



## THE LORD CHANCELLOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON NATIONAL RECORDS AND ARCHIVES

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**Date:** 11 November 2010

**Time:** 1:00pm-2:50pm

**Venue:** Cabinet Office

**Chair:** Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, Master of the Rolls (MR)

**Secretary:** Dr Grazia Zaffuto

**Members:** Ms Else Churchill  
Mr John Collins CBE  
Dr Jeevan Deol  
Professor Harry Dickinson  
Dr Clive Field OBE  
Ms Christine Gifford  
Dr Bendor Grosvenor  
Mr Graeme Herd  
Ms Elizabeth Lomas  
Professor Arthur Lucas CBE  
Mr Hamish Macarthur  
Mr John Millen  
Professor Heidi Mirza  
Professor Michael Moss  
Lord Roper  
Ms Janet Smith  
Mr Ian Soutar  
Ms Stephanie Williams

**Non-members:**

Mr Oliver Morley, Acting Chief Executive, The National Archives

Ms Carol Tullo, Director of Information Policy and Services, The National Archives

Mr Roger Smethurst, Head of Knowledge and Information Management, Cabinet Office

Ms Julia Stocken, Head of Information Management and Practice, The National Archives

Mr Mark Merifield, Information Management Specialist, The National Archives

Mr Stuart Abraham, Freedom of Information Centre and Accessions Manager, The National Archives

Mr Andrew Dyer, Information Management Consultant, The National Archives

Mr Peter Hills-Jones, Head of Chief Executive's Office, The National Archives

Ms Trish Humphries, Business Support, The National Archives

Mr Peter Farr, Private Secretary to the Master of the Rolls

## **1. Welcome, apologies and introductions**

1.1 The Chairman welcomed attendees to the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Council on National Records and Archives.

1.2 Apologies of absence were received from Sir David Durie KCMG.

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

2.1 The minutes of the Advisory Council meeting on 15 July 2010 were approved as a correct record by all Advisory Council members present. The Advisory Council Secretary omitted Professor Mirza from the list of attendees in the previous minutes. She agreed to correct this error.

### **Update on Recruitment Working Group**

**Speaker:** Advisory Council Secretary

2.2 It was agreed at the last meeting that the Advisory Council Secretary would convene a small group of Advisory Council members who would review the Council's membership and consider the types of expertise that is required to meet the future needs of the Council. The Advisory Council Secretary provided a summary of this meeting which took place on Monday 17 August 2010. She said that the meeting covered three areas: size of membership, skills and expertise, and the advisory function of the Council.

## **3. Update from the Acting Chief Executive**

**Speaker:** Mr Oliver Morley, Acting Chief Executive

3.1 The speaker gave the Advisory Council an update on the following:

- **Comprehensive Spending Review settlement for The National Archives.** The Chancellor, George Osborne, announced the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review on Wednesday 20 October 2010. The National Archives' settlement with HM Treasury means that it will need to make 25% cuts phased in over the next four years (which represents a 16% cut in real terms).
- **Public Bodies Bill.** On 14 October 2010, the government announced the final list of public bodies due for closure under the government's savings plans following a review of all arms length bodies. The announcement included The National Archives as a body to be retained on the grounds of performing a technical function which should remain independent of

Government. The Advisory Council on Public Records and the Advisory Council on Historic Manuscripts will both be merged into the Advisory Council on National Records and Archives, which will also be retained on the grounds of performing a technical function that should remain independent of Government.

- **Lord McNally's visit to The National Archives.** Lord McNally Minister of State for Justice visited The National Archives on 22 October 2010. He very much enjoyed the tour of the collections and hearing about some of the projects being taken forward at The National Archives. The Minister described The National Archives as “a national treasure and twenty-first century asset.”

#### **4. AOB**

- 4.1 The Master of the Rolls informed the Advisory Council that it was Professor Heidi Mirza's and Lord Roper's last meeting before retiring from the Council at the end of the year. The MR thanked them both for their services.
- 4.2 The MR asked the Advisory Council Secretary to pass on the Advisory Council's thanks to the Cabinet Office for hosting the meeting.