



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

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**Date:** 15 July 2010

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

**Secretary:** Dr Grazia Zaffuto

**Members present:** 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 Michael Moss, Lord Roper, Mr Ian Soutar.

**Non-members present:** Mr Oliver Morley, Acting Chief Executive, The National Archives; Ms Carol Tullo, Director of Information Policy and Services, The National Archives; Mr Stuart Abraham, Freedom of Information Centre and Accessions Manager, The National Archives; Mr Peter Hills-Jones, Head of the Chief Executive's Office, The National Archives; Mr Peter Farr, Private Secretary to the Master of the Rolls; Ms Molly Bootes, Business Administrator, The National Archives.

### **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 the following Advisory Council members: Sir David Durie KCMG, Ms Janet Smith and Ms Stephanie Williams.

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

2.1 The minutes of the Advisory Council meeting on 13 May 2010 were approved as a correct record by all Advisory Council members present.

### **3. Hillsborough Inquiry: Progress Report**

**Speaker:** Ms Christine Gifford, Advisory Council member

3.1 The Hillsborough Independent Panel was set up in February 2010 by the then Home Secretary to oversee the release of papers surrounding the 1989 tragedy, in which 96 Liverpool football supporters lost their lives. As stated in the Terms of Reference, 'the fundamental aim is to provide full disclosure of documentation to the Panel and, subsequently, to the Hillsborough

families and then the wider public'. The Panel will be responsible for producing a report on its work by March 2012.

#### **4. Recruitment plan for the Advisory Council and the Forum on Historical Manuscripts and Academic Research**

4.1 Members discussed the Council's current membership; and it was agreed that the Advisory Council Secretary would convene a small group of five Advisory Council members who will review the Council's membership and consider the types of expertise that is required to meet the future needs of the Council.

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

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

8.1 The speaker gave the Advisory Council an update on The National Archives' cost saving programme. The speaker also informed the Council of the Government's review of arms-length bodies. The speaker said that in June The National Archives was awarded funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund's *Skills for the Future Programme* to support 26 trainees in one-year skills development placements in archives across England from April 2011. Lastly, the speaker said that the iconic red budget box, first used by William Gladstone 150 years ago, and held up by George Osborne in the 2010 Budget has officially retired. The box is in an advanced state of disrepair and experts at The National Archives have advised that continued use of the box could result in its destruction. The box is a public record and The National Archives is responsible for preserving important public records for future generations; and has commissioned a replacement box.

#### **6. AOB**

9.1 The Chairman asked the Advisory Council Secretary to pass on the Advisory Council's thanks to the Ministry of Justice for hosting this meeting.