

## **Advisory Council profile raising workshops: report**

### **Background**

In 2008 it was decided by the Council and The National Archives that in order to improve the applications process and to raise the profile of the Advisory Council across government, the Head of Transfer and Access at The National Archives and the Secretary to the Council would provide training and lead workshops at relevant departments. The training workshops would also be used as an opportunity to gauge the views of departments on the viability of the current applications process in the event of a reduction in the transfer rule.

The following departments were visited between Summer 2008 and Spring 2009:

- Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform
- Cabinet Office
- Ministry of Defence
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Home Office
- Metropolitan Police Service
- HM Treasury
- United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority

### **Feedback from departments**

Whilst each department had their own specific access and information management requirements it was possible to identify common themes raised by departments in the workshops.

### **Main conclusions**

#### **Profile of Council**

The workshops met their objective of raising the profile of the Council. Misconceptions about the role of the Council have been dispelled and departments are reassured that the Secretary as representative of the Council can be contacted directly. The Secretary has already started to provide feedback to departments on some of the issues that come before the Council and departments now appreciate that much of the Council's business is carried out in-between quarterly meetings.

#### **30 Year Rule Review**

Departments felt that the applications process had to change in the event of the transfer rule being reduced in order to be cope with a doubling in workload.