



Freedom of Information Team
Knowledge and Information Management Unit
Cabinet Office

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Andreas Pavlou
request-164222-e3a81493@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI Reference: FOI318029
8 July 2013

Dear Mr Pavlou

Ref: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your request where you asked:

Please could you provide me with the criteria that was used to select civil society organisations for meetings held relating to the Open Government Partnership and in particular the OGP National Action Plan.

Could you also provide me any information on who applied these criteria (did civil society chose who participated, or did governments?).

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is held by the Cabinet Office.

The Open Government Partnership Civil Society Network that has contributed towards the development of the draft National Action Plan came together in response to the Government's first National Action Plan, submitting a collaborative analysis of the action plan (<http://www.opengovernment.org.uk/civil-society-perspectives-on-uk-national-action-plan/>) and signing an open letter to the Minister for the Cabinet Office, Francis Maude, calling for greater civil society engagement (<http://www.opengovernment.org.uk/open-letter-to-francis-maude/>)¹, to which Francis Maude subsequently responded (<http://www.opengovernment.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/MCO-response-to-CSOs-letter-to-UK-OGP.pdf>).

The UK Open Government Partnership Civil Society Network is open to any representative of a UK civil society organisation or any individual citizen, and are committed to increasing the membership of the network ever further. It has no formal structure and no individual or organisation speaks on its behalf. The network is currently coordinated by Involve, a charity working to embed public participation in

¹ Please note that this was sent on 10 April 2012 not 10 April 2011 as shown on the letter.

government, having been asked by organisations within the network to take on the role in September 2012.

The OGP – UK 2013 draft National Action Plan was published for wider consultation on 27 June 2013 on data.gov.uk

Further information about the Open Government Partnership (OGP) UK civil society network is available on the OGP UK website:

<http://www.opengovernment.org.uk/about/>
<http://www.opengovernment.org.uk/engage/>

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the FOI team. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Roger Smethurst
Head of Knowledge and Information Management
Cabinet Office
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

email: foi.team@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely



FOI Team
Cabinet Office