

## All political parties must commit to open government

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The following letter is being sent to leaders of all the UK's political parties and many other politicians. It was organised by the [Open Government Partnership](#). I am one of the many signatories.

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*The [UK Open Government Network](#) is a group of organisations and individuals committed to making government work better for people. We call on all political parties to put the principles of open government at the heart of their plans for government.*

*Open government is the simple but powerful idea that governments and institutions work better for citizens when they are transparent, engaging and accountable. Open government is critical to the well-being, prosperity and empowerment of citizens in the UK and around the world. It helps to ensure that those who take decisions that affect people's lives are properly accountable and responsive to the public — supporting the effective, equitable and sustainable use of resources, delivery of public services and exercise of authority.*

*With many institutions having lost public trust, and citizens feeling disempowered and disengaged from the political system, it is vital that the principles of open government are adopted and promoted by all political parties and put into action by the all parties in government.*

*The [Open Government Partnership](#) provides a platform for reformers inside and outside governments around the world to develop reforms that “promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption and harness new technologies to strengthen governance”. Since its foundation in September 2011, over 2,000 commitments have been made by 65 participating countries, covering a third of the world's population. Through an open and collaborative policy process, our network supported engagement and outreach on setting the commitments in the UK's latest open government National Action Plan, and have supported the UK's leading role in the OGP.*

We are committed to collaborating with and challenging governments in the UK to develop and implement ambitious open government reforms through the UK's membership of the Open Government Partnership. We call on all political parties to:

1. State their commitment to the open government principles of transparency, participation and accountability in your party manifesto, and outline the open government reforms that you will introduce.
2. Commit to working to further the impact of Open Government Partnership domestically and internationally.
3. Commit to implementing, with the UK Open Government Network, an open and collaborative process for developing the UK's third Open Government Partnership National Action Plan.

Open government requires a wide range of reforms and the collaboration of government, civil society and business to make a reality. We invite all political parties to work with us towards building more transparent, engaging and accountable governments in the UK.

Yours sincerely,

1. Alexandra Runswick, Unlock Democracy
2. Andy Williams, The Open Society Foundations
3. Andy Thurston, International Records Management Trust
4. Anthony G. Reefe, Inspiring Impact Northern Ireland
5. Brent Norris, Green Collar Technologies
6. Catalina Flly, From Over Here
7. Cathy James, Public Concern at Work
8. Chris Knight, GreenNet
9. Chris Shaggart, University of Oxford
10. Chris Yaggart, Open Corporates
11. David Scott, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
12. David Wainwright, International Budget Partnership
13. David McBurney, ARTICLE 19
14. David Wood, The ONE Campaign
15. David Yavages, Community Development Centre
16. David Smith, Collaborative Change Practitioner
17. David Perry, University of Westminster
18. David Kell, Parahpur
19. David Frankard, Community Investment Coalition
20. David Crowe, Centre for Public Scrutiny
21. David Chambers, Open Rights Group
22. David Hawkins, The Archives and Records Association
23. David Houghton, Construction Sector Transparency Initiative
24. David Black, Open Knowledge
25. David Gray, Open Knowledge
26. David Wood, Data Unity
27. David Cox, Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride
28. David Mills, Request Initiative
29. David Scheller, Progressio (CIIR)
30. David Cook, Position Dial
31. David Fildes, YouBnnet
32. David Ivynoff, Publish What You Pay UK
33. David Perks, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
34. David Njiruna, Kenya Diaspora Bureau (UK)
35. David Escobar, Citizen Participation Network
36. David Aposwarva, Instead
37. David Light, BNY Society
38. David O'Connell, Anti-Corruption Group
39. David Gordon, The Bureau of Investigative Journalism
40. David Morrison, YouResearchUK Leeds
41. David Barrington, Publish What You Pay International UK
42. David Simons, Publish What You Fund
43. David Blake, Compact Voice
44. David Burral, Involve
45. David Hanson, Meshed Insights
46. David Eastup, University of the West of Scotland
47. David Payne, Spinwatch
48. David Poole, Academics Stand Against Poverty Global
49. Tim Hayes, Practical Participation
50. David Hughes, UK Open Government Civil Society Network coordinator
51. David Halkner, Talking Tweed
52. Winnie McColl