citizens' Assembly annually to look at some of the more complex issues we face as a country (manifesto commitment)
  - to establish a Citizens' Assembly for those under the age of 16 to ensure the voices of the future are heard (manifesto and PfG commitment)
  - putting people at the heart of everything we do, and taking a person-centred approach to Covid Recovery (Covid Recovery Strategy)
  - increased use of participatory processes to aid the transformation of work of government, ensuring the public are involved in decisions affecting them (SNP and Scottish Green manifesto commitments, Scotland's 3<sup>rd</sup> Open Government Action Plan)
6. In response to the need for new infrastructure and processes to deliver these commitments, and to learn the lessons from the previous Assemblies, the Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy (IPDD) Working Group was convened in summer 2021.
7. The working group's final report was published in March 2022<sup>9</sup>. Its recommendations relate to two themes:
- developing a broad range of participation and democratic innovations
  - using this system as a basis to establish routine use of Citizens' Assemblies in Scotland
8. Scottish Government has committed to providing a response to the working group report.

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<sup>8</sup> [What should be Scotland's priorities for future funding of the agricultural sector post-Brexit? | involve.org.uk](https://involve.org.uk)

<sup>9</sup> [Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy Working Group: report - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot) and [Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy Working Group report: supporting document - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

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Citizens' Assembly on local government funding**

9. The Programme for Government 2021 committed to establishing a working group to oversee deliberative engagement on local government funding, including Council Tax. Scottish Government is progressing plans for a fairer, more inclusive and fiscally sustainable form of local taxation. Reflecting the current circumstances created by the cost crisis, we are establishing a working group to consider meaningful short-term changes to Council Tax. The working group will also consider approaches to longer term reform, including the development of effective deliberative engagement on sources of local government funding, and Council Tax.

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**Briefing for Bilateral Meeting with Secretary of State for Estonia  
Annex C- Estonia's OGP commitments and climate activity**

1. Estonia has been an official member of the Open Government Partnership since 2012. The country joined the initiative in the first cohort after the eight founding countries launched the partnership. Estonia is currently on its fifth action plan which spans from 2022-2024.
2. The Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) report for Estonia, published in May 2021, outlined key recommendations from its co-creation process for its current national action plan. It identified although Estonia often surpasses OGP's minimum requirements when engaging civil society during action plan co-creation, this has not always led to the implementation of topic-specific commitments in its action plans. The government was also encouraged to do more when it came to publishing timely information of the co-creation process on the national OGP repository in accessible formats and language; publishing information on the proposals submitted during the co-creation process and explaining how it decided what proposals to include in the action plan; and formulate clearer decision-making rules for itself to safeguard equity between government and civil society.<sup>10</sup>
3. The National Action Plan is structured around the following commitments:
  - Increasing the capacity for co-creative policy-making within government authorities
  - Increasing the capacity for co-creative policy-making within local governments
  - Create guidelines to prevent unethical lobbying practices and conflicts of interest
  - Establish and train operators of confidential whistleblower hotline
4. Estonia has not yet had climate-related OGP Commitments, and it is unclear if the country does have a dedicated, accountable net zero target or strategy. However, in 2020 the Government of Estonia commissioned a report into how the country can reach climate neutrality by 2050.
5. At COP26, the Prime Minister for Estonia, Kaja Kallas, placed Estonia in the transition to climate neutrality as a country that has experience of the digital revolution, can offer smart solutions from start-ups, and ways to ensure access to global environmental data. She also announced Estonia has allocated 1.5 million euros to international climate change collaboration, in addition to development co-operation funds, and that the country is aiming to stop the production of electricity from oil shale by 2035 and phase out oil shale-based energy entirely by 2040. Speaking about digital skills, Ms. Kallas also highlighted the new initiative of Estonia within the framework of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – “Data for the Environment Alliance” or DEAL.

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<sup>10</sup> [Microsoft Word - Estonia Co-Creation Brief 2021.docx \(opengovpartnership.org\)](#)

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**Briefing for Bilateral Meeting with State Secretary for Norway**

<b>What</b>	This is a bilateral meeting with the State Secretary for Norway to promote relationships between Scotland and Norway. This will be a discussion centered around open government practices in each country, information sharing, and identifying commonalities.
<b>Where</b>	<u>Room</u> : Goldoni  <u>Venue</u> : Roma Eventi- Fontana di Trevi Conference Centre, 4, Via della Pilotta - 00187 Roma (RM)
<b>When</b>	Tuesday 11th October 2022, 15:15-15:45
<b>Key Message(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both Scotland and Norway are well regarded members of the Open Government Partnership (OGP)</li> <li>• As members of OGP Nordic+<sup>1</sup>, Scotland and Norway have a collaborative working relationship</li> <li>• This meeting is an opportunity to build on this, establishing closer connections and identifying shared interests and priorities</li> <li>• This meeting provides an opportunity to discuss how to inclusively deliver on commitments to public participation and engagement</li> </ul>
<b>Who</b>	Ms Gunn Karin Gjøl, State Secretary (Norway).
<b>Why</b>	This is an opportunity to further build a collaborative relationship with an Open Government Partnership Nordic+ Minister across areas related to open government. The meeting will provide an opportunity to share expertise, identify key issues affecting both countries, and share ideas and solutions.
<b>Expected outcome</b>	<p>The expected outcome of the bilateral meeting is a strengthened relationship between the two countries, and an enhanced understanding on open government and local government matters, with a focus on climate governance, civic engagement, public participation and the role of government.</p> <p>There is particular shared relevance re. Scotland's Open Government Action Plan commitment around Open Data, and Norway's initiative to improve digital participation, accessibility and inclusivity.</p> <p>The meeting may also result, or lead to, further discussions into how the two nations could establish a closer working relationship.</p>
<b>Supporting official</b>	[redacted], Head of Open Government [redacted]

<sup>1</sup> [Nordic+ Fact Sheet \(August 2021\) \(opengovpartnership.org\)](https://opengovpartnership.org) OGP Nordic+ members are: Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Scotland

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**Briefing for Bilateral Meeting with State Secretary for Norway**

<p><b>Briefing contents</b></p>	<p><b>Annex A:</b> Biography for the State Secretary, Norway, and relevant initiatives (p. 3 )  <b>Annex B:</b> Top Brief- Relevant initiatives in Scotland (p. 5 – 7)  <b>Annex C:</b> Norway’s OGP commitments and climate activity (p. 7 – 9)</p>
<p><b>Media Handling</b></p>	<p>Communication officials are not due to attend.</p>
<p><b>Social Media</b></p>	<p>Ms. Gjøl does not have a personal twitter account. The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development twitter handle is @km_dep.</p> <p>The partnership is encouraging attendees to use the hashtag #OGPIItaly2022. The official graphic for the event is also included below.</p> <p>Participants at the event will receive an event guide to recap essential information by the end of the week (w/c 3rd October). This will also contain some graphics, hashtags and key messages.</p> 
<p><b>Any Planned Industrial Action (Y/N)</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Greeting Party and specific meeting point on arrival (if event is at a non SG Building)</b></p>	<p>[redacted], Head of Open Government [redacted]</p>

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<p><b><i>Specific entrance for Ministerial car/bicycle parking arrangements</i></b></p>	<p>The Restricted Traffic Area in Rome's old town centre is closed to traffic at the following times:</p> <p>Weekdays: from Monday to Thursday: from 06:30 to 18:00 Friday: from 06:30 to 18:00 and from 23:00 to 03:00 (night-time Restricted Traffic Area) Saturday: from 14:00 to 18:00 and 23:00 to 03:00 (night-time Restricted Traffic Area)</p> <p>Vehicles without a special permit can enter the Restricted Traffic Area: Sundays and public holidays On weekdays from 18.00 to 6.30 the next day</p> <p>The minister will have to arrive on foot or by bicycle to access the venue.</p> <p>Bike Hire options:</p> <p><a href="#">Top Bike rental company</a> <a href="#">Easy Bike Rent</a></p>
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**Annex A: Biography for the Minister for Local Government, and relevant initiatives**

1. Gunn Karin Gjøl (age 55) is a member of the Labour Party and was appointed State Secretary for Norway in 2021.
2. Her responsibilities as State Secretary for Norway cover the areas of digitalisation and electronic communications in the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development. Previously she has been a member of the Norwegian Parliament for 20 years representing The Norwegian Labour Party.
3. Since 2014 Ms. Gjøl has been a board member at The Office of the Auditor General of Norway. Before being appointed State Secretary, Ms. Gjøl held an executive position in the Norwegian Union of Municipal and General Employees. Ms. Gjøl is a lawyer, and holds a degree from the University of Oslo.
4. Norwegian Labour Party is a social democratic party committed to liberty, democracy and social justice. The vision for the Norwegian Labour Party is 'of a just world without poverty, in peace and ecological balance, where people are free and equal and have influence on the conditions affecting their lives'.
5. Norway is currently governed by a minority coalition government consisting of the Labour Party and Centre Party.
6. Digital is a key focus area for local government initiatives across Norway, and is a central theme throughout its open government work. A national strategy to improve digital participation and capability across the population was published in February 2022.<sup>2</sup> The purpose of the strategy is to prevent digital exclusion in Norway, and focuses on internet access; available ICT equipment; basic digital skills; user-friendly digital services and digital judgement (this is about the ability to reflect and think critically, for example in relation to data protection). It also published a strategy in 2021 around data centres, which looks at how to establish sustainable, digital powerhouses across Norway.<sup>3</sup>
7. With surplus renewable energy, low electricity prices, good digital infrastructure, a cool climate, political and economic stability and reliable operational conditions (interruption-free, low-cost and scalable electricity supply), Norway considers these features attractive for establishing multiple data centres. Norway also considers these assets in terms of contributing to a more sustainable global data economy.

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<sup>2</sup> [Digital Throughout Life \(regjeringen.no\)](https://regjeringen.no)

<sup>3</sup> [Strategi Norske datasenter \(regjeringen.no\)](https://regjeringen.no)

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2. Public engagement work to develop DIS is currently underway, working collaboratively with a range of demographics across Scotland to design a service that meets varying needs. This includes exploring options for and preferences of those who do not want to or cannot make use of online public services (e.g. due to lack of required documentation, lack of access to technology, or limited online skills).
3. Scottish Government is working to increase the number of people using digital services by helping communities to develop digital skills and confidence. Our digital participation strategy [A National Framework for Local Action](#) (April 2014), set out how we will encourage people and businesses to get online and enjoy the opportunities offered by digital technology. We published our national digital strategy, [Realising Scotland's full potential in a digital world](#) (March 2017).
4. Scottish Government undertakes a large number of routine engagements with stakeholders, and public consultations, across all areas of its work. It also undertakes more focused and high profile participatory and deliberative engagements. These include:
  - Social Security Experience Panels and Client Panels, which involve people with direct, personal experience of the benefits that are being devolved to the Scottish Government to design these processes and services with user experience at the centre<sup>5</sup>
  - Citizens' Jury on QCovid<sup>6,7</sup> which debated ethical issues, risks and benefits associated with use of a risk prediction model that uses large datasets of personal health information
  - Participatory Budgeting (PB): since 2014, we supported and promoted PB nationally through our Community Choices Fund.
    - The fund was delivered in partnership with local authorities, communities and third sector organisations, and implemented across policy areas from policing to health and social care, transport and education.

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- In 2017 Scottish Local Authorities and the Scottish Government worked together to develop and agree a framework whereby at least 1% of local government budgets will be subject to PB by the end of 2021.
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  - Mini Public on post-Brexit rural priorities in Scotland<sup>8</sup>
5. The Scottish Government has made a number of recent commitments in the area of participatory and deliberative democracy:
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  - to run a Citizens' Assembly annually to look at some of the more complex issues we face as a country (manifesto commitment)
  - to establish a Citizens' Assembly for those under the age of 16 to ensure the voices of the future are heard (manifesto and PfG commitment)
  - putting people at the heart of everything we do, and taking a person-centred approach to Covid Recovery (Covid Recovery Strategy)
  - increased use of participatory processes to aid the transformation of work of government, ensuring the public are involved in decisions affecting them (SNP and Scottish Green manifesto commitments, Scotland's 3<sup>rd</sup> Open Government Action Plan)
6. In response to the need for new infrastructure and processes to deliver these commitments, and to learn the lessons from the previous Assemblies, the Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy (IPDD) Working Group was convened in summer 2021.
7. The working group's final report was published in March 2022<sup>9</sup>. Its recommendations relate to two themes:
- developing a broad range of participation and democratic innovations
  - using this system as a basis to establish routine use of Citizens' Assemblies in Scotland
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Citizens' Assembly on local government funding**

9. The Programme for Government 2021 committed to establishing a working group to oversee deliberative engagement on local government funding, including Council Tax. Scottish Government is progressing plans for a fairer, more inclusive and fiscally sustainable form of local taxation. Reflecting the current circumstances created by the cost crisis, we are establishing a working group to consider meaningful short-term changes to Council Tax. The working group will also consider approaches to longer term reform, including the development of effective deliberative engagement on sources of local government funding, and Council Tax.

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**Briefing for Bilateral Meeting with State Secretary for Norway  
Annex C- Norway's OGP commitments and climate activity**

1. Norway is a founding OGP member (alongside the UK) and is now on its fourth Open Government National Action Plan<sup>10</sup>. The latest iteration of this is the National Action Plan 4B. This was due to span from 2019-2021, but was updated and extended to 2022. It builds on the plan that the government and civil society agreed on in 2018.
2. The National Action Plan 4B contains a total of nine commitments, (one more than the original Fourth Action Plan). Norway's keen focus on digital is reflected in the country's action plan. It has stated the three themes 'coincide well with what the Norwegian Government prioritises in its modernisation work'. The themes and commitments that the action plan is structured around are as follows:
  - Integrity and openness in public administration
    1. Easier access to energy statistics
    2. E-access and potential expansion of e-access in the municipal sector
    3. Youth panel on rural development
  - Open data and reuse of public data
    4. Implementing a strategy for open cultural data
    5. Digital spatial planning processes with adapted guidance and area statistics profiles
    6. Openness on artificial intelligence and algorithms
  - Openness on public procurement, beneficial ownership and anti-corruption
    7. Streamlining and improving public procurement by fully digitalising the procurement process
    8. Preventing corruption
    9. Establishment of a public register of beneficial ownership
3. [redacted]
4. Norway's electricity generation is almost exclusively renewable, with 90% of electricity in 2020 generated by hydro power plants and 2.6% from wind farms. Norway also leads the world on electric vehicle (EV) implementation due to government support and regulation. It is on track to achieve its 2025 phase out of fossil fuel vehicles ahead of schedule. The market share of zero emission vehicles and plug-in hybrid vehicles combined reaching 86% in February 2022, and is on track to reach 100% by the end of the year.
5. Norway has recently entered into a bilateral climate and forest partnership with Indonesia due to its impressive emissions reduction plans

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<sup>10</sup> [Norway \(opengovpartnership.org\)](https://opengovpartnership.org)

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**Briefing for Bilateral Meeting with State Secretary for Norway**

and its world leading results in reducing deforestation to its lowest level for 20 years. In 2022, alongside the Rwandan government, Norway launched 'The High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution' which aims to end plastic pollution by 2040. In 2021, the Norwegian government doubled its commitment to climate finance from NOK 7 billion in 2020 to NOK 14 billion by 2026 at the latest.

6. [redacted]

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Examples from the Partnership**

<b>What</b>	<p>This session leads on from a seminar ran by the Open Government Partnership (OGP) into embedding citizen participation in government that took place in July this year.</p> <p>This panel event is for stakeholders from OGP members in Europe who are leveraging their action plans to test and embed participatory processes in climate policymaking to share the successes and challenges of these efforts with other members of the European open government community.</p>
<b>Where</b>	<p><u>Room</u>: Carducci (Floor Plan and room location included at Annex E).</p> <p><u>Venue</u>: Roma Eventi- Fontana di Trevi Conference Centre, 4,Via della Pilotta - 00187 Roma (RM)</p> <p><u>Evening reception</u>: Cardinal Gallery, Via della Pilotta 17/A 00187 Roma (RM)</p> <p>It is approximately a two minute walk between the two venues.</p>
<b>When</b>	<p>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 16:00 – 19:00</p>
<b>Key Message(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased public participation builds trust in governments, increases the legitimacy of decisions, and helps ensure policymakers have valuable local knowledge.</li> <li>• Our people-centred approach to climate change policy moves from encouraging incremental changes in attitudes and behaviours, to supporting a society-wide transformation.</li> <li>• It is right that we are challenged to do more on tackling the climate emergency and that we hear the voice of the next generation. In Scotland's Public Engagement Strategy for Climate Change we have committed to developing a new approach to ensuring a genuine role in climate policy processes for children and young people, building on the work of the Climate Assembly.</li> <li>• To achieve the national effort required to transform our economy and society to effectively tackle climate change, we need to enthuse and empower everyone, building climate change narratives that resonate and speak to people's values and concerns, and which facilitate a society-wide response to the climate emergency.</li> </ul>
<b>Who</b>	<p>Speaker list and biographies (as of 05/09/2022) at Annex B.</p>
<b>Why</b>	<p>This is an opportunity to showcase Scotland's achievements in embedding participation in climate policy-making on a European stage. Scotland is viewed as a leader in participation and climate change policy</p>

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	<p>and this event will be an opportunity to share key learnings and reflections with an audience likely to range from likeminded individuals, or those who are interested in carrying out similar activities, to potential skeptics. There are only a few countries in the Open Government Partnership that have climate-related commitments within their Action Plans. With the urgency of the climate crisis, it will be important to support in motivating and evidencing to others that public participation is effective in delivering better policies, and is central to the societal transformation required to meet net zero targets.</p>									
<b>Expected outcome</b>	<p>The event is expected to encourage other countries and their governments to consider similar activities.</p>									
<b>Speech details</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Time (90 minutes total)</b></th> <th><b>Event plan</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5-7 minutes</td> <td> <p>Welcome and background to session (Raphael)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Context for discussion - globally and in Europe</li> <li>Participation as open government value - emphasis on embedding participatory mechanisms</li> <li>Why OGP action plans might be a useful platform for advancing the above</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 minutes</td> <td> <p>Introductions of speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speakers to introduce themselves</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>40-45 minutes</td> <td> <p>Discussion with speakers</p> <p><u>Round 1</u></p> <p>Scene setting: What are the participatory mechanisms that exist in your respective context? What is your role in putting these mechanisms in place?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Order: Mathilde, Minister Harvie, Valentyna, Bjørn</li> </ul> <p><u>Round 2</u></p> <p>How have you seen these mechanisms play out? What in your view is the value of participatory mechanisms for climate policy and decision making, from where you sit?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(ask panelists to integrate their OGP commitments here, as testing areas/lessons learned, etc)</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<b>Time (90 minutes total)</b>	<b>Event plan</b>	5-7 minutes	<p>Welcome and background to session (Raphael)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Context for discussion - globally and in Europe</li> <li>Participation as open government value - emphasis on embedding participatory mechanisms</li> <li>Why OGP action plans might be a useful platform for advancing the above</li> </ul>	5 minutes	<p>Introductions of speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speakers to introduce themselves</li> </ul>	40-45 minutes	<p>Discussion with speakers</p> <p><u>Round 1</u></p> <p>Scene setting: What are the participatory mechanisms that exist in your respective context? What is your role in putting these mechanisms in place?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Order: Mathilde, Minister Harvie, Valentyna, Bjørn</li> </ul> <p><u>Round 2</u></p> <p>How have you seen these mechanisms play out? What in your view is the value of participatory mechanisms for climate policy and decision making, from where you sit?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(ask panelists to integrate their OGP commitments here, as testing areas/lessons learned, etc)</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Order: Minister Harvie, Valentyna, Bjørn, Mathilde</li> </ul> <p><u>Round 3</u></p> <p>Distinguishing between one-off participation initiatives and embedding participatory mechanisms in climate policymaking: how do we move from one to the other?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Order: Valentyna, Bjørn, Mathilde, Minister Harvie</li> </ul> <p><u>Round 4</u></p> <p>What role do you see OGP domestic processes playing in advancing or supporting participatory mechanisms in climate policymaking - how can OGP domestic processes contribute?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Order: Bjørn, Mathilde, Minister Harvie, Valentyna</li> </ul>
	30 minutes	<p>Community Dialogue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invite interventions from others in the room, specifically to share own experiences on this issue and/or questions to the panelists</li> </ul>
	5 minutes	Final reflections from panelists + moderator
	<b>Close</b>	
	<p>The Minister will be participating between 4 pm – 5:30 pm CEST (one hour and thirty minutes). The panel are expected to be seated during the event.</p> <p>The size of the audience cannot be confirmed as yet. Delegates can sign up to the event until the day of the regional meeting. There will be three community dialogues taking place during the time outlined above across three separate breakout rooms (details of these events and speakers are outlined at Annex A). Therefore it is likely to expect moderate attendee numbers- between 20-80 attendees could be expected. However as the event is open to all delegates, numbers could be as high as 100-150. Guests are able to attend by invitation only, and will be made up of stakeholders from OGP member countries.</p>	
<b>Supporting official</b>	[redacted], Head of Open Government [redacted]	
<b>Briefing contents</b>	<p><b>Annex A:</b> Event programme (p. 6 – 8)  <b>Annex B:</b> Speakers list and biographies (p. 9 – 10)  <b>Annex C:</b> Top Brief- Scotland's Open Government Action Plan climate</p>	

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	<p>change commitment and climate change public engagement activity (p. 11– 14)  <b>Annex D:</b> Speaking Note (attached separately)  <b>Annex E etc.:</b> Floor plan for the Roma Eventi, including location of Room Carducci (p. 15)</p>
<b>Media Handling</b>	Communication colleagues are not due to attend
<b>Social Media</b>	<p>Open Government Partnership twitter handle: @opengovpart</p> <p>The partnership is encouraging attendees to use the hashtag #OGPItaly2022. The official graphic for the event is also included below.</p> <p>Participants at the event will receive an event guide to recap essential information by the end of the week (w/c 3rd October). This will also contain some graphics, hashtags and key messages.</p> 
<b>Any Planned Industrial Action (Y/N)</b>	No
<b>Greeting Party and specific meeting point on arrival (if event is at a non SG Building)</b>	[redacted], Head of Open Government [redacted]

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<p><b><i>Specific entrance for Ministerial car/bicycle parking arrangements</i></b></p>	<p>The Restricted Traffic Area in Rome's old town centre is closed to traffic at the following times:</p> <p>Weekdays: from Monday to Thursday: from 06:30 to 18:00 Friday: from 06:30 to 18:00 and from 23:00 to 03:00 (night-time Restricted Traffic Area) Saturday: from 14:00 to 18:00 and 23:00 to 03:00 (night-time Restricted Traffic Area)</p> <p>Vehicles without a special permit can enter the Restricted Traffic Area: Sundays and public holidays On weekdays from 18.00 to 6.30 the next day</p> <p>The minister will have to arrive on foot or by bicycle to access the venue.</p> <p>Bike Hire options:</p> <p><a href="#">Top Bike rental company</a> <a href="#">Easy Bike Rent</a></p>
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 Examples from the Partnership  
 Annex A: Event programme

Time (CEST)	Event	Event description	Speakers
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	<b>Embedding Participation in Climate Policy-Making: Examples from the Partnership</b>	<p>Increased public participation builds a more engaged citizenry, increases the legitimacy of decisions, and helps ensure policymakers have valuable local knowledge. Participatory processes in climate policy-making are becoming increasingly popular, as both citizens and governments react to the climate change emergency. Members of OGP are now leveraging their action plans to test and embed participatory processes in climate policy-making. This session is an opportunity for stakeholders from OGP members to share the successes and challenges of these efforts with other members of the European open government community considering similar activities.</p>	<p><u>Moderator:</u> Raphael Pouye (Director of France Operations, Democratic Society)</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <p><b>Patrick Harvie, (Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenant’s Rights)</b></p> <p>Valentyna Andriyishyna (Deputy Director, Communal Enterprise of Khmelnytskyi City Council + OGP Point of Contact, Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine)</p> <p>Bjørn Bedsted (Acting Director, Danish Board of Technology)</p> <p>Mathilde Bouye (Initiative Lead, Democratie Ouverte)</p>

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Time (CEST)	Event	Event description	Speakers
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Tackling Kleptocracy and Dark Money through Open Government Tools measures and coordinated multilateral efforts to trace, freeze and seize assets stored in European countries.	<p>Russia's brutal full-scale invasion of Ukraine has led to the strong global reckoning of kleptocracy, with the European Union and the UK imposing targeted sanctions on Kremlin-linked corrupt oligarchs. However, denying safe haven to ill-gotten wealth requires more active transparency measures and coordinated multilateral efforts to trace, freeze and seize assets stored in European countries.</p> <p>Beneficial ownership transparency has emerged as an important tool in the fight against illicit financial flows, corruption, and tax evasion, with more than 30 countries in OGP committing to reforms in this area. The panel will focus on using beneficial ownership registers in ending anonymous companies as vehicles for hiding dark money, and will identify current loopholes/challenges for effective seizure and return of ill-gotten assets.</p>	<p><u>Moderator:</u> Ilya Lozovsky (Editor, Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, OCCRP)</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <p>Italo Borrello (Director, Financial Intelligence Unit of the Bank of Italy)</p> <p>Andrej Leontiev (Managing Partner, Taylor Wessing)</p> <p>Maira Martini (Knowledge Coordinator, Transparency International)</p> <p>Nataliia Chernogub (GR Manager, YouControl Ukraine)</p>

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Time (CEST)	Event	Event description	Speakers
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	What are the conditions and rules for involving citizens in the design of Digital Public Services?	<p>Inclusive and participatory design can not only improve the quality of service delivery, but can also increase trust between citizens, administrations and politicians, and improve accountability. As more and more public services are moving online, it is crucial to involve users in the design and provide channels for their feedback.</p> <p>Join this session to hear how citizens have been involved in the design of digital public services at both national and local levels and to discuss what a participation agreement could look like for future design efforts.</p>	<p><u>Moderator:</u> Giuseppe Iacono (Coordinator of the Digital Republic program at the Minister for Technological Innovation and Digital Transition - Department for Digital Transformation)</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <p>Francesca Bria (Chairwoman/President, CDP Venture Capital SGR)</p> <p>Andrea Catarci (Rome Councillor for Decentralization, Participation and Services to the Territory, City of Rome)</p> <p>Kai Klandorf (Executive Director, Network of Estonian Non-profit Organizations)</p> <p>Laura Büttner (Expert Urban Data Governance, Department of IT and Digitalization, Hamburg Senate Chancellery)</p> <p>Dan Bugariu (President, Smart City Association)</p>
Close			
7:00 pm	Evening reception		

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Annex B: Speakers list and biographies**

Valentyna Andriyishyna: Deputy Director, Communal Enterprise of Khmelnytskyi City Council + OGP Point of Contact, Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine. Valentyna has been implementing digital solutions for many years in the development of local self-government, predominantly in the Khmelnytskyi City Council. She also shares her experience with young people and students to help them to master practical skills when working with data. Ms. Andriyishyna organises training events for women in libraries, and she share her experience with community representatives on e-democracy development and open data. In addition she actively promotes the use of valuable state and municipal electronic services.

The OGP Local membership in the Eastern Partnership region has been growing in the past couple of years, and Valentyna Andriyishyna is a key local government reformer in this space. Khmelnytskyi's Open Government Action plan spans from 2021 – 2025, with commitments to providing businesses and residents with high-quality municipal services using digital technologies; rational management of community resources through open access to information; formation of a Green Course Action Plan and; development of digital competencies of the community residents and formation of their digital culture.

Bjørn Bedsted: Acting Director, Danish Board of Technology (DBT). Bjørn has led numerous technology assessment and public engagement projects in various technology and policy fields. He is an expert in responsible research and innovation, public engagement, and citizen participation and was the global coordinator of the [World Wide Views](#) projects (global citizen consultations). He has participated in several FP7<sup>1</sup> and H2020<sup>2</sup> projects and is currently involved in CONNECT, Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) Leaders, and Robotics4EU. He was recently involved in the design and implementation of the Danish Climate Assembly, the Conference on the Future of Europe and the Global Assembly on climate. He is a member of the Management Committee for the Knowledge Network on Climate Assembly (KNOCA), for which DBT is the Convenor.

Mathilde Bouye: Initiative Lead, Democratie Ouverte. Mathilde Bouye joined Democratie Ouverte in 2020 and leads the co-design of the Local Democracy Index Initiative. She works to advance partnership, fundraising and communication strategies, with the view to gather +20 pioneer cities in France and Europe that will use the Index in 2022. In a previous role, Mathilde was the Research Co-Lead for Democratic Innovation & Climate Action at the World Resource Institute.

Democratie Ouverte is a nonprofit organisation and was founded in 2012, responding to the launch of the Open Government Partnership in 2011. The organisation promotes synergies between civic start-ups, associations and citizen collectives, supports the experimentation of new solutions, and promotes the

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<sup>1</sup> This refer to the Seventh Framework Programme, a European Union research and development funding programme.

<sup>2</sup> Horizon 2020 is the EU funding programme for research and innovation.

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concept and benefits of open democracy. The organisation also works to ensure that France adheres to the OGP and commitments within its action plan.

*Raphael Pouye* (moderator): Director of France Operations, Democratic Society. Raphael Pouye joined Democratic Society in 2019 and has been a participatory governance expert and practitioner for over 20 years, holding roles with the United Nations, European Council, European Centre for Electoral Support and the European External Action Service. As Director of France Operations, Raphael focuses on participatory approaches to designing and implementing carbon neutral policies across 11 European cities. He is also the lead trainer and curriculum designer with #PAGOF, a multinational Open Government initiative in several West African countries. Previously, he was a Democracy and Innovation Expert with the European Commission's 'Supporting Democracy' project (2015-2019), advising EU Delegations worldwide on their democracy and civil society support policies. Mr. Pouye designed CivicTech4Democracy- the EU's first global competition of civic tech initiatives.

Demsoc today works across 29 countries to build new models of democracy and improve citizen participation and governance. Focus areas for 2022 include democracy and climate change, democratic governance in organisations, and open governance of data flows.

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**Annex C: Top Brief- Scotland's Open Government Action plan climate change  
commitment and climate change public engagement activity**

1. Scotland's 2021-25 Action Plan is the first time Scotland has included a Commitment on Climate Change in its Open Government work. This will initially focus on establishing an Open Government stakeholder network to deliver on participation and engagement requirements across key milestones for Climate Change policy. The network will seek to widen the existing pool of people regularly consulted, complement and streamline consultative processes, and use these connections to maximise opportunities to develop new options for and drive public participation and engagement. Youth engagement is a key element of this commitment, ensuring that young people focused organisations form part of this network. Scottish Government's engagement on Just Transition plans will include children and young people also.
2. The network has co-created its terms of reference with civil society and is currently sourcing an online platform to host the network. This will be supported by another Action Plan Commitment on Participation, which aims to embed and develop participation and democratic innovation across Scottish Government. Cross commitment opportunities have also been identified with our Action Plan commitment on Open Data.

**Scotland's Climate Assembly**

3. Scotland has also ran a Climate Assembly, which was the second Citizens' Assembly held in Scotland. The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 required Scottish Ministers to establish a Citizens' Assembly on climate change, to function independently from the Scottish Government. Members met in person for half of its time until the pandemic, when activity was then moved online.
4. The Climate Assembly took place in 2021. It's remit was agreed in parliament and the assembly deliberated on the question 'How should Scotland change to tackle the climate emergency in an effective and fair way?'. For some engagements, members were split into separate topic streams: Diet, Land Use & Lifestyle; Homes & Communities; and Travel & Work.
5. Both Citizens' Assemblies were established to deal with complex issues, on the basis that policy outcomes would be improved by testing with a randomly selected public group who took evidence, established a shared understanding of the issues, respectfully heard each other's views, and set out recommendations. Each Assembly was independently governed, and was designed and delivered by expert practitioners. Each Assembly had 100+ participants broadly representative of Scotland's population. The Climate Assembly also ran a parallel set of Assembly sessions for 100 children which was a world first.

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6. Each Assembly took evidence, deliberated upon it in facilitated workshops and voted on their recommendations, these were published. The Scottish Government has since responded to these recommendations<sup>3</sup>.
7. Each Assembly was subject to an independent evaluation, which considers things like member experience and the impact of the recommendations. Below, key findings from each Assembly evaluation are outlined.
8. Key issues which evaluations identified across both Assemblies are:
  - The challenges posed by a broad remit
  - Lack of clarity and independence in the governance arrangements (roles, responsibilities and decision-making powers)
  - Inconsistent quality of facilitation
  - The need for the fullest range of high quality and balanced evidence, and time for members to consider this
  - The importance of clear pathways to impact for Assembly recommendations
9. Scottish Government undertakes a large number of routine engagements with stakeholders, and public consultations, across all areas of its work. It also undertakes more focused and high profile participatory and deliberative engagements.
10. The Bute House Agreement has committed to: 'effective deliberative engagement on sources of local government funding, including Council Tax, that culminate in a citizens' assembly.'<sup>4</sup>
11. While Scotland has delivered two Citizens' Assemblies and is viewed as forward thinking in this area, there is a gap in Scotland's capacity to deliver on commitments for any further Assemblies or wider participation work.

**Green Participatory Budgeting (PB)**

12. The Scottish Government supports PB as a tool for community engagement and as a way to build on the wider development of participatory democracy in Scotland. This programme is delivered in partnership with local authorities, communities and third sector organisations, and implemented across policy areas from policing to health and social care, transport and education. From 2016/17 to 2018/19 this enabled over 122,000 voters to have a direct say on the dispersal of more than £6.6 million, with around 47,000 people attending events across the country and 2,400 local organisations securing funding.

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<sup>3</sup> [Scotland's Climate Assembly - recommendations for action: SG response - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) and [Introduction - Citizens' Assembly of Scotland - Doing Politics Differently report: Scottish Government response - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> [SG+SGP+Talks+-+Draft+Policy+Programme+-+version+7+-+FINAL+-+OFFSEN.pdf \(www.gov.scot\)](#) p. 24 - 25

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13. Scotland's Programme for Government (PfG) included the following commitment to implement Green Participatory Budgeting with agreed target levels of funding:

"We will explore the use of Participatory Budgeting in 2021-22 as part of our wider support for community led climate action. We will also identify opportunities at COP26 to develop the concept of Participatory Budgeting for climate action – both in Scotland and abroad – and identify opportunities to develop programmes specifically involving schools and young people. We will work with local authorities to embed climate principles into wider participatory budgeting initiatives, building on the agreement between the Scottish Government and COSLA that at least 1% of council budgets will be subject to Participatory Budgeting by 2021 22." (p. 55)

14. This follows recommendations from the Just Transition Commission because 'Meeting our aspiration of a transition that has people and places at its heart requires the meaningful involvement of Scotland's citizens in decisions that affect them'. We will work with the National Participatory Budgeting Strategic Group to deliver on the new PB Strategic Framework with a particular focus on climate justice, health and wellbeing, education and housing guided by the Framework's indicators for success. This work is also included within Scotland's OGP Action Plan 2021-25.

**Climate change public engagement activity**

15. In September 2021 the Scottish Government published the [Public Engagement Strategy](#) (PES). The vision for the strategy is for everyone in Scotland to understand the challenges Scotland faces and embrace their role in the transition to a net zero and climate ready Scotland. The PES signals a raising of our ambition and recognition of the vital role of public and community engagement in facilitating a societal transition to a net zero and climate resilient nation. The strategy also commits to meaningful participation in policy development and delivery, including with those people and communities most affected by our transition to net zero.
16. Scottish Government is providing over £1 million of funding in 2022/23 to support the development of Climate Action Hubs across the country. Through a framework of regional climate action hubs and climate action towns, Scottish Government are providing a vehicle for communities to come together and engage in collective climate action. This framework enables people to, collectively, identify local solutions, design and build projects, explore and adopt low carbon behaviours relevant to their place. This builds local capacity and increases grass-roots action, enabling people-led and place-based solutions to inform and influence wider change.
17. The Scottish Government provides funding to Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (SCCAN) and Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) to support the wider effort to inform the public of the climate emergency and ways to take

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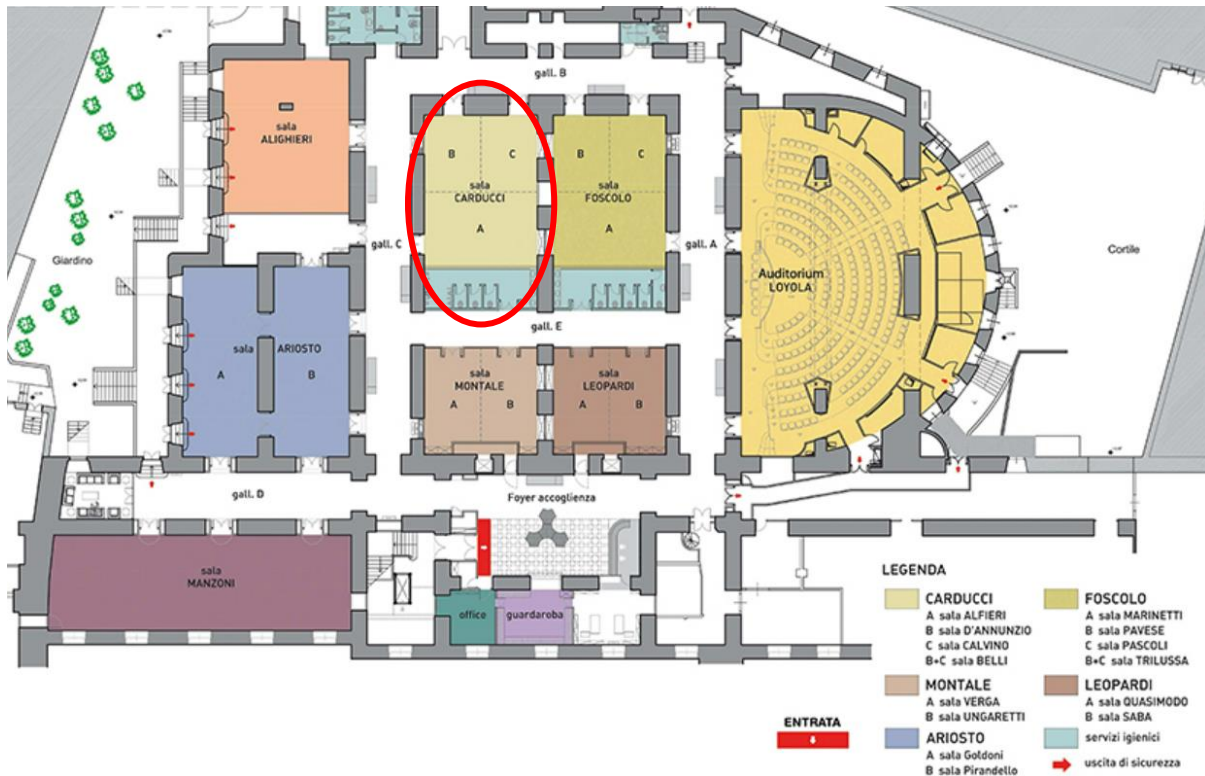
**Briefing for OGP event - Embedding Participation in Climate Policy-Making:  
Examples from the Partnership**

action in their local community through the Community Climate Action Plan Programme. SCCAN supports and enables its members to proactively shape rapid and transformational change towards net-zero and delivers peer-to-peer networking and learning through online workshops, meetings for members and regular network events. This funding also allows them to build skills, capacity and resilience by delivering training sessions on reducing emissions, moving to net-zero and the challenges and opportunities for their local areas.

18. Scottish Government is committed to ensuring that the views, experiences and ideas of children and young people are incorporated into government policy-making on climate change. Children participated in Scotland's Climate Assembly process through the Children's Parliament, to ensure that, for the first time in the world, children's voices have been fully integrated into a citizens' assembly on climate change.
19. Scottish Government provides a range of funding to support this:
  - Through £515,000 of grant funding support for 2050 Group and the Climate Action Schools programme, the Scottish Government supports children and young people to gain the climate education and skills they need and to empower young leaders to lead climate action.
  - The Scottish Government provides £300,000 of annual funding for Eco-Schools Scotland, which has been delivered by Keep Scotland Beautiful over the last 20 years. Eco-Schools supports young people to learn and engage with climate change from nursery age to adulthood.
  - The Scottish Government is providing £144,000 to Keep Scotland Beautiful to roll out Climate Ready Classrooms across Scottish secondary schools. Targeted at 14-17 year olds, Climate Ready Classrooms helps those taking part to develop their understanding of climate change, its causes and impacts, and prepares the young people to join a national network of carbon literate ambassadors.
  - The Scottish Government is providing £65,000 to support 2050 Group to deliver their young leaders development programme. This works to engage, educate, and empower Scotland's young people to take action on climate change

**Annex D: Speaking note (attached separately)**

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 Briefing for OGP event - Embedding Participation in Climate Policy-Making:  
 Examples from the Partnership  
 Annex E: Floor plan for the Roma Eventi, including location of Room Carducci



## **Speaking note for ‘Embedding Participation in Climate Policy**

### **Making – examples from the Partnership’**

- Thank you for the invitation to speak. I am glad to be able to share some of the work we have been doing in Scotland to embed participation in climate policy, and aspirations we have for the future.
- In Scotland, we have committed to be a net zero nation by 2045. This will require all aspects of Scottish society to embrace significant changes in order for us to meet our ambitious targets.
- We are taking a people centred approach to climate policy. Last year, the Scottish Government published its Public Engagement Strategy for Climate Change – this set out a vision for all of Scotland to understand the challenges we face and embrace their role in our transition to a net zero and climate ready Scotland.
- Achieving net zero emissions will require collaboration with a wide range of people from all sectors and regions. The Public Engagement Strategy focuses on working with trusted messengers to encourage conversations and motivate people to take action. It also focuses on enabling public participation in identifying solutions to reach net zero.
- Scotland’s recent Climate Assembly has been a crucial part of involving the public in our transition to net zero and of our commitment to an open government. It has given us a key insight into the measures which the Scottish public expect from Government for a just transition to net zero emissions by 2045, and we are delighted to support the Climate Assembly’s recommendations.

- Children’s participation in Scotland’s Climate Assembly has been a unique and significant realisation of children’s right to participate in decision-making processes.
- We have provided over £110 million to the Climate Challenge Fund since 2008 to support community-led climate action and we will continue to support communities to make the transition to low carbon and climate resilient living.
- The Scottish Government supports Participatory Budgeting as a tool for community engagement and as a way to build on the wider development of participatory democracy in Scotland, and we have plans to introduce Green Participatory Budgeting.
- Scotland’s third Open Government Action Plan is the first time Scotland has included a Commitment on Climate Change in its Open Government work. This Commitment focuses on establishing an Open Government stakeholder network to deliver participation requirements across climate change policy.
- We have also valued sharing learning with other OGP members on using Action Plans to promote climate action, particularly through a learning circle established with OGP and Buenos Aires.
- Our people-centred approach to climate change policy moves from encouraging incremental changes in attitudes and behaviours, to supporting a society-wide transformation.
- It is right that we are challenged to do more to tackle the climate emergency and that we hear the voice of the next generation. We have committed to developing a new approach to ensuring a genuine role in climate policy for children and young people.

- To achieve the national effort required to transform our economy and society to effectively tackle climate change, we need to enthuse and empower everyone: building climate change narratives that resonate and speak to people's values and concerns, and supporting a society-wide response to the climate emergency.

## **Supplementary pages- session questions provided by OGP**

### **1. Scene setting: What are the participatory mechanisms that exist in your respective context? What is your role in putting these mechanisms in place?**

- We are taking a people centred approach to climate policy. Last year, the Scottish Government published its Public Engagement Strategy for Climate Change – this set out a vision for all of Scotland to understand the challenges we face and embrace their role in our transition to a net zero and climate ready Scotland.
- Achieving net zero emissions will require collaboration with a wide range of people from all sectors and regions. The Public Engagement Strategy focuses on working with trusted messengers to encourage conversations and motivate people to take action. It also focuses on enabling public participation in identifying solutions to reach net zero.
- We recently held a Climate Assembly, which has been a crucial part of involving the public in our transition to net zero and of our commitment to an open government.
- We have provided over £110 million to the Climate Challenge Fund since 2008 to support community-led climate action and we will continue to support communities to make the transition to low carbon and climate resilient living.

- The Scottish Government supports Participatory Budgeting as a tool for community engagement and as a way to build on the wider development of participatory democracy in Scotland, and we have plans to introduce Green Participatory Budgeting.

**2. How have you seen these mechanisms play out? What in your view is the value of participatory mechanisms for climate policy and decision making, from where you sit?  
(ask panelists to integrate their OGP commitments here, as testing areas/lessons learned, etc)**

- Achieving net zero emissions will require collaboration with a wide range of people from all sectors and regions.
- Scotland's recent Climate Assembly has been a crucial part of involving the public in our transition to net zero and of our commitment to an open government. It has given us a key insight into the measures which the Scottish public expect from Government for a just transition to net zero emissions by 2045, and we are delighted to support the Climate Assembly's recommendations.
- Children's participation in Scotland's Climate Assembly has been a unique and significant realisation of children's right to participate in decision-making processes.
- Our people-centred approach to climate change policy moves from encouraging incremental changes in attitudes and behaviours, to supporting a society-wide transformation.

- It is right that we are challenged to do more to tackle the climate emergency and that we hear the voice of the next generation. We have committed to developing a new approach to ensuring a genuine role in climate policy for children and young people.
- This is why we have a Climate Change Commitment in our current Open Government Action Plan, which focuses on establishing an Open Government stakeholder network to deliver participation requirements across climate change policy.
- To achieve the national effort required to transform our economy and society to effectively tackle climate change, we need to enthuse and empower everyone: building climate change narratives that resonate and speak to people's values and concerns, and supporting a society-wide response to the climate emergency.

### **3. Distinguishing between one-off participation initiatives and embedding participatory mechanisms in climate policymaking: how do we move from one to the other?**

- We have begun to make that move – from Climate Assembly towards a Public Engagement Strategy, and an Open Government Climate Change Commitment which focuses on establishing an Open Government stakeholder network to deliver participation requirements across climate change policy.
- It requires political will and resources to do this. Sustainable public engagement needs to be carefully planned, and to take a long-term view of ambitions and how to get there.

- There needs to be transparency and openness - people involved need to know what can and cannot be influenced, what their role is, and when they can expect results or change.
- Embedding participatory mechanisms successfully also requires being inclusive – we need to meaningfully engage with people who have not been heard by government before. Often these are the people who are most acutely affected by challenges such as climate change. If their views and experiences are not heard and acted on, then the societal transformation required cannot be achieved.

#### **4. What role do you see OGP domestic processes playing in advancing or supporting participatory mechanisms in climate policymaking - how can OGP domestic processes contribute?**

- We have a Climate Change Commitment in our current Open Government Action Plan, which focuses on establishing an Open Government stakeholder network to deliver participation requirements across climate change policy. This has been helpful in providing a clear forum for civil society groups to engage with government on climate change policy.
- The principles of Open Government are a key touchstone for this work – openness, transparency, accountability, public participation. Maintaining these throughout our work on climate change can help us achieve the national effort required to transform our economy and society to effectively tackle climate change. We need to enthuse and empower everyone: building climate change narratives that resonate and speak to people’s values and concerns, and supporting a society-wide response to the climate emergency.

**This will be followed by a community dialogue, inviting interventions from others in the room, specifically to share own experiences on this issue and/or questions to the panellists**

1. Questions from OGP members may focus on the following:
  - a. linking the local to national, especially how local initiatives and participatory processes can lead to national action
  - b. how we can turn participation outcomes into policy, and how we can make sure the public is aware of these processes
  - c. involving children and young people in decision-making
  
2. As the session is a community dialogue (with representation from civil society and other government actors) questions or observations regarding Scotland's approach to embedding participation could also feature more wide ranging questions, comments or reflections.

## BACKGROUND BRIEFING FOR OGP REGIONAL MEETING

### 11-12<sup>th</sup> October: Open Government Partnership (OGP) Europe Regional Meeting

- The OGP Europe Regional Meeting will take place in Rome, Italy and will be co-hosted by the Governments of Italy and Estonia the current and next chairs of OGP.
- The Europe Regional Meeting will bring together open government champions and stakeholders to motivate the open government community, raise collective ambition, and generate new political support to make governments more transparent, accountable and responsive to citizens, and to address our current regional and global challenges.
- Key themes to be addressed in the agenda include anti-corruption, digital innovation, and democratic participation.
- Up to 250 people will be able to attend and participate at the event. This is a smaller number than in previous years. Representation will be from government and civil society, European OGP national and local members, as well as key international partners.
- The meeting will be held in English. There will be translation into Italian for the plenary sessions only.
- The agenda includes a mix of high level dialogues, workshops and peer exchanges, and networking opportunities.

### TOP LINES

#### **Scotland is committed to continue to offer people innovative and inclusive ways to participate in the decisions that matter to them.**

- To date, Scotland has held two Citizens' Assemblies and has committed to running more regular Citizens' Assemblies, including one for under 16s.
- We have committed to putting people at the heart of our Covid Recovery strategy.
- We are taking a people centred approach to climate policy across government that embeds behaviour change and engagement on a scale sufficient to support delivery of Scotland's transition to Net Zero by 2045.
- We run a large number of routine engagements with stakeholders, and public consultations, across all areas of our work.
- We undertake more focused and high profile participatory and deliberative engagements, such as People's Panels, Citizens' Juries and Participatory Budgeting.
- We can always do more to create inclusive and innovative spaces for participation, and this OGP Europe Regional meeting provides great opportunities to learn.

#### **Scotland's membership of the Open Government Partnership**

- The Open Government Partnership (OGP)<sup>1</sup> is a global partnership that brings together government reformers and civil society leaders to create Action Plans that make governments more inclusive, responsive, and accountable.

<sup>1</sup> [Open Government Partnership | Committed to making governments more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens \(opengovpartnership.org\)](https://www.opengovpartnership.org/)

## BACKGROUND BRIEFING FOR OGP REGIONAL MEETING

- Scotland joined OGP in 2016 as a ‘Pioneer Programme’ member, an initiative designed to innovate on a sub-national or local level – this is now known as ‘OGP Locals’.<sup>2</sup>
- OGP focuses on ‘the how’ of government, focusing on supporting policy areas to work in a transparent, accountable and inclusive way.
- Scotland is also a participant in the UK’s OGP activity (the UK is an OGP founder member), and works closely with UK Government, the Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive.
- Since its founding in 2011, OGP has grown to 77 countries and 106 local jurisdictions that work alongside thousands of civil society organisations. Every two to four years, each member submits an action plan co-created with civil society that outlines actionable commitments to enhance transparency, accountability and public participation in government.
- It is an OGP requirement that all participating jurisdictions are subject to an Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM). IRM reports assess the design and implementation of the commitments adopted by OGP participating jurisdictions. This provides independent, evidence-based, and objective reporting to hold OGP members accountable.

### **Scotland’s Open Government Action Plan 2021-2025<sup>3</sup>: commitments**

#### **1. Fiscal Openness and Transparency**

- Improve the accessibility and usability of Scottish Government data and information about public finances, to enable better understanding and scrutiny for a wide range of users, including citizens.
- This means continuously working to improve how open and transparent we are in Scotland, benchmarked alongside other countries and approaches, about the status, processes, and direction of our public finances.

#### **2. Health and Social Care**

- Embed the principles of co-design in health and social care policy making. Scottish Government will use the Open Government Principles and processes to develop actions that will support the aim of improving person-centred user design and participation in health and social care. This commitment will support developing better systems to involve people in the design and delivery of policy and services that meet their needs.

#### **3. Data and Digital**

- Apply an enabling methodology to develop open data infrastructure and share examples of the value generated from use cases across a series of thematic areas to support plan commitments, including:
  - Discovery – of current open data landscape and standards; learn from other administrations.
  - User needs – stakeholder identification, develop communications channels, understand needs.

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<sup>2</sup> [Scotland, United Kingdom \(opengovpartnership.org\)](https://www.opengovpartnership.org/)

<sup>3</sup> [Scotland's Open Government action plan: 2021 to 2025 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/open-government-action-plan-2021-to-2025/pages/1-introduction-and-what-is-open-government.aspx)

## BACKGROUND BRIEFING FOR OGP REGIONAL MEETING

- Identify and Share Use Cases - share value from real-life use cases.
- Commit to Continuous Improvement – ongoing feedback.
- Data Needs – support to create the connection between data users and producers, so that data are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable.

### 4. Climate Change

- Establish a network of organisations and individuals to enable meaningful participation with delivery of climate change policy, providing advice, accountability and supporting transparency.
- The network will seek to widen the existing pool of people regularly consulted, complement and streamline consultative processes, and use these connections to maximise opportunities to develop new options for and drive public participation and engagement.
- It will also provide a robust and representative basis for co-creation of new opportunities for applying principles of openness, transparency and accountability throughout the four years of the Open Government Action Plan.

### 5. Participation

This commitment will deliver actions around three interlinked themes:

1. Improve the Participation Framework to be better used and more focused on inclusion and equality.<sup>4</sup> It will link policy, practice and decision making to build access to tools, advice, skills and confidence. It will also better connect participation resources to community practice.
2. Provide advice and support to ensure participation focuses on equality of access. Scottish Government is focusing on mainstreaming human rights and Equalities, and the rights of children and young people. This will create legislation and guidance that recognises participation is a human right. It is key that participation is designed and conducted with those 'furthest away' from government in mind – to help everyone engage.
3. Innovative forms of democracy such as participatory budgeting or Citizens' Assemblies; use of digital platforms; and focused deliberation with particular groups, will be further strengthened.

### **Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy (IPDD) Working Group**

- The IPDD Working Group was convened in summer 2021 to develop and present options for institutionalising participatory and deliberative democratic processes into the current system in Scotland. This includes a specific focus on the commitments for Citizens' Assemblies, including for children and young people.
- The Working Group brings together academic and practitioner experience and advice, to ensure the options set out take account of national and international good practice.
- The aims of the Working Group were:

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<sup>4</sup> [Participation Framework.docx - Google Docs](#)

## BACKGROUND BRIEFING FOR OGP REGIONAL MEETING

- Define participation and deliberation and what we mean by participatory and deliberative processes, including (but not limited to) Citizens' Assemblies
- Define standards, values and principles for their use
- Set out the aims, benefits and risks of using participatory and deliberative processes
- Identify methods of governance for delivering credible and trustworthy participatory and deliberative processes
- Set out for Ministers options for their routine use
- Provide an indication of the resources necessary (both within public services and in the wider community) to establish and deliver these routinely and sustainably
- The IPDD working group report was published in Spring 2022<sup>5</sup>. It recommends how to develop a broad range of participation and democratic innovations, and how to use this system as a basis to establish routine use of Citizens' Assemblies.
- In PfG 2022-23, Scottish Government committed to: “publish a response to the report of our working group on Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy, setting out how we can involve people and communities, government, and children and young people in democratic decision making.”

### **OGP IRM report into UK Action Plan 2021-2023**

- A recent Open Government Partnership (OGP) Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) report into the United Kingdom's most recent Action Plan has found the UK has failed to comply with OGP minimum standards.
- IRM reports assess the design and implementation of the commitments adopted by OGP participating jurisdictions. This provides independent, evidence-based, and objective reporting to hold OGP members accountable.
- The UK IRM report was published 3rd August 2022, and found the UK acted contrary to process for a third consecutive Action Plan cycle. It outlines that the UK has failed to meet and comply with the minimum standards required as set out in the OGP Participation & Co-Creation Standards.
- The IRM has reported that the UK Government did not provide satisfactory reasoning into why certain priorities, ideas or activities proposed by non-government stakeholders were, or were not, included in the 2021-2023 action plan. In addition, it was found the UK was unable to sufficiently account for how feedback from the public was used to shape the plan before it was finalised in late 2021.
- In February 2021, the UK was placed under Procedural Review for not meeting the minimum standards during the co-creation of the 2019-21 action plan.<sup>6</sup> It has been confirmed that the OGP Criteria and Standards (C&S) Subcommittee will discuss the findings of the recent IRM report and review the UK's status in OGP. The review is scheduled to take place mid-October.

<sup>5</sup> [Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy Working Group: report - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/documents/2022/04/Institutionalising-Participatory-and-Deliberative-Democracy-Working-Group-report-2022-04-2022.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [Procedural Review \(opengovpartnership.org\)](https://www.opengovpartnership.org/en/procedural-review/)

## BACKGROUND BRIEFING FOR OGP REGIONAL MEETING

- In line with the Procedural Review processes, if a country acts contrary to the process on numerous occasions, and in different ways, the C&S Subcommittee could, in consultation with the Support Unit, recommend that the country be specified as inactive in OGP.
- This does not affect Scotland's OGP membership, which is separate to that of the UK's.

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**Briefing for meeting with Alessandro Bellantoni at OGP Local Government and  
CSO Point of Contact Workshop & Stakeholder Sessions**

<b>What</b>	This is a meeting with Alessandro Bellantoni, Head of the Open Government, Civic Space, and Public Communication Unit at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). This will take place during the Local Government and Civil Society Organisation (CSO) point of contact workshop & stakeholder session and will be an informal discussion.
<b>Where</b>	<u>Room:</u> Alighieri  <u>Venue:</u> Roma Eventi- Fontana di Trevi Conference Centre, 4, Via della Pilotta - 00187 Roma (RM)
<b>When</b>	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October 2022, 11:30 – 12:00
<b>Key Message(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scotland is viewed as an active reforming member of OGP.</li> <li>• The OECD's Open Government, Civic Space and Public Communication Unit assists countries worldwide to draft and implement policies and services in the areas of open government including transparency; access to information; citizen participation; civic space and public communication. Scotland has been actively working with OECD in a number of these themes.</li> <li>• The OECD supports governments by providing policy advice and recommendations on how to integrate these core principles into public sector reforms.</li> <li>• This meeting will be an opportunity to discuss Scotland's work in these fields, raising OECD awareness of Scotland's interest and innovation, and identifying opportunities for collaboration and showcasing.</li> <li>• OECD are keen to encourage governments to move to become Open States, which would mean involving all state institutions in open government work undertaken.</li> </ul> <p><u>Sensitivities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [redacted]</li> <li>• The UK's Open Government Partnership (OGP) membership status is currently under review, due to their failure to meet and comply with the minimum standards required by OGP. It has been confirmed that the OGP Criteria and Standards (C&amp;S) Subcommittee will discuss the findings of the recent IRM report and review the UK's status in OGP. The review is scheduled to take place mid-October. It is possible that the UK will be declared an 'inactive' OGP member. This will not affect Scotland's membership of OGP, which is separate.</li> <li>• For awareness, Scotland OGP officials are working with OECD on their review of Romania's open government achievements</li> </ul>


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**Briefing for meeting with Alessandro Bellantoni at OGP Local Government and  
CSO Point of Contact Workshop & Stakeholder Sessions**

	along with colleagues from Spain and Columbia. This is the first time an OGP local has been involved in such a review.
<b>Who</b>	Alessandro Bellantoni, Head of the Open Government, Civic Space, and Public Communication Unit at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
<b>Why</b>	This will be an opportunity to discuss what has been raised during the event, and to ask any questions around open government approaches. It will also be an opportunity to discuss Scotland's open government action plan commitments alongside civic participation activity that has taken place to date across the organisation and where improvements could be made. The meeting will also be a chance to establish the longer term view or vision for the trajectory of Scotland in further implementing open government principles and ways of working.
<b>Expected outcome</b>	It is expected that the meeting will result in a mutual, enhanced understanding of the OECD's approach to open government and likewise Scotland's approach and vision for the future. It is expected to support in clarifying where Scotland could further its efforts in delivering open government initiatives, including referencing examples of countries with similar socio-economic conditions.
<b>Supporting official</b>	[redacted], Head of Open Government [redacted]
<b>Briefing contents</b>	<b>Annex A:</b> Event programme (p. 5) <b>Annex B:</b> Biography for Alessandro Bellantoni and OECD Open Government work (p. 6) <b>Annex C:</b> Top Brief- Scotland's Open Government Action Plan 2021-2025 and Scotland's participatory and deliberative work to date (p. 7 – 9) <b>Annex D:</b> Additional briefing and suggested points to raise during community dialogue (p. 10)
<b>Media Handling</b>	No communication officials are due to attend.
<b>Social Media</b>	Alessandro Bellantoni's twitter handle is @AlesBellantoni  The partnership is encouraging attendees to use the hashtag #OGPItaly2022. The official graphic for the event is also included below.

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**Briefing for meeting with Alessandro Bellantoni at OGP Local Government and  
CSO Point of Contact Workshop & Stakeholder Sessions**

	<p>Participants at the event will receive an event guide to recap essential information by the end of the week (w/c 3rd October). This will also contain some graphics, hashtags and key messages.</p> 
<p><b>Any Planned Industrial Action (Y/N)</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Greeting Party and specific meeting point on arrival (if event is at a non SG Building)</b></p>	<p>[redacted], Head of Open Government [redacted]</p>
<p><b>Specific entrance for Ministerial car/bicycle parking arrangements</b></p>	<p>The Restricted Traffic Area in Rome's old town centre is closed to traffic at the following times:</p> <p>Weekdays: from Monday to Thursday: from 06:30 to 18:00 Friday: from 06:30 to 18:00 and from 23:00 to 03:00 (night-time Restricted Traffic Area) Saturday: from 14:00 to 18:00 and 23:00 to 03:00 (night-time Restricted Traffic Area)</p> <p>Vehicles without a special permit can enter the Restricted Traffic Area: Sundays and public holidays On weekdays from 18.00 to 6.30 the next day</p> <p>The minister will have to arrive on foot or by bicycle to access the venue.</p> <p>Bike Hire options:</p>

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	<a href="#">Top Bike rental company</a> <a href="#">Easy Bike Rent</a>
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**Briefing for meeting with Alessandro Bellantoni at OGP Local Government and  
CSO Point of Contact Workshop & Stakeholder Sessions**

**Annex A- OGP Local Government and CSO Point of Contact Workshop &  
Stakeholder Sessions itinerary**

<b>Time (CEST)</b>	<b>Itinerary activity</b>
09:00 – 10:30	What is Needed for Open Government to Work Better? An OGP Community Dialogue
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 13:00	OGP Local Government and CSO Point of Contact Workshop & Stakeholder Sessions
<b>11:30 – 12:00</b>	<b>Mr Harvie meeting with Alessandro Bellantoni, Head of Open Government at OECD</b>
13:00 – 13:30	Lunch

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**Briefing for meeting with Alessandro Bellantoni at OGP Local Government and  
CSO Point of Contact Workshop & Stakeholder Sessions**

**Annex B: Biography for Alessandro Bellantoni and OECD Open Government  
work**

1. Alessandro Bellantoni joined the OECD in 2009, and is currently Head of the Open Government, Civic Space, and Public Communication Unit. Previously, he worked in the Ministry of Public Administration and Innovation of Italy, for the United Nations (WFP and ILO), and in civil society.
2. The Open Government, Civic Space and Public Communication Unit assists countries worldwide to draft and implement policies and services in the areas of open government including transparency; access to information; citizen participation; civic space and public communication. The OECD supports governments by providing policy advice and recommendations on how to integrate these core principles into public sector reforms.
3. Recent guidance published by the Open Government, Civic Space, and Public Communication Unit include:
  - [OECD Guidelines for Citizen Participation Processes](#) (Sept 2022). This document includes ten steps for designing, planning, implementing and evaluating a citizen participation process, and discusses eight different methods for involving citizens. These methods include information and data, open meetings, public consultations, open innovation, citizen science, civic monitoring, participatory budgeting and representative deliberative processes.
  - [Engaging citizens in cohesion policy](#) (March 2022) this report explores how five authorities across Europe could place citizens at the centre of investment decisions. This report summarises lessons learned during this project and the results of applying innovative citizen participation methods to cohesion policy more broadly. The European Commission and the OECD partnered on the project from July 2020-December 2021.
  - [Eight ways to institutionalise deliberative democracy](#) (Dec 2021) this guide outlines eight models for institutionalising representative public deliberation to progress collective decision making and strengthen democracy. The guidance provides examples into how to create structures that allow representative public deliberation to become a fundamental component in how certain types of public decisions are taken.

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**Annex C: Top Brief: Scotland's Open Government Partnership membership,  
Open Government Action Plan 2021-2025 and participatory and deliberative  
work to date**

1. The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a global partnership that brings together government reformers and civil society leaders to create Action Plans that make governments more inclusive, responsive, and accountable. Open Government was launched in 2011 by President Obama at the UN General Assembly Meeting, with seven other heads of state and an equal number of leaders from civil society.
2. The Open Government Partnership is a collaboration of 77 countries and 106 local governments around the world who have signed up to the principles of openness, transparency, accountability and citizen participation. Scotland joined the Open Government Partnership in 2016 as a 'Pioneer Programme' member, an initiative designed to look at innovation on a sub-national or local level, now known as 'OGP Locals'.
3. Scotland's third Open Government Action Plan (for the period 2021-25) was developed in collaboration with civil society during summer and autumn 2021, and is now available to view on the Open Government Partnership website<sup>1</sup> and Scottish Government website<sup>2</sup>.
4. This Action Plan identifies actions that support the government's work to drive Recovery and Renewal as we come out of the pandemic, the government's reform priorities, and will take forward the theme of Scotland in the world: championing democratic principles through action and leadership at home and abroad.
5. Evidence gathering and public engagements identified the key themes for this Action Plan to focus on. It is around these themes that the five Commitments are organised:
  - Democratic innovation and Public Participation (led in Covid Recovery and Public Service Reform)
  - Supporting Government openness, transparency and empowerment through open data (led in Digital Directorate)
  - Fiscal Openness and Transparency – improving the accessibility and usability of our data and information about the public finances (led in Scottish Exchequer)
  - Improving and increasing both service user / participant, and service delivery staff, in the development, design and improvement of health and care services in Scotland (led in Health and Social Care)

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<sup>1</sup> [Scotland, United Kingdom \(opengovpartnership.org\)](https://www.opengovpartnership.org)

<sup>2</sup> [Open Government documents - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

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- Establish an Open Government stakeholder network and deliver on participation and engagement across key milestones for climate change policy (led in Climate Change)
6. Priorities relating to children and young people, and incomes, poverty and inequality, are threaded throughout. There is also an overview which sets rights-based outcomes that support the National Performance Framework (NPF), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and understanding and tracking the maintenance of trust in government.
  7. Further information on each Commitment, and the 2021-25 Action Plan's overall strategic vision, is available on request.

**Citizens' Assemblies**

1. Scotland has held two Citizens' Assemblies: the Citizens' Assembly of Scotland (CAoS) - held between October 2019 and December 2020 - and Scotland's Climate Assembly, held between November 2020 and March 2021. Scotland has also run other types of participatory and deliberative engagements, such as Peoples' Panels, Citizen Juries and mini publics as well as ensuring the routine use of participatory budgeting by local authorities.
2. In April 2019, the First Minister announced the decision to convene the first national Citizens' Assembly on the future of Scotland, in the wake of Brexit and the debate around a second independence referendum.
3. The CAoS remit was discussed in Parliament, and was shaped by the following, broad questions:
  - What kind of country are we seeking to build?
  - How best can we overcome the challenges Scotland and the world face in the 21st century, including those arising from Brexit?
  - What further work should be carried out to give us the information we need to make informed choices about the future of the country?
4. The Climate Assembly was the second Citizens' Assembly to be run. The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 required Scottish Ministers to establish a Citizens' Assembly on climate change, to function independently from the Scottish Government. Members met in person for half of its time until the pandemic, when activity was then moved online.
5. The Climate Assembly took place in 2021. It's remit was agreed in parliament and the assembly deliberated on the question 'How should Scotland change to tackle the climate emergency in an effective and fair way?'. For some engagements, members were split into separate topic streams: Diet, Land Use & Lifestyle; Homes & Communities; and Travel & Work.

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6. Both Citizens' Assemblies were established to deal with complex issues, on the basis that policy outcomes would be improved by testing with a randomly selected public group who took evidence, established a shared understanding of the issues, respectfully heard each other's views, and set out recommendations. Each Assembly was independently governed, and was designed and delivered by expert practitioners. Each Assembly had 100+ participants broadly representative of Scotland's population. The Climate Assembly also ran a parallel set of Assembly sessions for 100 children.
7. Each Assembly took evidence, deliberated upon it in facilitated workshops and voted on their recommendations, these were published. The Scottish Government has since responded to these recommendations<sup>3</sup>.
8. Each Assembly was subject to an independent evaluation, which considers things like member experience and the impact of the recommendations. Below, key findings from each Assembly evaluation are outlined.
9. Key issues which evaluations identified across both Assemblies are:
  - The challenges posed by a broad remit
  - Lack of clarity and independence in the governance arrangements (roles, responsibilities and decision-making powers)
  - Inconsistent quality of facilitation
  - The need for the fullest range of high quality and balanced evidence, and time for members to consider this
  - The importance of clear pathways to impact for Assembly recommendations
10. Scottish Government undertakes a large number of routine engagements with stakeholders, and public consultations, across all areas of its work. It also undertakes more focused and high profile participatory and deliberative engagements.
11. The Bute House Agreement has committed to: 'effective deliberative engagement on sources of local government funding, including Council Tax, that culminate in a citizens' assembly.'<sup>4</sup>
12. While Scotland has delivered two Citizens' Assemblies and is viewed as forward thinking in this area, there is a gap in Scotland's capacity to deliver on commitments for any further Assemblies or wider participation work.

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<sup>3</sup> [Scotland's Climate Assembly - recommendations for action: SG response - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot) and [Introduction - Citizens' Assembly of Scotland - Doing Politics Differently report: Scottish Government response - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

<sup>4</sup> [SG+SGP+Talks+-+Draft+Policy+Programme+-+version+7+-+FINAL+-+OFFSEN.pdf \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)  
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**Annex D: Additional briefing and suggested points to raise during community  
dialogue**

1. Proposed discussion point:

- The challenges of maintaining and improving on participatory approaches and democratic innovations at a time of budget constraints and cost of living crisis
  - The UK is experiencing an acute economic situation, and the prospect of a prolonged recession. A key feature of this is a cost of living crisis: consumer inflation rates are currently between 10% and 12%<sup>5</sup>; the average household energy bill increased by 54% in April 2022 and in October 2022 will increase by another 27%<sup>6</sup>.
  - Public participation in decision making is particularly important during crises, but the time and resources that inclusive participation work can require means it is not consistently prioritised or regarded as justifiable.
  - How can we ensure that during crises public participation is maintained as a priority, and regarded as a vital way to help governments navigate complexity and take difficult decisions?
  - An option is smaller scale, routine engagements that cost less and take less time than larger initiatives such as Citizens' Assemblies.
  - Scottish Government set up a People's Panel on 'Wellbeing 2022 and beyond' – this has met three times so far, and the cost of living crisis has been discussed with panelists. This provides an in-depth understanding of peoples' views on the cost of living crisis, and of the current and anticipated impact of the crisis on peoples' lives.
  - We will be using this information to help us take important decisions about managing the cost of living crisis fairly
  - Maintaining and improving inclusive participatory approaches and democratic innovations is a key way for the public to have some agency to shape a challenging situation – this can also build trust in government. These approaches produce evidence that leads to better designed policies, reducing the cost of failure.

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<sup>5</sup> [Consumer price inflation, UK - Office for National Statistics](#) and [RPI All Items: Percentage change over 12 months: Jan 1987=100 - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)


<sup>6</sup> [Domestic energy prices - House of Commons Library \(parliament.uk\)](#)

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Briefing for Bilateral Meeting with Minister of Local Government, Finland**

<b>What</b>	This is a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Local Government for Finland to promote relationships between Scotland and Finland. This will be a discussion centered around open government practices in each country, information sharing, and identifying commonalities.
<b>Where</b>	<u>Room</u> : Goldoni  <u>Venue</u> : Roma Eventi- Fontana di Trevi Conference Centre, 4, Via della Pilotta - 00187 Roma (RM)
<b>When</b>	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2022, 14:30 – 15:00
<b>Key Message(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both Scotland and Finland are well regarded members of the Open Government Partnership (OGP)</li> <li>• As members of OGP Nordic+<sup>1</sup>, Scotland and Finland have a collaborative working relationship</li> <li>• This meeting is an opportunity to build on this, establishing closer connections and identifying shared interests and priorities</li> <li>• Finland's commitment to national dialogues, and work undertaken to develop these, aligns with Scotland's recent commitments in this area and comparable surrounding work (e.g. IPDD working group)</li> <li>• This meeting provides an opportunity to discuss how to inclusively deliver on commitments to public participation and engagement</li> </ul>
<b>Who</b>	Ms Sirpa Paatero, Minister of Local Government (Finland).
<b>Why</b>	This is an opportunity to further build a collaborative relationship with an Open Government Partnership Nordic+ Minister across areas related to open government. The meeting will provide an opportunity to share expertise, identify key issues affecting both countries, and share ideas and solutions.
<b>Expected outcome</b>	<p>The expected outcome of the bilateral meeting is a strengthened relationship between the two countries, and an enhanced understanding on open government and local government matters, with a focus on climate governance, civic engagement, public participation and the role of government.</p> <p>There is particular shared relevance re. Scotland's intention to establish routine Citizens' Assemblies, and Finland's initiative to launch regular National Dialogues.</p> <p>The meeting may also result, or lead to, further discussions into how the two nations could establish a closer working relationship. This</p>

<sup>1</sup> [Nordic+ Fact Sheet \(August 2021\) \(opengovpartnership.org\)](#) OGP Nordic+ members are: Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Scotland

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	collaboration would be valuable in terms of Open Government and public engagement, as well as on shared demographic issues (see Annex B).
<b>Supporting official</b>	[redacted], Head of Open Government [redacted]
<b>Briefing contents</b>	<p><b>Annex A:</b> Biography for the Minister of Local Government, Finland, and relevant initiatives (p. 4 – 5)  <b>Annex B:</b> Top Brief- Relevant initiatives in Scotland (p. 6 – 8)  <b>Annex C:</b> Finland's OGP commitments and climate activity (p. 9)</p>
<b>Media Handling</b>	Communication officials are not due to attend.
<b>Social Media</b>	<p>The Minister's twitter handle is @sirpa_paatero</p> <p>The partnership is encouraging attendees to use the hashtag #OGPItaly2022. The official graphic for the event is also included below.</p> <p>Participants at the event will receive an event guide to recap essential information by the end of the week (w/c 3rd October). This will also contain some graphics, hashtags and key messages.</p> 
<b>Any Planned Industrial Action (Y/N)</b>	No
<b>Greeting Party and specific meeting point on arrival (if event is at a</b>	[redacted], Head of Open Government [redacted]

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<p><i>non SG          Building)</i></p>	
<p><b><i>Specific          entrance for          Ministerial          car/bicycle          parking          arrangements</i></b></p>	<p>The Restricted Traffic Area in Rome's old town centre is closed to traffic at the following times:</p> <p>Weekdays: from Monday to Thursday: from 06:30 to 18:00          Friday: from 06:30 to 18:00 and from 23:00 to 03:00 (night-time Restricted Traffic Area)          Saturday: from 14:00 to 18:00 and 23:00 to 03:00 (night-time Restricted Traffic Area)</p> <p>Vehicles without a special permit can enter the Restricted Traffic Area:          Sundays and public holidays          On weekdays from 18.00 to 6.30 the next day</p> <p>The minister will have to arrive on foot or by bicycle to access the venue.</p> <p>Bike Hire options:</p> <p><a href="#">Top Bike rental company</a>  <a href="#">Easy Bike Rent</a></p>

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**Briefing for Bilateral Meeting with Minister of Local Government, Finland  
Annex A: Biography for the Minister for Local Government, and relevant  
initiatives**

1. Sirpa Paatero (age 58) is a member of the Social Democratic Party (SDP). She has been the serving Minister for Local Government for Finland since 2019, with this role residing within the Ministry of Finance. Her previous role was the Minister for International Development under the cabinet of Prime Minister Alexander Stubb and Prime Minister Antti Rinne from 2014-2015.
2. Ms Paatero served on Finland's Environment Committee from 2011-2014, as a member and deputy member. She has also been a member of the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities board since 2007, and has been the Chair since 2018. She has a keen interest in health and is a trained Counsellor for Preventive Substance Abuse. Ms Paatero has also sat on the board of directors for the UKK Institute - Centre for Health Promotion Research since 2012.
3. Ms Paatero appointed a working group in January 2022 to prepare a model for national dialogues across Finland. The premise of national dialogues is to hold a regular series of discussions that focus on issues that are important to people and communities. Dialogues are to be deployed in a way that strengthens inclusion in society and furthers understanding of societal issues, challenges and opportunities. Measures are taken to assure that people from different demographic groups are invited to participate, especially individuals in vulnerable circumstances. The knowledge gained is made available to everyone, including central and local governments.
4. The report from the working group was published 3 June, and outlines the objectives of the dialogues and the proposed practices for arranging discussions, including describing the roles of different parties.<sup>2</sup> A core group consisting of various parties is responsible for and coordinates the series of dialogues. The model is based on the Lockdown Dialogues series held in 2020–2021, which was a major innovation and drew international attention. Between April and June 2020, 162 dialogues took place involving over 1,100 participants
5. The aim of the report was create a functional model to support understanding, inclusion and democracy that could also be used by local governments and the third sector. The working group emphasised that expertise, networks and contacts of civil society and other parties need to be used when planning discussions, contacting parties to arrange discussions and drawing up summaries of discussions.
6. Digital is another key focus area for local government initiatives across Finland. The country was ranked first in the European Union's digital performance comparison, and has topped the list for several years. Finland's strengths are in digital skills, cyber security and the integration of digital

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<sup>2</sup> [Operational core group for national dialogues - Valtiovarainministeriö \(vm.fi\)](#). Link provides an overview of the objectives and rationale for the report. An English translated version of the final report could not be sourced.

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technology by businesses. The Finnish Government are currently preparing a Digital Compass, which sets out a shared national vision and targets for digital transformation and the data economy for 2030. Stakeholder events on the different aspects of the compass were held from January-February 2022. In order, the theme of the events that took place were centered around digital infrastructure, public administration, skills and business.

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**Annex B- Top Brief- Relevant initiatives in Scotland**

1. Scottish Government undertakes a large number of routine engagements with stakeholders, and public consultations, across all areas of its work. It also undertakes more focused and high profile participatory and deliberative engagements. These include:
  - Social Security Experience Panels and Client Panels, which involve people with direct, personal experience of the benefits that are being devolved to the Scottish Government to design these processes and services with user experience at the centre<sup>3</sup>
  - Citizens' Jury on QCovid<sup>4,5</sup> which debated ethical issues, risks and benefits associated with use of a risk prediction model that uses large datasets of personal health information
  - Participatory Budgeting (PB): since 2014, we supported and promoted PB nationally through our Community Choices Fund.
    - The fund was delivered in partnership with local authorities, communities and third sector organisations, and implemented across policy areas from policing to health and social care, transport and education.
    - In 2017 Scottish Local Authorities and the Scottish Government worked together to develop and agree a framework whereby at least 1% of local government budgets will be subject to PB by the end of 2021.
    - From 2019 the Community Choice Fund was included as part of the £11.5 million Investing in Communities Fund which is part of the Empowering Communities Programme.
  - Mini Public on post-Brexit rural priorities in Scotland<sup>6</sup>
  
2. The Scottish Government has made a number of recent commitments in the area of participatory and deliberative democracy:
  - local deliberative engagements that culminate in a national Citizens' Assembly on the topic of local government funding (Bute House Agreement and PfG commitment)
  - to run a Citizens' Assembly annually to look at some of the more complex issues we face as a country (manifesto commitment)
  - to establish a Citizens' Assembly for those under the age of 16 to ensure the voices of the future are heard (manifesto and PfG commitment)
  - putting people at the heart of everything we do, and taking a person-centred approach to Covid Recovery (Covid Recovery Strategy)

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<sup>3</sup> [Social Security Experience Panels: how to get involved - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/social-security-experience-panels/how-to-get-involved/pages/11_to_12.aspx) and [Client Panels - mygov.scot](https://www.mygov.scot/client-panels)

<sup>4</sup> Qcovid is a risk prediction model which uses health records to identify those at the highest risk from Covid-19

<sup>5</sup> [1. Introduction - Citizens' Jury on QCovid: Report on the jury's conclusions and key findings - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/citizens-jury-on-qcovid/report-on-the-jury-s-conclusions-and-key-findings/pages/1_to_2.aspx)

<sup>6</sup> [What should be Scotland's priorities for future funding of the agricultural sector post-Brexit? | involve.org.uk](https://www.involve.org.uk/what-should-be-scotland-s-priorities-for-future-funding-of-the-agricultural-sector-post-brexit/)

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- increased use of participatory processes to aid the transformation of work of government, ensuring the public are involved in decisions affecting them (SNP and Scottish Green manifesto commitments, Scotland's 3<sup>rd</sup> Open Government Action Plan)
3. In response to the need for new infrastructure and processes to deliver these commitments, and to learn the lessons from the previous Assemblies, the Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy (IPDD) Working Group was convened in summer 2021.
  4. The working group's final report was published in March 2022<sup>7</sup>. Its recommendations relate to two themes:
    - developing a broad range of participation and democratic innovations
    - using this system as a basis to establish routine use of Citizens' Assemblies in Scotland
  5. Scottish Government has committed to providing a response to the working group report.

### **Citizens' Assembly on local government funding**

6. The Programme for Government 2021 committed to establishing a working group to oversee deliberative engagement on local government funding, including Council Tax. Scottish Government is progressing plans for a fairer, more inclusive and fiscally sustainable form of local taxation. Reflecting the current circumstances created by the cost crisis, we are establishing a working group to consider meaningful short-term changes to Council Tax. The working group will also consider approaches to longer term reform, including the development of effective deliberative engagement on sources of local government funding, and Council Tax.

### **Scottish-Finnish collaboration on population**

1. In March 2021, the Scottish Government published Scotland's first Population Strategy. This set out a mixture of long-term demographic challenges and opportunities ahead for Scotland.
2. The recent publication of Scotland's population projections underlines the pressing population challenge that faces Scotland in the years to come. Scotland and Finland share similar population sizes, population growth profiles, distribution of people across urban, rural and remote locations and therefore face similar demographic challenges.

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<sup>7</sup> [Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy Working Group: report - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/institutionalising-participatory-and-deliberative-democracy-working-group-report/pages/1-1-introduction.aspx) and [Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy Working Group report: supporting document - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/institutionalising-participatory-and-deliberative-democracy-working-group-report/pages/1-2-supporting-document.aspx)

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3. SG officials are in regular contact with senior researchers at the Finnish Population Research Institute - an active contributor to the Finnish population strategy – and Finnish government officials.
4. With similar experiences and outcomes being reported in both countries, and with the long term implications of this, there is an opportunity to embed deeper engagement between officials and Ministers from the Scottish and Finnish Governments, to understand the drivers behind this shift and the impact of associated policy interventions.
5. Officials in SG's Nordic and Arctic Unit would welcome your assistance in ensuring these discussions continue.

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**Annex C- Finland's OGP commitments and climate activity**

1. Finland is now on its fourth Open Government National Action Plan. The action plan spans from 2019-2023, and aims to deliver on the following commitments:

- Sustainable Openness: this will have a particular focus on improving opportunities to participate for people in the most vulnerable positions.
- Open Government strategy: this will set the direction of open government work in the long term and the objectives that will be used as the basis for building future action plans.
- Transparency register: this will offer citizens information on the parties that seek to influence decision-making.
- Open Data: this will work to open public interfaces if there are no specific reasons to keep them restricted, and develop ethical data guidelines and quality criteria.
- Strengthening the competence and use of dialogue: this will bring dialogues more strongly into use in public administration and will strengthen communicating skills in the public sector.

2. Finland has not yet had climate-related OGP Commitments, but their work with regards to preparations for climate change resistance is well regarded, with broad public support and mandate. The country recently reformed its Climate Change Act with this coming into force 1st July 2022. The act was updated to meet a carbon-neutral target of 2035, and includes new emission reduction targets by 2030 and 2040, removing the previous emission reduction target of 2050. The scope of the act was also widened to impose obligations on the authorities, and extended to cover the land use sector and a target relating to the strengthening of carbon sinks. The new Climate Change Act also addresses the rights of the Sámi people and stipulates that negotiations with the Sámi Parliament must be conducted when preparing climate change policy plans.

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Briefing for Bilateral Meeting with Minister of Local Government  
Administration, Kosovo**

<b>What</b>	This is a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Local Government Administration for Kosovo to promote relationships between Scotland and Kosovo. This will be a discussion centered around open government practices in each country, information sharing, and identifying commonalities.
<b>Where</b>	<u>Room:</u> Ungaretti  <u>Venue:</u> Roma Eventi- Fontana di Trevi Conference Centre, 4, Via della Pilotta - 00187 Roma (RM)
<b>When</b>	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October, 10:00 – 10:30 am
<b>Key Message(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This meeting is an opportunity to foster a relationship with Kosovo and establish connections and identify shared interests and priorities.</li> <li>• This meeting provides an opportunity to discuss how to inclusively deliver on commitments to public participation and engagement.</li> <li>• Community rights and participation is an emerging theme under Mr. Krasniqi's leadership at the Minister for Local Government Administration. The recently published '<i>Municipal Communities' Participation Mechanisms Compendium of Best Practices</i>' aligns to Scotland's use of Participatory Budgeting, public engagement activity, and commitments to accountability and inclusivity. It also aligns with Scotland's Open Government commitments, particularly around Participation, and work undertaken by the IPDD working group on institutionalising participatory and deliberative democracy<sup>1</sup>.</li> <li>• [redacted]</li> </ul> <p><u>Sensitivities: for awareness</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kosovo is formally recognised as an independent state by 100 UN member states. The UK was the first country to recognise Kosovo's independence in 2008.</li> <li>• [redacted]</li> <li>• [redacted]</li> <li>• [redacted]</li> <li>• [redacted]</li> <li>• Serbia has been a member of the Open Government Partnership since 2012, and is delivering it's fourth action plan.</li> <li>• Kosovo has attempted to join the Open Government Partnership, and with this created a National Action Plan for 2022- 2024<sup>2</sup>. However currently non-universally recognised states are not</li> </ul>


<sup>1</sup> [Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy Working Group: report - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/documents/2022/06/Institutionalising-Participatory-and-Deliberative-Democracy-Working-Group-report.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [Home - Open Government Partnership \(ogpkosova.org\)](https://www.ogp.gov.org/en/2022/06/home-open-government-partnership-ogpkosova-org)

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	<p>eligible to become members of the Open Government Partnership (OGP). Full details on this are included at Annexe F.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plan included commitments to open data and citizen participation, and may be an area of discussion due to its relevancy to Scotland's Open Government action plan.</li> <li>• [redacted]</li> <li>• [redacted]</li> </ul>
<b>Who</b>	Mr. Elbert Krasniqi, Minister of Local Government Administration (Kosovo)
<b>Why</b>	This is an opportunity to build a collaborative relationship across areas related to open government. The meeting will provide an opportunity to share expertise, identify key issues affecting both countries, and share open government ideas and solutions.
<b>Expected outcome</b>	<p>The expected outcome of the bilateral meeting is a strengthened relationship between the two countries, and an enhanced understanding on open government and local government matters, with a focus on climate governance, civic engagement, public participation and the role of government.</p> <p>There is particular shared relevance re. Scotland's commitment to civic participation and ongoing use of PB, and Kosovo's initiative to improve the involvement and scope of Community Committees. The meeting may also result, or lead to, further discussions into how the two nations could establish a closer working relationship.</p>
<b>Supporting official</b>	[redacted], Head of Open Government [redacted]
<b>Briefing contents</b>	<p><b>Annex A:</b> Biography for the Minister of Local Government Administration Kosovo, and relevant initiatives (p. 5 – 7)</p> <p><b>Annex B:</b> Top Brief- Relevant initiatives in Scotland (p. 8 – 9)</p> <p><b>Annex C:</b> Kosovo's OGP commitments and climate activity (p. 10)</p> <p><b>Annex E:</b> [redacted]</p> <p><b>Annex F:</b> Kosovo's current OGP membership status (p. 13 – 14)</p>
<b>Media Handling</b>	Communication officials are not due to attend.
<b>Social Media</b>	<p>The Minister does not have a personal twitter account.</p> <p>The partnership is encouraging attendees to use the hashtag #OGPItaly2022. The official graphic for the event is also included below.</p>

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	<p>Participants at the event will receive an event guide to recap essential information by the end of the week (w/c 3rd October). This will also contain some graphics, hashtags and key messages.</p> 
<p><b><i>Any Planned Industrial Action (Y/N)</i></b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b><i>Greeting Party and specific meeting point on arrival (if event is at a non SG Building)</i></b></p>	<p>[redacted], Head of Open Government [redacted]</p>
<p><b><i>Specific entrance for Ministerial car/bicycle parking arrangements</i></b></p>	<p>The Restricted Traffic Area in Rome's old town centre is closed to traffic at the following times:</p> <p>Weekdays: from Monday to Thursday: from 06:30 to 18:00 Friday: from 06:30 to 18:00 and from 23:00 to 03:00 (night-time Restricted Traffic Area) Saturday: from 14:00 to 18:00 and 23:00 to 03:00 (night-time Restricted Traffic Area)</p> <p>Vehicles without a special permit can enter the Restricted Traffic Area: Sundays and public holidays On weekdays from 18.00 to 6.30 the next day</p> <p>The minister will have to arrive on foot or by bicycle to access the venue.</p>

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	Bike Hire options:  <a href="#">Top Bike rental company</a> <a href="#">Easy Bike Rent</a>
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**Annex A: Biography for the Minister for Local Government, and relevant  
initiatives**

1. Elbert Krasniqi (age 36) has been the serving Minister of Local Government Administration since March 2021. He is a member of the New Democratic Initiative of Kosovo (IRDK), and in 2017 was elected president of the party. In the parliamentary elections of 2019, Mr. Krasniqi won the mandate of Member of Parliament of the Republic of Kosovo.
2. From 2018 – 2019, Mr. Krasniqi served as a president of the Balkan Network for Local Democracy, and was one of the contributors in the promotion and implementation of regional and international projects. Previously, from 2014-2016, Mr. Krasniqi was the deputy chairman in the Municipal Assembly of Peja.<sup>3</sup>
3. In 2011 he was selected as a delegate in the Agency for Local Democracy in Kosovo, which is part of the network of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA Europe). From 2007 – 2019, he was involved in various international organisations such as the Associazione Trentino con i Balcani as a legal representative, and director of the office for Kosovo and the Balkans.<sup>4</sup>
4. His current role sees him exercise his political activity within the Parliamentary Group of the Vetëvendosje Movement. This is a self-determination movement and is the largest political movement in Kosovo, having won 58 seats in the 2021 election. The principles of the movement centre around progressivism, social democracy, social justice and equality. The movement's priorities are detailed in the 'Priorities for all citizens towards the future 2021' plan which was used in the run up to the election.<sup>5</sup> These centre around education, the economy, public health (such as preparing and applying for membership in the World Health Organisation), justice (including addressing war crimes), state security, foreign policy, culture and heritage and sport/physical activity.
5. As an MP, Mr. Krasniqi has been part of the Committee on Economy, Employment, Trade, Industry, Entrepreneurship and Strategic Investments. He has also studied law, and holds a master's degree in the field of diplomacy.
6. In December 2021, the Ministry of Local Government Administration published the '*Municipal Communities' Participation Mechanisms Compendium of Best Practices*'.<sup>6</sup> The guide focuses on interventions, lessons learned and success stories that have been recognised as good practice, and

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<sup>3</sup> Peja is the fourth largest city and is located in the western part of Kosovo.

<sup>4</sup> Associazione Trentino con i Balcani is an Italian organisation that has been working in the Balkans since 1999 in the field of decentralised, in-community cooperation.

<sup>5</sup> [Priorities for ALL citizens towards the future – THE VETEVENDOSJE Movement!](#)

<sup>6</sup> [CS Best Practices Compendium Final-2.pdf \(rks-gov.net\)](#)

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can be successfully shared across municipalities to enhance their quality service delivery, and with a view to also foster inter-municipal cooperation.

7. Within this it explains that Communities Committees (CCs) are obligatory municipal mechanisms composed of Municipal Assembly (MA) members and at least one representatives of every community residing in the municipality. The guide outlines practices that certain CC's have identified as important to their function, and have taken steps to address:
  - Make recommendations to ensure adequate protection and promotion of communities' rights and interests
  - Advocacy for funding activities and participation in the budget preparation process
  - Planning of interventions through needs assessment and/or direct consultation with communities
  - Preparation of a written annual report
  - Outreach and external engagement with communities
8. In June 2021, a handbook on Public Consultations at a local level was published, and in 2020 the Local Government in Kosovo shared it's aims under the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>7</sup> Under SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and the transparency theme, Kosovo has pledged to:
9.
  - Publication of reports for budget planning and spending
  - Women inclusion in politically nominated positions in municipality
  - Women represented in managerial positions in institutions of education, healthcare, and culture
  - Gender equality in budgeting for employment and entrepreneurship of women
10. This is under the overarching SDG commitments to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels (16.6) and to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision- making at all levels (16.7).
11. In 2020, there was also a Connecting Youth project, which aimed to enhance socio-economic inclusion by empowering marginalised youth groups with the critical thinking skills, technical expertise and financial resources to incubate startups, and increase their role in decision-making at the community and municipal level.
12. [redacted]. Organisations include Open Data Kosovo<sup>8</sup>, Democracy Plus<sup>9</sup>, Platforma Civikos<sup>10</sup> and Kosovo Glocal<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> [SDG 2020 ENG 07.pdf \(rks-gov.net\)](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Open Kosovo](#) promotes institutional transparency and accountability.

<sup>9</sup> [Democracy Plus](#) promotes youth participation in strengthening democratic institutions.

<sup>10</sup> [Platforma Civikos](#) supports in fostering civic oversight of local government institutions.

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Annex B- Top Brief- Relevant initiatives in Scotland**

1. Scottish Government undertakes a large number of routine engagements with stakeholders, and public consultations, across all areas of its work. It also undertakes more focused and high profile participatory and deliberative engagements. These include:
  - Social Security Experience Panels and Client Panels, which involve people with direct, personal experience of the benefits that are being devolved to the Scottish Government to design these processes and services with user experience at the centre<sup>12</sup>
  - Citizens' Jury on QCovid<sup>13, 14</sup> which debated ethical issues, risks and benefits associated with use of a risk prediction model that uses large datasets of personal health information
  - Participatory Budgeting (PB): since 2014, we supported and promoted PB nationally through our Community Choices Fund.
    - The fund was delivered in partnership with local authorities, communities and third sector organisations, and implemented across policy areas from policing to health and social care, transport and education.
    - In 2017 Scottish Local Authorities and the Scottish Government worked together to develop and agree a framework whereby at least 1% of local government budgets will be subject to PB by the end of 2021.
    - From 2019 the Community Choice Fund was included as part of the £11.5 million Investing in Communities Fund which is part of the Empowering Communities Programme.
  - Mini Public on post-Brexit rural priorities in Scotland<sup>15</sup>
2. The Scottish Government has made a number of recent commitments in the area of participatory and deliberative democracy:
  - local deliberative engagements that culminate in a national Citizens' Assembly on the topic of local government funding (Bute House Agreement and PfG commitment)
  - to run a Citizens' Assembly annually to look at some of the more complex issues we face as a country (manifesto commitment)

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<sup>11</sup> Kosovo Glocal (a well-established independent media organisation in Kosovo) supports in promoting democratic values and debate among youth on important social, political and economic topics related to the country's democratic transition.

<sup>12</sup> [Social Security Experience Panels: how to get involved - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) and [Client Panels - mygov.scot](#)

<sup>13</sup> Qcovid is a risk prediction model which uses health records to identify those at the highest risk from Covid-19

<sup>14</sup> [1. Introduction - Citizens' Jury on QCovid: Report on the jury's conclusions and key findings - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

<sup>15</sup> [What should be Scotland's priorities for future funding of the agricultural sector post-Brexit? | involve.org.uk](#)

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- to establish a Citizens' Assembly for those under the age of 16 to ensure the voices of the future are heard (manifesto and PfG commitment)
  - putting people at the heart of everything we do, and taking a person-centred approach to Covid Recovery (Covid Recovery Strategy)
  - increased use of participatory processes to aid the transformation of work of government, ensuring the public are involved in decisions affecting them (SNP and Scottish Green manifesto commitments, Scotland's 3<sup>rd</sup> Open Government Action Plan)
3. In response to the need for new infrastructure and processes to deliver these commitments, and to learn the lessons from the previous Assemblies, the Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy (IPDD) Working Group was convened in summer 2021.
4. The working group's final report was published in March 2022<sup>16</sup>. Its recommendations relate to two themes:
- developing a broad range of participation and democratic innovations
  - using this system as a basis to establish routine use of Citizens' Assemblies in Scotland
5. Scottish Government has committed to providing a response to the working group report.

**Citizens' Assembly on local government funding**

6. The Programme for Government 2021 committed to establishing a working group to oversee deliberative engagement on local government funding, including Council Tax. Scottish Government is progressing plans for a fairer, more inclusive and fiscally sustainable form of local taxation. Reflecting the current circumstances created by the cost crisis, we are establishing a working group to consider meaningful short-term changes to Council Tax. The working group will also consider approaches to longer term reform, including the development of effective deliberative engagement on sources of local government funding, and Council Tax.

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<sup>16</sup> [Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy Working Group: report - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/institutionalising-participatory-and-deliberative-democracy-working-group-report-2022/pages/1-1-introduction.aspx) and [Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy Working Group report: supporting document - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/institutionalising-participatory-and-deliberative-democracy-working-group-report-2022/pages/1-2-supporting-document.aspx)

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Annex C- Kosovo's OGP commitments and climate activity**

1. Kosovo is not a member of the Open Government Partnership as it is not a universally recognised state as per current Open Government Partnership (OGP) criteria. However, the country did take steps towards joining the partnership by creating a new National Action Plan for the years 2022-2024<sup>17</sup>. The plan was to focus on four key priorities: anti-corruption, digital governance, open data, and citizens' participation in decision making.
2. Local initiatives also suggest there is an enthusiasm to further develop initiatives that align with open government values.
3. Kosovo is not a signatory party to the Paris Agreement and does not have NDCs (National Determined Contributions) due to its status. However it has developed a Climate Change Strategy 2019 – 2028 and a three-year Action Plan.<sup>18</sup> It has also voluntarily joined the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, committing to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which aim to eliminate extreme poverty, reduce inequality and create a greener planet. The United Nations Development programme is working closely with Kosovo to enable a green transition, and to achieve its aims of inclusive growth and climate resilience.
4. [redacted]
5. The USAID (United States Agency for International Development) is partnering with Kosovo institutions to leverage \$300 million in investments and double Kosovo's existing capacities for renewable energy. The aim is to streamline the licensing processes in order for renewable energy to be more easily generated, and to support in paving the way for Kosovo's long-term commitment to renewable energy in the National Energy and Climate Plan.

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<sup>17</sup> [Home - Open Government Partnership \(ogpkosova.org\)](https://ogpkosova.org)

<sup>18</sup> [CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2019- 2028 \(rks-gov.net\)](https://rks-gov.net)

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Annex E- [redacted]**

[redacted]

[redacted]

1. [redacted]

[redacted]

2. [redacted]

3. [redacted]

[redacted]

4. [redacted]

5. [redacted]

[redacted]

6. [redacted]

7. [redacted]

8. [redacted]

[redacted]

9. [redacted]

10. [redacted]

[redacted]

11. [redacted]

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Annex F: Kosovo's current OGP membership status**

1. OGP's current policy is that non-universally recognised states (e.g. Taiwan, Kosovo, Palestine) are currently not eligible to join<sup>19</sup>.
2. For purposes of OGP membership, "non-universally recognized states" refers to countries who are not members of the United Nations (UN). The definition of UN membership, and the process for a Government or State to obtain such recognition, is governed by the Charter of the United Nations. OGP does not have the authority to recognize either a State or a Government. Any changes to this policy fall under the purview of the OGP Steering Committee<sup>20</sup>.
3. OGP do cooperate with "non-universally recognised states". When it comes to participation in events such as Regional Meetings, it is up to the host country to decide on the rules governing their participation – Italy and Estonia will have approved Kosovo's attendance.
4. Kosovo applied to join OGP in 2013 through Ramadan Ilazi, Deputy Minister for European Integration. The OGP Steering Committee discussed the status of non-universally recognised states on multiple occasions and considered a policy proposal to address interest in joining OGP by governments not formally recognised by the United Nations. However, this proposal has not been able to reach consensus among the Steering Committee as outlined in these [meeting minutes](#).
5. The Steering Committee agreed that given the lack of consensus on this matter, the Governance and Leadership Subcommittee would need to identify appropriate next steps for OGP to communicate with current and future non-universally recognised states. In July 2015, the Steering Committee co-chairs at the time (Mexico) communicated to the government of Kosovo that in light of the Steering Committee not being able to reach a common decision on their participation status, it was not possible to move forward with their candidacy to join the partnership.
6. As with other "non-universally recognized states" that had applied to join OGP, the OGP Support Unit has encouraged governments to develop an open government action plan and use a methodology that mirrors that of the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM)<sup>21</sup> to assess progress on such reforms. Non-members are not permitted to use the OGP brand and name.
7. In addition, OGP peer learning activities are open to all. Kosovo representatives from government and civil society participated in the OGP

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<sup>19</sup> <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/process/joining-ogp/eligibility-criteria/>

<sup>20</sup> [Steering Committee \(opengovpartnership.org\)](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Independent Reporting Mechanism \(IRM\) \(opengovpartnership.org\)](#)

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Mexico Summit in 2015, and OGP Western Balkans Regional Dialogue in Albania, or this Regional Meeting, for example.

8. Kosovo now have a Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF)<sup>22</sup>, have co-created in partnership with civil society an action plan, and have been lobbying all Steering Committee members for OGP membership. OGP Governance and Leadership discussed this and agreed to bring this to the full Steering Committee via the strategy process. The Support Unit will meet the attending Kosovo minister in Rome to discuss, on the understanding that any changes to rules are to be made by the full Steering Committee – and there are some Steering Committee members that still don't recognise Kosovo. A published letter to Minister Krasniqi (23 September 2022) outlines this<sup>23</sup>.

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<sup>22</sup> [Multi-Stakeholder Forums \(opengovpartnership.org\)](https://opengovpartnership.org/multi-stakeholder-forums/)

<sup>23</sup> [Kosovo Response-to-Government 20220923.pdf \(opengovpartnership.org\)](https://opengovpartnership.org/kosovo-response-to-government-20220923.pdf)

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**Briefing for Cross-Party Group on Housing (AGM)**

<b>What</b>	Meeting of the Cross-Party Group on Housing, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the launch of the Working Group's report on Rent Controls.</li> </ul>
<b>Where</b>	Committee Room 5, The Scottish Parliament (Hybrid meeting)
<b>When</b>	Date: Tuesday 01 November 2022 Time: 18:00 – 19:30
<b>Key Message(s)</b>	<p><b>On long-term rent controls</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have an ambitious long term programme around rental sector reform and we are keen to hear stakeholder views on these matters.</li> </ul> <p><b>On the emergency rent cap</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have taken urgent action to protect tenants in Scotland through the emergency measures in the Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act which are now in force.</li> <li>We are aware of concerns within the private and social rented sectors and want to work with them as we implement these measures.</li> <li>We will keep the measures under review and report to Parliament on implementation in 3 months.</li> </ul>
<b>Who</b>	The Cross-Party Group on Housing
<b>Why</b>	An opportunity to welcome the output of the Working Groups work on this and hear key stakeholders views in relation to rent control in Scotland.  (MiCase ref: 202200305913)
<b>Expected outcome</b>	Stakeholders will have had an opportunity to discuss the content of the two new studies with the Minister, to give their views and hear the Minister's response to the reports.
<b>Speech details</b>	The CPG has asked that the Minister give a brief overview of SG's Rent Controls Policy (speaking note Annex D) and also give a brief response to the Housing CPG's report on Rent Control before participating in the wider discussion (speaking note Annex E). Brief remarks for both are included separately.
<b>Supporting official</b>	TBC if required
<b>Briefing contents</b>	<b>Annex A:</b> Event programme <b>Annex B:</b> Attendees <b>Annex C:</b> Summary Page / Top Brief (Emergency Measures)

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	<p><b>Annex D:</b> Speaking Note - Brief overview of SG's Rent Controls Policy (<b>attached separately</b>)</p> <p><b>Annex E:</b> Speaking Note - Scottish Government's Response to the CPG Report on Rent Controls (<b>attached separately</b>)</p> <p><b>Annex F:</b> Key points from the Cross-Party Group Housing Report on Rent Control</p> <p><b>Annex G:</b> Decarbonising Scotland's Homes / Cost of Living Crisis</p> <p><b>Annex H:</b> Support for Landlords to Decarbonise Heating</p> <p><b>Annex I:</b> Sustainable Housing</p>
<b>Media Handling</b>	N/A
<b>Social Media</b>	N/A

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**ANNEX A**

**[NB the agenda previously also contained discussion of the CIH Scotland - Scottish Housing Day Report on Housing Sustainability. Publication of this report went ahead on Scottish Housing Day during the period of mourning, and it is no longer an agenda item for the CPG. However, we have included relevant lines on the issues in the background briefing in case it comes up in discussion].**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome
2. (Re-)Election of Office Bearers
3. Minutes and Matters Arising
  - a. Accuracy
  - b. Matters arising
  - c. Applications for membership
4. Rent Controls – A Report by the CPG on Housing
  - a. Brief overview of Scottish Government's Rent Controls Policy – Minister Patrick Harvie MSP.
  - b. Presentation of report findings – [Redacted]
  - c. Scottish Government's Response – Minister Patrick Harvie MSP
  - d. Group Discussion.
5. AOCB

Members are requested to submit topics for discussion in advance of the meeting to allow the Convenor to allocate time within the meeting schedule. Contact: [Redacted]
6. Date of next meeting

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**ANNEX B**

**ATTENDEES**

**Cross-Party Group on Housing**

**MSP Members**

Graham Simpson, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party (Convener)  
Ariane Burgess, Scottish Green Party (Deputy Convener)  
Miles Briggs, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party  
Alex Cole-Hamilton, Scottish Liberal Democrats  
Mark Griffin, Scottish Labour  
Alex Rowley, Scottish Labour  
Kaukab Stewart, Scottish National Party

**Non MSP Individuals**

Cllr Peter Barratt  
Archie Rintoul

**Organisations**

Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE) - secretary  
Age Scotland  
AICO/HomeLink  
Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers (ALACHO)  
Building Engineering Services Association  
Capability Scotland  
Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) Scotland  
Citizens Advice Scotland  
Clachan Co-housing  
Corra Foundation  
Crisis  
Cyrenians Scotland  
Electrical safety Council  
Energy Action Scotland  
Edinburgh Solicitors Property Centre (ESPC)  
Federation of Master Builders  
Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living (GCIL)  
Glasgow and West Scotland Forum of Housing Associations (GWSF)  
Grampian Housing Association  
Homeless Action Scotland  
Homeless Network Scotland  
Homes for Good (Scotland) CIC  
Homes for Scotland  
Horizon Housing Association  
Housing by People  
Housing Options Scotland  
Institute of Structural Engineers  
Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)  
LGBT Youth Scotland

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Lochalsh & Skye Housing Association (LSHA)

Living Rent

MCS Charitable Foundation

National Landlords Association (NLA)

National Trust for Scotland

North Star Consulting & Research

Pagoda Porter Novelli/McCarthy & Stone

PAS

Pentland Communications

Positive Prisons

PropertyMark

Public Health Scotland

Registers of Scotland

RIAS

Rural Housing Scotland

Salvation Army

Scotland's Housing Network (SHN)

Scottish Association of Landlords (SAL)

Scottish Churches Housing Action

Scottish Cities Alliance

Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA)

Shelter Scotland

Sovereign Property Partners

Taylor Wimpey

The Vivarium Trust

The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)

Tenants Information Service (TIS)

Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS)

Young Artwork

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**ANNEX C**

**SUMMARY PAGE / TOP BRIEF**

Whilst the CPG's report is focussed on long term rent controls (and was drafted before the PfG announcement on the emergency rent freeze) we are aware that this will be an opportunity for a broad range of stakeholders to discuss the measures which have just come into force with the Minister. We have therefore provided lines on the emergency measures.

**COST OF LIVING CRISIS – RENT FREEZE AND EVICTIONS**

**The Bill passed by Parliament on 6 October shows the urgent action we are taking to protect tenants in Scotland, well ahead of the rest of the UK.**

- This cost crisis is being felt most acutely by people who rent their home. We cannot sit by and watch people struggle to keep a roof over their head during a crisis that has not been caused by them.
- We recognise the huge pressures the cost crisis is placing on households, particularly on those who rent their home.
- The UK Government's announcement of an energy price guarantee is too little and has come too late for many households across Scotland who are already struggling to pay their bills and heat their homes.
- They have already presided over a doubling of energy bills in less than a year and we must receive urgent clarification on how they will continue to support those most in need after April.
- That is why we have taken emergency action – using the powers that are available to us – to help tenants through the challenging months ahead.

**We continue to be committed to the introduction of a national system of rent control for Scotland**

- We have acted swiftly to take action to support tenants in the face of unprecedented rises in living costs.
- We do, however, also remain wholly committed to taking action on rents in the longer term and will continue to progress the introduction of a national system of rent control for Scotland.

**The primary aim of the Bill is to protect tenants at this difficult time. However, we recognise that some landlords may also be impacted by the cost crisis.**

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- That is why within the overall freeze, and the moratorium, there are safeguards for landlords to address specific, defined and limited circumstances - reflecting the difficulties that some landlords might face.
- For example, private landlords will be able to make an application to increase rent for limited prescribed and legitimate costs associated with offering the property for rent – where these have increased.
- The inclusion of safeguards seeks to ensure that there is increased protection for tenants but the provisions in this Bill also make the process practicable for landlords at the same time.
- The legislation has been subject to a high level of scrutiny and due diligence so that it is fair, balanced and as robust against legal challenge as possible. The protection we offer needs to be there for as long as we need it for this emergency period.

**LANDLORD CONCERNS**

**We have worked with landlords to ensure appropriate safeguards, just as we did during our Covid response.**

- And we continued to listen to concerns raised during the Bill's passage through Parliament, making further amendments at Stage 3.
- We want to work with the private rented sector as we seek to implement these measures.

**There continues to be a range of claims that these temporary measures will decimate supply of private rented homes.**

- However, we should bear in mind that the number of private tenancies has grown dramatically since devolution, through a period of increasing regulation and market intervention.
- Between 1999-2000 and 2019-20 the Scottish Household Survey shows that the number of households renting privately in Scotland has more than doubled from 120,000 to 340,000.
- We will continue to learn from the experience of others and consider international evidence, as we work closely with a range of stakeholders to understand their perspectives.

**Exemptions to the moratorium alongside safeguards to recover certain prescribed property costs as part of the rent cap, provide appropriate protection and support for landlords in financial hardship.**

- Increased support to tenants struggling to pay their rent during the cost crisis also supports landlords by helping to prevent rent arrears.

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Briefing for Cross-Party Group on Housing (AGM)**

- We will use our Budget Review (EBR) to review the support made available to renters.
- We have a proven track record of doing this, including through Discretionary Housing Payments and our Tenant Grant Fund and Fuel Insecurity Fund.

**SOCIAL SECTOR**

**I am aware of concerns from the social sector – and we continue to work closely with them.**

- I want to be clear that we are continuing to have very constructive conversations with the sector to gather evidence on the impact of a freeze and on reaching a partnership agreement in relation to rent setting in the social sector.
- No decisions have yet been made about rents from March next year. Our legislation allows for 3 scenarios: the rent freeze could continue; we could move to a rent cap, rather than a rent freeze; or the measures could be removed altogether.
- The guidance recently issued by the Regulator simply ensures that social landlords have laid the ground for all 3 scenarios.
- We will be considering the optimal course of action carefully, in partnership with the sector, and of course this will be subject to due parliamentary process And we will set out a view on our next steps by mid-January at the latest.

**We recognise there are critical differences in how rents are consulted on and agreed in the social rented sector.**

- The vital importance of tenant participation and consultation in that rent setting is a hugely valuable part of our current system.
- Supporting social landlords to carry out their rent consultations with tenants is a key part of that.

**A temporary rent freeze and moratorium on evictions will protect tenants by putting in place measures to stabilise immediate housing costs and enable them to stay in their homes for longer.**

- The Bill, as passed, will also reduce the negative impacts on the health and wellbeing of tenants from eviction and rent rises.
- The measures apply across the rented sector including university and college Halls of Residence and purpose built student accommodation and we are actively working with social landlords on the relationship between these measures and our other priorities including affordable housing supply and improving quality.

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**Scotland has led the way in the delivery of affordable housing across the UK.**

- We have delivered 112,993 affordable homes since 2007, over 79,000 (79,187) of which were for social rent, including 19,727 council homes.
- And we have started to deliver against our commitment to 110,000 affordable homes by 2032, of which at least 70% will be available for social rent and 10% will be in our remote, rural and island communities.
- A total of 2,362 homes have now been delivered to end June 2022 towards the 110,000 target, of which 2,068 (88%) are homes for social rent.

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**BACKGROUND BRIEFING**

**ANNEX F**

**KEY POINTS MADE IN THE CROSS-PARTY GROUP HOUSING REPORT ON  
RENT CONTROL**

- The report is a distillation of several group discussions held in the spring and summer of 2022 and reflects the wide ranging views of members. It considers a number of different models of rent control.
- The report highlights the difficulties in designing a rent control system. It emphasises the need for debate on good policy design, minimising unwanted outcomes and thinking hard about the rental market's place in the wider housing system.
- Notes that there is a risk in relying too much on either evidence or ideas from other national approaches. Both need to be considered in a Scottish-specific housing system context.
- Because of the interdependent nature of the PRS within local housing systems, there are wider system consequences with all proposals for rent control although these may differ by degree.
- The capacity to enforce compliance is likely to be critical to policy effectiveness. Any rent control measures will required to be monitored and enforced, and this will incur significant cost.
- Regulation in the last 15 years has accrued in a piecemeal fashion and this should be avoided with any system of rent control.
- The report found that there is generally more support for softer, 3rd generation rent controls but these models can have issues in relation to creating a culture of automatic annual rent increases.
- The importance of good data and local market analysis, as well as a clear steer about where the government wants to see private renting in the medium to long term.
- There was broad (but not universal) support for treating different sub-sectors of the PRS differently, although with a recognition that this could be difficult to square with equal human rights treatment of all tenants.

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**ANNEX G**

**DECARBONISING SCOTLAND'S HOMES / COST OF LIVING CRISIS**

- Heating our homes and places of work is the third-largest cause of emissions in Scotland, accounting for approximately 20 per cent of emissions.
- Our Heat in Buildings Strategy sets out the Scottish Government's vision to reduce these, with the outcome that all buildings are warmer, greener and part of a net zero Scotland by 2045.
- Our statutory target for 2030 means that we need to reduce emissions from heating buildings by 68% below their level in 2020.
- Our building stock is relatively old, and wasn't always built to high energy standards. This legacy of poor energy efficiency has contributed to emissions and fuel poverty.
- The solutions to decarbonise our buildings are clear – we must install energy efficiency measures and transition our current heating systems to zero direct emissions alternatives, like heat pumps.
- As such, we will legislate to require minimum energy efficiency standards in all homes by 2033. This will reduce emissions from our buildings, but it will also help remove poor energy efficiency as a driver of fuel poverty.
- We will also legislate to end the use of direct emissions heating systems in all buildings by 2045.
- Meanwhile, from 2024, new buildings will need to use heating systems which produce zero direct emissions at the point of use, where it is within our competence. This, and our planned increase to fabric standards for new buildings from 2022, will ensure that we do not add to the number of buildings that require retrofitting in future.
- The cost of living crisis makes the transition even more critical – energy efficiency improvements will reduce the energy we need to heat our homes, and our energy bills in turn, while zero direct emissions heating systems – like heat pumps – will remove our reliance on gas to heat our homes.
- The Scottish Government is treating the current cost of living crisis as a public emergency and doing everything that we can to support households to meet these challenges.
- We have expanded our support for key energy efficiency and renewable heat schemes, and providing more support for advice centres and provision – helping people who need it most to keep their homes warm this winter while keeping their bills under control. We have also called on the UK Government to use its reserved powers to immediately cancel any further prices increases for domestic consumers.

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**ANNEX H**

**ADDITIONAL LINES – SUPPORT FOR LANDLORDS TO DECARBONISE  
HEATING**

- The capital cost of the net zero transition for Scotland's buildings is estimated at around £33bn (building fabric refurbishment and heating system change).
- We have made clear that the public sector alone cannot bear the full cost of converting homes and buildings, and will require increasing amounts of private investment to be leveraged.
- This is why we have set up the Green Heat Finance Taskforce – to recommend, and where possible, pilot ways to increase individual and private-sector investment.
- We are, however, committed to investing at least £1.8bn over the course of this Parliament to accelerate deployment of heat and energy efficiency measures and to support individuals spread the higher upfront cost of making their properties greener and more efficient.
- For example, homeowners and private rented landlords can access loans of up to £15,000 for energy efficiency improvements plus up to £17,500 for zero emissions heating systems via our Home Energy Scotland (HES) scheme.

***[NB for awareness, PRS loans do not attract cashback. Also for landlords with 6 or more properties, loans are subject to interest at a rate of 3.5% APR.]***

- Our Social Housing Net Zero Heat Fund is also making at least £200 million available over the course of this Parliament to registered social landlords (RSLs) to help install zero emission heating systems and improve energy efficiency in social housing during this parliament (through a blended model of capital grant funding with loan funding available as partial match).

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**ANNEX I**

**SUSTAINABLE HOUSING**

- Heating our homes and places of work is the third-largest cause of emissions in Scotland, accounting for approximately 20 per cent of emissions.
- The solutions to decarbonise our buildings are clear – we must install energy efficiency measures and transition our current heating systems to zero direct emissions alternatives, like heat pumps.
- As such, we will legislate to require minimum energy efficiency standards in all homes by 2033, and an end to the use of direct emissions heating systems in all buildings by 2045.
- This will see us respond to recommendations from the Climate Change Committee on the need to regulate to provide long term certainty and direction for all property owners, which will drive investment in the supply chain and ensure we meet our statutory climate and fuel poverty targets.
- And the cost of living crisis makes it even more critical that we make this transition – energy efficiency improvements will reduce the energy we need to heat our homes, and our energy bills in turn. While the installation of zero direct emissions heating systems – like heat pumps – will remove our reliance on gas to heat our homes.
- Meanwhile, we remain committed to ensuring that, from 2024, new buildings must use heating systems which produce zero direct emissions at the point of use, where it is within our competence. This, and our planned increase to fabric standards for new buildings from 2022, will ensure that we do not add to the number of buildings that require retrofitting in future.
- The new Housing Standard for Scotland, for introduction from 2025, will bring greater responsibilities for homeowners and landlords to maintain existing houses in good condition which will help to preserve and sustain the stock of these homes across all tenures. It is a move away from a minimum standard of habitability to the right to have a warm, safe, comfortable and affordable home. This will include the energy efficiency measures outlined above as well as incorporating accessibility standards for future-proofing.