



EDITION IN BRIEF

What Government Counts, and Whom It Hears

Five recent publications examine how public institutions count prevention spending, decide who may use personal data and respond to citizens, and what government reform needs to make those decisions accountable.

The five publications were released from 12 to 15 October 2026. None featured in an earlier edition.

Government reform

The OECD connects government reform with public-service skills, simpler procedures and a stronger voice in decisions.

Prevention spending

An OECD working paper finds that European accounts may omit preventive work recorded within larger programmes.

Health records and public benefit

OECD guidance sets out criteria for judging the public interest when health information is used for another purpose.

Personal information and AI

The OECD follows personal information from collection into training, and examines where user controls become difficult.

Citizens and the public response

The OECD's Australia review examines how public bodies handle participation and explain their response to citizens.





THE GOVERNING QUESTION

What enters the account changes the choice

The publications expose several ways that a public decision can lose contact with the people it concerns. Prevention activity is dispersed across accounts. Personal information moves into new uses whose benefits and risks require fresh judgement. Public consultation generates submissions, but its value becomes difficult to assess when the response is missing. Government reform needs the staff, procedures and budget arrangements to address these gaps.

What is absent from the account?

Which shared costs, unrecorded activities or excluded experiences could change the apparent case for a service or budget choice?

Who authorises the next use?

When information is reused, who judges the purpose, risks and distribution of benefits, and what conditions follow the data?

Where can people see the response?

Can residents trace an issue they raised into the institution's reasons, decision and any subsequent change?

Scope of the evidence

Comparative and country reviews, initial spending estimates and policy guidance illuminate different decisions. The prevention estimates concern Europe; survey figures describe different perceptions.

[Read the latest edition and source list](#)

