

UK EITI – Open Data Policy

(Updated and approved by the UK EITI MSG on 4th December 2023).

The UK committed to implement EITI in May 2013 during the UK's G8 Presidency. In October 2014, one year after the first meeting of the UK Multi-Stakeholder Group, the UK was recognised as a candidate country. The UK's first EITI report was published in April 2016, and a further eight reports have been published up to July 2023. [Is any of that introductory paragraph needed?]

The MSG agreed objectives in 2014 which aim, among other things, to increase knowledge about the extractives sector in the UK. These objectives include an intention to “enhance accountability to the UK public on the revenues from the UK's extractives industries” and to “increase public understanding of the social and economic impacts of the UK's extractive industries and enrich public debate on the governance and stewardship of the UK's oil, gas and mineral resources”. These two objectives are explicitly supported by a third: to “ensure information is readily accessible and presented to the public in a clear manner”.

These objectives are in line with the EITI Principles, which declare that “a public understanding of government revenues and expenditure over time [can] help public debate and inform choice of appropriate and realistic options for sustainable development” (Principle 4). The EITI 2023 Standard requires “that government and company disclosures are comprehensible, actively promoted, publicly accessible, and contribute to public debate” (Requirement 7.1). Improving the accessibility and comparability of EITI data is essential to realise these objectives.

Open Data Objectives

Open EITI data can increase transparency about government and business activities, and increases awareness about how the UK's natural resources are used and how extractives revenues are levied and spent.

Open data (defined at <http://opendefinition.org>) promotes accountability and good governance and enhances public debate. Providing access to EITI data can empower individuals, the media, civil society and business to make better informed choices about the services they receive and the standards they should expect.

Free access to, and subsequent re-use of, open data are of significant value to society and the economy.

UK and G8 Policy on Open Data in the Extractive Industries

The [G8 Open Data Charter](#) adopted under the UK's chairmanship in 2013 notes that “Open data ... increase awareness about how countries' natural resources are used, how extractives revenues are spent ... All of which promotes accountability and good governance, enhances public debate, and helps to combat corruption” (page 1); and identifies extractives as an example of one of the “areas of high value, both for improving our democracies and encouraging innovative re-use of data” (page 9). The [2013 G8 Communiqué](#) also states under “Open Data” (page 11): “Open data also increase awareness

about how countries' natural resources are used, how extractives revenues are spent, and how land is transacted and managed." The [UK's Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 2013-2015](#) noted that the "UK committed to principles of open data through the G8 Open Data Charter, which will be applied to extractives' data" (page 49). The 2016 London Anti-Corruption Summit [Communiqué](#) recognised "the value of global open data principles, such as the Open Data Charter, for relevant data release." [All of this feels very, very dated!]

Open Data in UK EITI Implementation

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Where datasets have been developed for the purpose of the UK EITI Report e.g. reconciliation and contextual data, these will be made available on ukeiti.org. To the extent possible, these datasets will be published simultaneously with the UK EITI Report. Where appropriate, the contextual data published on ukeiti.org will include a longer time series than the version published in the EITI Report. Where datasets used in tables or charts have been accessed from a third party, the source will be specified in the Report alongside a link if the data are available publicly. In general, tabulated data will be made available in CSV (Comma Separated Values) format and the MSG will consider options to move to publishing linkable and linked data (<http://linkeddata.org/>). To assist users, consistent naming conventions will be applied to names of companies, fields and licences when possible.

The MSG will delegate the responsibility for reviewing the robustness of data sharing to their compliance sub-group, which will recommend any subsequent changes to the MSG.