Open data maturity

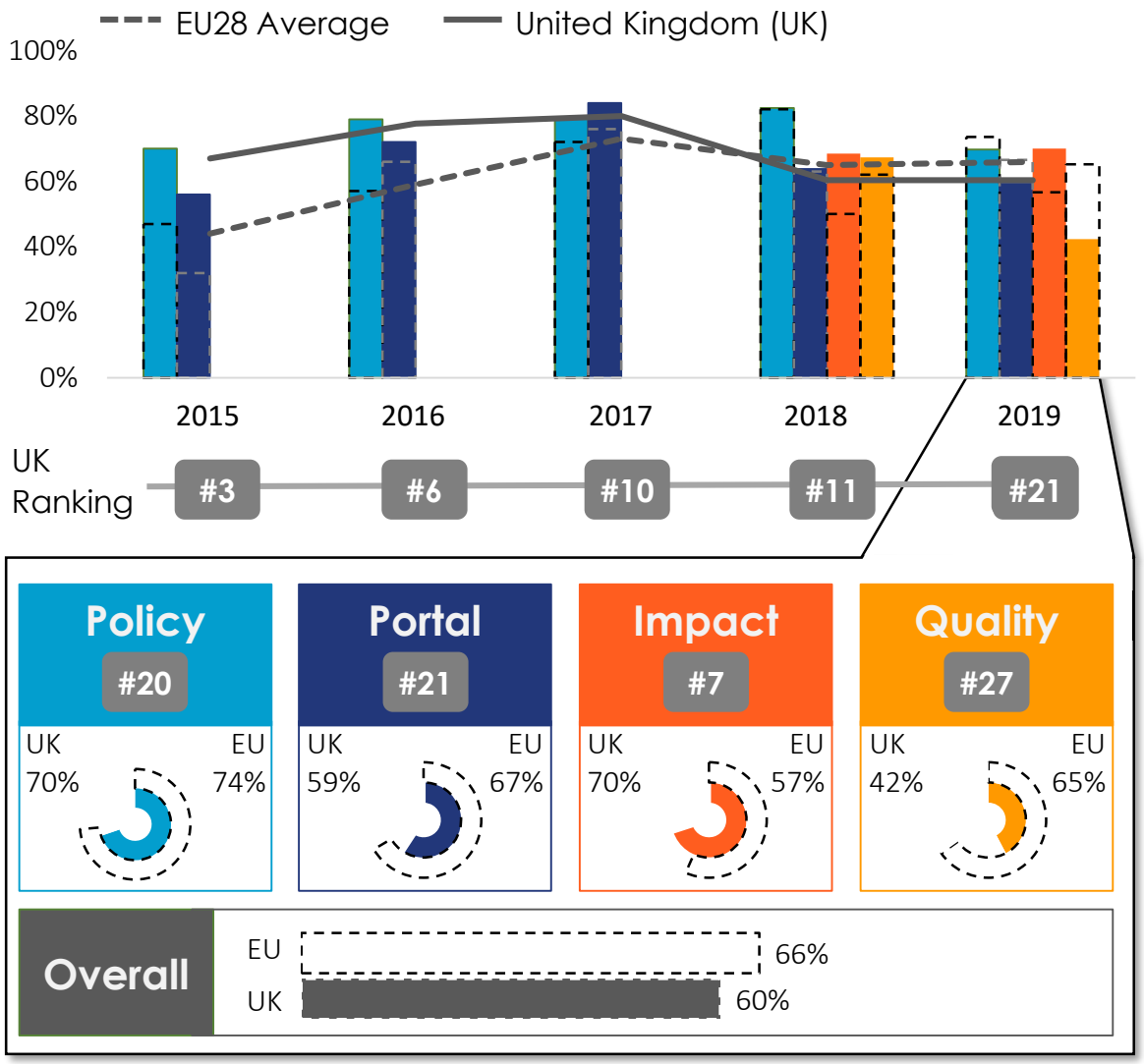
2019

United Kingdom

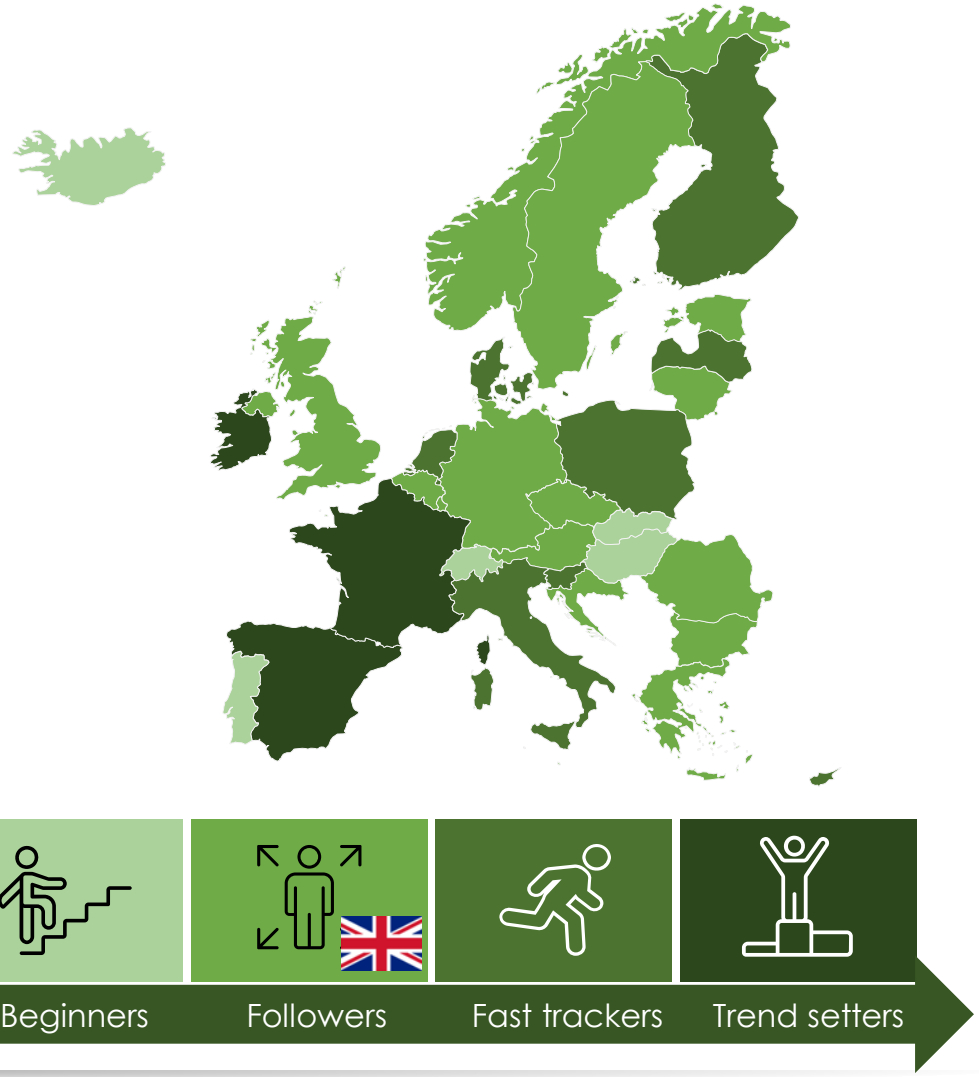
State-of-Play on open data - 2019

United Kingdom

MATURITY LEVEL RATING



OVERALL MATURITY LEVEL SEGMENTATION



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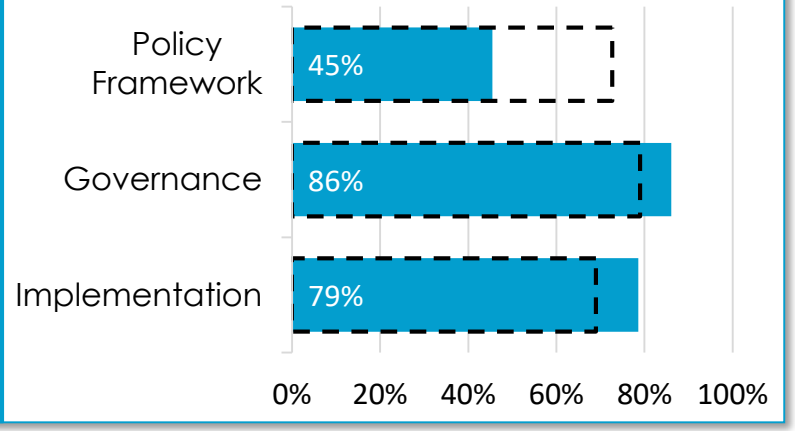
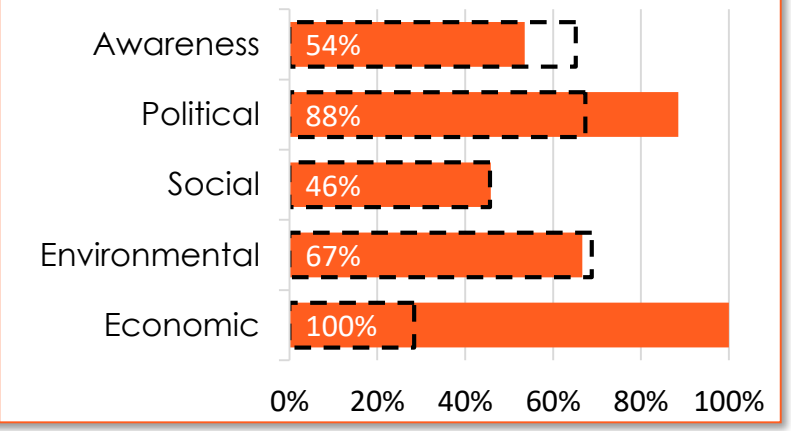
DIMENSION PERFORMANCE

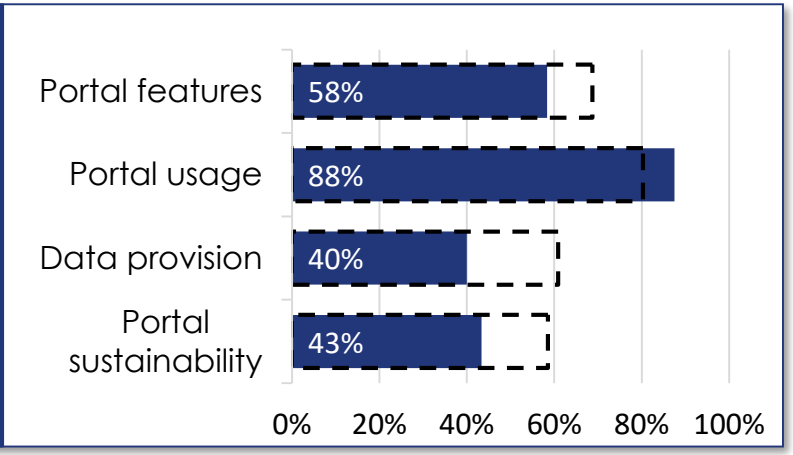
Policy



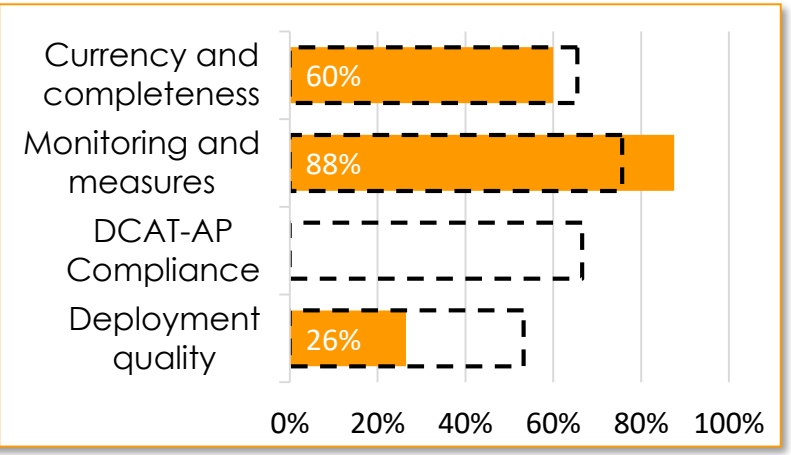
Impact



Portal



Quality



EU28 Average X % United Kingdom

United Kingdom

ADDRESSING BARRIERS

Technical

Data is sometimes published in poor standards and in static ways, e.g., not in machine-readable format or on nonsensical URLs. The UK addresses this challenge by working with partners across the government to establish minimum viable quality metrics, including quality metrics for metadata.

Organisational

Departments have systems of governance that make it hard to understand data ownership and custodianship to other civil servants in external departments. To address this challenge, the UK has launched a body of work to create a minimum viable inventory for departments that contains a consistent format so that navigating the complexity of a department is significantly reduced.

Awareness

Government and the public require more education and engagement to become comfortable using and publishing open data. Therefore, the UK is launching an extensive engagement project with the open data community and the cross-government publishers of data to understand the current gaps in awareness and develop policies to address them.

OPEN DATA RE-USE

The UK is assessing ways of evidencing onward re-use of open data through further case studies and the establishment of an external group. In addition, the UK has conducted studies into the impact of open data, such as the study into the economic impact of open data from the Transport of London (TfL), showing that, for example, opening up the data from TfL directly supported around 500 jobs that would not have existed otherwise.

Although the national open data portal of the UK does not provide a designated area to showcase open data use cases, multiple use cases exist throughout the country.

An example is Churchill, a digital data service being developed by the Department for Work and Pensions that is run entirely on open data APIs and data published in CSVs from UK government sources. The service allows civil servants to find out what is happening in the UK on different areas, such as health, labour market, and pensions and brings all the information together. Churchill allows users to explore the data by geography, time, and characteristics. The selected data is presented in clear and easy-to-understand visualisations and helps civil servants to develop and deliver data-driven and evidence-based policy.

Last update: 29 November 2019