Annual Performance Report 2022/23
Approach to Open Data

Background

As part of [Ofwat Information Notice 23/03](#), Ofwat has required companies to further develop how they publish the Annual Performance Report taking into of the characteristics of open data in the presentation of their data (including in their data tables).

This document sets out our rationale for the approach we have taken including:

- which open data characteristics were adopted,
- how these were chosen,
- reasoning for the decision,
- what considerations influenced their approach, and
- plans for the future.

What have we implemented?

Action	Open Data Characteristics	How & why we chose	Considerations influencing approach
APR tables are published on website in Excel	Access Consolidation File format compatibility	Excel is widely used for data analysis. This facilitates access and analysis without the need for specialist software or experience. There are also ca.90 tabs of information and using Excel enables them to all be accessed in one place.	We needed to maximise the usability of the data. Using the widely used Excel software enables us to achieve this.
Consolidated Performance Commitment Data published in Excel and CSV	Consolidation Access File format compatibility	Consolidating data from multiple reporting years into a single data file was chosen as an open data characteristic to simplify data review for data consumers. This can be found [here](#). By providing a single data file that captures Performance Commitment data across multiple APR reporting years, you make it easier for data consumers to analyse annual trends in performance. This saves them the effort of reviewing and combining multiple individual files	Here we considered our data usability, convenience, and user experience. By reducing the burden of accessing and processing data, you enhance its accessibility and encourage greater data exploration and analysis. We've focussed on the Performance Commitments as these are the areas of greatest interest.
Added Meta Data to Consolidated Performance Commitment Data files	Metadata inclusion	By including metadata such as a data dictionary, we provide data consumers with a better understanding of the data's structure and meaning. This helps them interpret the data accurately.	We needed to enhance transparency and facilitate data usability for external stakeholders.

What are we doing now?

Developing our existing framework

We are exploring how to expand on our early work with the aggregated Performance Commitment data file. This includes presenting this via a business intelligence or other graphical interface, making access to key trends and information easier and more intuitive.

We are also looking to enable the opportunity for data consumers to submit queries/issues regarding our published open datasets, through the establishment of a dedicated mailbox, and the presentation of a 'Contact Us' type email address on our website.

Finally, we will also be adding open data licences to our APR webpage to provide clarity on how the data can be used and transformed.

Working with industry

As one of the 11 Stream member companies, we also intend to work together as part of this initiative to progress the publication of supporting datasets associated with the APR tables. This will ensure we focus on facilitating data re-users to more easily join up data from individual companies to maximise the potential benefits of publication. Stream's Use Case and Market Needs advisory group will consider the APR performance tables (and their supporting datasets) as part of their assessment to create a prioritised pipeline of datasets to publish.

Our long-term strategy

We have held an initial kick-off session with Open Data Institute (ODI) in June and we'll be working with them over next few months to co-create our Open Data Strategy. This work will include the identification of processes to identify future open data candidates including options as part of the APR.