



**Prime Minister's Office  
National Center for Digital Transformation**



**University of Information Technology and  
Communications**



**National Open  
Government Portal**

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Nov.

**Policies and Objectives of  
the portal**

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<https://nogp.gov.iq/>

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## Open Data Policy

### ١. Introduction

This policy expresses the commitment of government agencies to publish data as an open public resource to achieve transparency, innovation, accountability, and community participation in promoting the effectiveness of digital government, and our belief that government data is a valuable resource that can contribute to economic and social development.

This policy aims to enable the use, reuse, and redistribution of government data, taking into account relevant laws and regulations related to data protection, privacy, and information security. Databases also serve as reference sources for researchers to develop fields of knowledge.

### ٢. Objectives

This policy aims to:

- Promote transparency and accountability in government performance by making non-sensitive government data available for public use and reuse.
- Support evidence-based decision-making by government agencies and stakeholders (citizens, private sector, scientific research) by providing reliable, structured, accessible, and processable data.
- Encourage innovation and economic growth by opening up government data for use in the development of digital services, applications, research, and entrepreneurial projects.
- Enable community participation and contribute to the improvement of public policies and services by providing information to citizens, civil society, and the labor market.

- Improve the quality of government data and build the capacity of government agencies to manage and publish data in a structured, interchangeable manner that is compatible with international open data standards.
- Ensure the ethical use of data, with appropriate protection of privacy, confidentiality, and preservation of sensitive data and intellectual property rights.

### ٣. Scope

This policy covers all government entities [ministries, agencies, councils] that collect or produce data that can be made available for publication as open data sets, except as specified by law (e.g., confidential data, security data, personal or sensitive data) or as excluded by a justified official decision.

The provisions of this policy apply to all public data and information produced by government entities, regardless of its form or nature.

### ٤. Definitions

**Data:** Quantitative or descriptive digital information produced, owned, or managed by a government entity.

**Open data:** Data published on the internet in a machine-readable format, with a license that allows for its use, reuse, and redistribution, freely, to maximize its benefit.

**Dataset:** A named collection of records linked together in an organized or classified form (often in tabular form).

**Protected/confidential/sensitive data:** Data that is subject to legal or regulatory restrictions that prevent its publication or require special handling due to privacy, security, or intellectual property concerns.

## ◦. Principles

### ١. UNIVERSAL ACCESS

- Government data shall be available to everyone without discrimination or technical, legal, or financial restrictions, except for data classified as confidential. This means that any individual or institution should be able to access and use this data freely, without the need for prior registration or payment of fees. This principle promotes equality and broadens the base of beneficiaries of this data with minimal restrictions (such as attribution).
- Data classified as protected or confidential may be excluded.
- If full publication is not possible, the maximum amount of data available shall be published, with an explanation of the reasons for not publishing in full.

### ٢. Providing source and complete data

Data should be presented in its source form as much as possible, without any unjustified modifications or filtering. Data sets should be comprehensive and cover all available information on a given topic. This ensures that no information is hidden and enables users to conduct comprehensive and accurate analysis.

Open data includes, but is not limited to:

- Census and population data.
- Public health data (non-sensitive).
- Government budget and spending.
- Education and employment data.
- Agricultural and environmental statistics.
- Transportation and communications.

### Υ. Data quality, accuracy, and reliability

Data should be accurate, reliable, and regularly updated to accurately reflect reality and be free from errors and biases, and the relevant authority should be responsible for the quality of its data.

### Ξ. Free access

Data should be available free of charge or for a nominal fee (unless otherwise justified).

### ο. Timeliness and availability

Data is published in a timely manner, or as soon as it is available, with regular updates to maintain its validity. This ensures that users have access to the latest information available, increasing its usefulness for decision-making and analysis.

### ϒ. Machine-readable formats

Data is published in open, machine-processable formats such as [XML](#), [JSON](#), [CSV](#), and [Excel](#), making it easy for automated systems to analyze and use. Other formats such as [Zip](#) and [PDF](#) are also useful for users. In addition, data is accompanied by clear metadata.

### V. Reusability

Allow data to be reused with attribution, which promotes innovation and allows developers, researchers, and citizens to make the most of the data.

### Λ. Data description

- Each dataset is accompanied by its own description, data source, publication date, update date, and variable definitions.

### 9. Source integration

- Publish from the original source with the highest possible level of detail, not just a compilation or summary.
- Comparable and interoperable, i.e., use open standards that facilitate linking data from multiple sources.

### 10. Institutional structure

- Appoint a contact person in each government agency who will be responsible for technical and administrative coordination with the supervising agency (platform manager + two employees to work on the portal), provided that they are specialists in the field of data and information technology for the purpose of training on the use of the portal.
- Each government agency shall appoint an open data coordinator to create an inventory of its data sets and prepare them for publication.

### 11. Publication and update schedule

Example illustrating the publication frequency mechanism

Type Suggested frequency	Type Suggested frequency
Daily	Daily operational data (e.g., orders, transactions) Daily
Monthly	Monthly data (e.g., expenses, staffing) Monthly
Annual	Annual data (e.g., central statistics, census)

#### ^. Performance and monitoring metrics

- Number of published datasets.
- Number of downloads/uses.
- Number of applications or services that have used the data.
- Percentage of datasets that have been updated on time.
- Number of user comments resolved.
- Number of citations of databases

#### 9. Contact & Feedback

- We welcome any questions, comments, or suggestions about the publication of open data.
- Adopt a mechanism for following up on inquiries within a specific time frame.

#### 10. Periodic revisions and updates

- This policy is reviewed at least annually to ensure that it remains relevant to technical or legal changes.
- Any revisions to the policy are announced on the national open government portal.