



Press release
14 January 2008

BMD indexes free online at The National Archives

In response to growing demand, The National Archives has agreed free onsite internet access to the birth, deaths and marriages indexes, through findmypast.com, the UK family history website.

From 1 November 2007, users at The National Archives' Kew site, and on the first floor of the Family Records Centre in Myddleton Street, up until 15 March 2008, will have free access to the digitised indexes, for an initial one-year trial period.

James Strachan, Head of Public Services and Marketing at The National Archives, said: "The National Archives is always looking to improve its services, and develop customer experience. Following numerous requests from the public, we have come to this agreement with findmypast.com which enables us to get even closer to providing a comprehensive family history service."

- Ends -

Notes for editors

The National Archives, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk, **is a government department**; and also an executive agency of the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs. Over 600 staff work in Kew, in Norwich, at Admiralty Arch in central London and at the Family Records Centre in Islington. The National Archives brings together the Public Record Office, Historical Manuscripts Commission, the Office of Public Sector Information and Her Majesty's Stationery Office. See also www.opsi.gov.uk

The National Archives is at the heart of information policy – setting standards and supporting innovation in information and records management across the UK, and providing a practical framework of best practice for opening up and encouraging the re-use of public sector information. This work helps inform today's decisions and ensure that they become tomorrow's permanent record. **The National Archives is also the UK government's official archive**, containing 900 years of history from Domesday Book to the present, with records ranging from parchment and paper scrolls through to recently created digital files and archived websites. Increasingly, these records are being put online, making them universally accessible.

The vision of The National Archives is to:

- Lead and transform information management
- Guarantee the survival of today's information for tomorrow
- Bring history to life for everyone

For more information or images please contact Tim Matthews on 020 8392 5277, or tim.matthews@nationalarchives.gov.uk.