



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

SUMMARY

Date: 24 February 2011

Time: 1:00pm-3:05pm

Venue: The National Archives

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

Secretary: Emma Markiewicz

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 Michael Moss
Ms Janet Smith
Mr Ian Soutar
Ms Stephanie Williams
Sir David Durie KCMG

Non-members:

Mr Oliver Morley, Chief Executive, The National Archives

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

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

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

Mr Robert Johnson, Freedom of Information Assessor, The National Archives

Ms Julie Lennard, 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 National Archives

1.2 Apologies of absence were received from Ms Elizabeth Lomas and Ms Christine Gifford.

1.3 The Chairman congratulated Oliver Morley on his appointment as Chief Executive and Keeper of The National Archives.

1.4 The Chairman welcomed Julie Lennard, Head of the Chief Executive's Office.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

2.1 The minutes of the Advisory Council meeting on 11 November 2010 were approved as a correct record by all Advisory Council members present.

2.2 Mr Abraham informed the Council that the case concerning the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Decision Notice regarding World War Two service records was due to be heard by an Information Rights Tribunal, in early March.

3. Matters arising

Access to public records; The Advisory Council was given an update by Mr Abraham on the queries from the previous meeting relating to applications of public records designated as closed.

4. Medical Records under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Advisory Council discussed the issue of access to Medical Records.

5. Access to public records: records designated as closed

The Advisory Council considered the applications for the closure of records. Those not subject to queries were approved

6. Access to public records: Applications for retention

The Advisory Council considered the applications for retention. Those not subject to queries were approved.

7. Update from the Chief Executive

Speaker: Mr Oliver Morley, Chief Executive

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

The National Archives Strategic Plan. Now that the role of Chief Executive has been announced, The National Archives Strategic Plan is ready for circulation. Mr Morley apologised to the Advisory Council that it had not been available before now, but this was due to the Acting status of the Chief Executive and the government's schedule for Arms Length Bodies. The Strategic Plan will be circulated to the Advisory Council electronically for comment at the beginning of March.

Impact of legislative change. Mr Morley drew members' attention to upcoming legislation that will impact on The National Archives:

- **The Constitutional Reform and Governance Act** has received Royal Assent, the key changes from the perspective of public records being:
 - Amendments to access to communications by the Royal Household have been made.
 - The introduction of the 20-year rule.
- **The Public Bodies Bill** Mr Morley reminded the Advisory Council that the intention of the Public Bodies Bill was to consolidate the existing Advisory Councils functions into one statutory body. It is also hoped to place The National Archives on a statutory footing, allowing it to take on the statutory functions of the Public Record Office and The National Archives other constituent bodies, where possible.
- **Protection of Freedoms Bill** contains a schedule on the Right to Datasets in a reusable format.

Secretary to the Advisory Council. A job description has been prepared and will be advertised in the near future.

8. AOB

- 8.1 The Advisory Council were updated on progress with the Hillsborough Independent Panel.
- 8.2 The Chairman and the Council thanked Dr. Grazia Zaffuto, the outgoing Advisory Council Secretary, and expressed their appreciation for the commitment and support she had shown during her time in the role. A formal letter of thanks will be sent.