



## **Press Release**

31 October 2006

### **The National Archives and The Office of Public Sector Information have merged**

The National Archives is merging today with The Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI).

The new organisation, under the banner of The National Archives, is raising the stakes in information management across government. Strong information management is essential for the effective working of government, providing excellent services, joined-up policy making, and strengthening public confidence and trust. The National Archives, through its merger with OPSI, has expertise across the information management spectrum and is well placed to lead this agenda. In supporting better information management, The National Archives will continue its work in preserving history for future generations.

Natalie Ceeney, Chief Executive of The National Archives, said:

“The National Archives is well known and highly regarded for the work we do in safeguarding and illustrating British history. However, doing this requires us to be a lot more than just a historical government archive. We’ve always played a key role in a paper world, ensuring high standards of records and information management in government, and ensuring that information survives to become tomorrow’s permanent record. The challenges of a digital world are even greater, and so are the opportunities for government as well as the public. If we succeed in managing this information effectively, the benefits are not just for posterity – they are also for today. The National Archives, strengthened by its merger with OPSI, now has a more powerful policy, advocacy and delivery remit across the information management spectrum.”

The National Archives works with other government departments to ensure that good records and information management practices are embedded across the Civil Service and the wider public sector. Good information management is a core function of government, as it underpins both its workings and the effectiveness of the services it provides. This message is of particular importance in a digital age, where constantly evolving technology poses a further challenge to the survival of information. In the long-term, it is essential to ensure that records are preserved for the future – today’s decisions must be available for the students and researchers of tomorrow to examine.

Carol Tullo, Director of Public Sector Information at The National Archives, said:

“This merger is an exciting move for both The National Archives and OPSI, bringing together a clear focus and alignment for government information policy, creating a stronger organisation. The strengthened and merged organisation will bring a centre of gravity and expertise to every strand of the information cycle. We are marking out a shared vision that recognises a new integrated information management territory.”

OPSI and Her Majesty's Stationery Office, which were previously attached to the Cabinet Office, will continue their work in setting standards, encouraging re-use of public sector information and managing Crown Copyright, operating from within The National Archives. The National Archives will continue to operate as a government department and as an executive agency of the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

“Bringing our two organisations together, and combining our expertise, creates a stronger organisation with a consolidated position within Government,” says Natalie Ceeney. “Together with OPSI, The National Archives is helping to realise the true value of information – as well as capturing the records of today for tomorrow's researchers”.

**For further information please contact:**

Robert Smith, Head of Press and Communications at The National Archives, on 020 8392 5277 or email [robert.smith@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:robert.smith@nationalarchives.gov.uk)

**Notes for editors:**

The National Archives, [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk), is a government department; and also an executive agency of the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs. Its 580 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](http://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