



The National Archives

Date: 18 November, 2008
Contact: Mel Hide, Head of Press, on 020 8392 5332
mel.hide@nationalarchives.gov.uk

INFORMATION MATTERS: CIVIL SERVICE ANNOUNCES KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Today, the Civil Service publishes a new strategy to help government seize the opportunities and meet the challenges of managing knowledge and information in a digital era.

The strategy, which is endorsed by Sir Gus O'Donnell, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service, is entitled, 'Information Matters' - and emphasises exactly that. With technology rapidly changing, government faces the continually evolving challenge of using knowledge and information effectively to deliver services that improve citizens' lives.

The Prime Minister, Gordon Brown called this 'the century of information'*. Information is the force driving our democracy and all civil servants need to value and protect information as an asset, just as they value people and money.

On the strategy's launch, Sir Gus O'Donnell, Head of the Home Civil Service, said:

'Information is vital to the business of government and all civil servants have an essential role to play. Managing information well is an

investment, and one that can bring significant returns for departments, government as a whole and ultimately for citizens, through the improved public services it can deliver.'

The cross-government Knowledge Council will drive the strategy forward to help develop the framework, tools and capabilities for knowledge and information management. This will enable all civil servants to meet the challenge of delivering effective and efficient public services whilst simultaneously protecting individuals' privacy.

Through this strategy, The Knowledge Council will strengthen the position of knowledge and information management as the essential corporate function it is, alongside Finance and HR. In addition, it will help build a culture of effective knowledge sharing across government departments.

The key aims of the Strategy are to:

- Improve the way government manages information as a valuable asset, ensuring it is protected, made accessible where appropriate and used effectively to inform decision-making and service delivery.
- Build a culture that shares knowledge more effectively, and builds capability in the handling of information of all kinds.
- Deliver this through developing the professionalism of knowledge and information management, through supporting governance, processes and technology.

The strategy - **Information Matters: building capability in knowledge and information management** can be accessed online via the Government Knowledge and Information Management Network website <http://gkimn.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

– ENDS –

For further information or to arrange an interview with **Natalie Ceeney** as Government Head of the Knowledge and Information Management Profession or **Andrew Stott** as Chair of the Knowledge Council, please contact **Mel Hide** on 020 8392 5332 mel.hide@nationalarchives.gov.uk

Notes for Editors

* Speech by The Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. Gordon Brown, October 2007

The Knowledge Council provides the professional lead for knowledge and information management within the civil service. It consists of senior leaders in knowledge and information management across government departments including representatives of the Chief Information Officers Council and the Chief Technology Officers Council. The Chair is Andrew Stott, Deputy Chief Information Officer for Government.

The Knowledge Council reports to the Delivery Council and is also sponsored by Jonathan Stephens, DCMS Permanent Secretary. The Delivery Council focuses on how to improve public service and reports to the Civil Service Steering Board.

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/structure/sub_groups/index.asp

The Government Knowledge and Information Management Network (GKIMN) supports the Government Head of the Knowledge and Information Profession and the Knowledge Council in raising government's capability in knowledge and information management in order to deliver more effective services to citizens. The GKIMN team oversees and co-ordinates the implementation of strategies to support the function, and provides services and activities to connect people working in knowledge and information in central government and public bodies. It maintains the GKIMN wiki, a secure online environment for this community.

Natalie Ceeney, the Chief Executive of The National Archives is the Government Head of the Knowledge and Information Management Profession. She is also a visiting professor at the school of library and archive science at UCL and sits on the Government's Power of Information Task Force. Under her leadership, and working with the cross-government Knowledge Council, the function works to ensure that government's information professionals are able to meet the changing and complex challenges in the management and exploitation of knowledge and information to support the work of government and its partners.

Andrew Stott, the UK Government Deputy Chief Information Officer, based in the Cabinet Office. He is responsible for the overall direction of the Transformational Government Strategy and for the Service Transformation, Identity and Data Sharing, Supplier Management and Technical Policy workstreams. Andrew Stott chairs the Chief Technical Officers' Council and the Knowledge Council, and sits on the CIO Council and the Delivery Council. He is a member of the CIO Council's Supplier Management Board and chairs the Office of Government Commerce ICT Collaborative Category Procurement Board.