



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

SUMMARY OF MEETING

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**Date:** 11 February 2010

**Chair:** Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, Master of the Rolls

**Secretary:** Ms Lale Ozdemir

**Members present:** Ms Else Churchill, Mr John Collins, Dr Jeevan Deol, Professor Harry Dickinson, Sir David Durie, Dr Bendor Grosvenor, Dr Clive Field, Mr Graeme Herd, Ms Elizabeth Lomas, Professor Arthur Lucas, Mr Hamish Macarthur, Mr John Millen, Professor Heidi Mirza, Professor Michael Moss, Ms Janet Smith, Mr Ian Soutar, Ms Stephanie Williams.

**Non-members present:** Ms Natalie Ceeney, Chief Executive, The National Archives; Mr Oliver Morley, Director of Customer & Business Development, 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; Dr Norman James, Principal Private Archives Team, The National Archives; Mr Peter Farr, Private Secretary to the Master of the Rolls; Dr Grazia Zaffuto, Advisory Council Secretary (from 15 February 2010).

**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 two Advisory Council members: Ms Christine Gifford and Lord Roper.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

2.1 The minutes of the Advisory Council meeting on 12 November 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**3. The National Archives' services to academic researchers**

**Speaker:** Mr Oliver Morley, Director of Customer & Business Development, TNA

3.1 The speaker described the paper as an academic strategy that aims to meet the scholarly needs of academic communities.

3.2 The overall tone of the discussion on TNA's strategy for academic users was one of support. A final version of the strategy will be shared with the Council at a future meeting.

#### **4. The National Archives' draft strategic plan 2010-11**

**Speaker:** Ms Natalie Ceeney, Chief Executive, TNA

4.1 The speaker presented the draft strategic plan for TNA for 2010-11, which is rooted in a commitment to maintaining a high quality of services whilst operating within allocated funding.

4.2 The main areas of discussion focused on:

- How the strategic plan could be further developed
- The strategic plan in the context of the lessons learned from the 2010 Programme
- TNA's distribution of resources
- Future funding of TNA

4.3 Overall the Advisory Council was supportive of TNA's strategic plan for 2010-11.

#### **5. Lessons Learned from TNA's 2010 Programme**

**Speaker:** Ms Natalie Ceeney, Chief Executive, TNA

5.1 The speaker explained that the paper sets out the findings of an independent lessons learned review of TNA's 2010 Programme, which has been circulated to all TNA staff.

5.2 The main areas of discussion focused on the findings of the report in relation to press handling and union involvement as part of the process.

5.3 Overall, the Advisory Council welcomed the Lessons Learned report, and concluded that the savings exercise was, on balance, well managed.

#### **6. Revised procedure for escalation of Freedom of Information cases**

6.1 The Secretary agreed to make two amendments to the paper; and the Advisory Council agreed that the paper does not need to go back to them for approval.

#### **7. Access to public records: cases considered by Council Freedom of Information Panels**

7.1 The paper was submitted as a report in advance of the meeting. There were no comments from Advisory Council members on the paper.

#### **8. Acceptance in lieu of tax case**

**Speaker:** Dr Norman James, Principal Private Archives, The National Archives

- 8.1 A recommendation was made to the Historical Manuscripts Commissioner regarding the permanent repository of a collection paper accepted by the government in lieu of Inheritance Tax.
- 8.2 The Advisory Council agreed with the recommendation put forward to the Historical Manuscripts Commissioner regarding the permanent repository of the collection.

## **9 Access to public records: applications for retention**

- 11.1 The Chief Executive of TNA provided a briefing on the retention of Land Registry registers that had previously been agreed by the Lord Chancellor. Other applications were approved by the Advisory Council with no queries.

## **12. Chief Executive's update, TNA**

- 12.1 The Council discussed a letter which had been sent to a number of Council Members from a campaign group expressing concern about The National Archives. The Chief Executive explained her approach to engaging with the campaigner group and with all key stakeholders. The Council supported The National Archives' approach.

## **13. AOB**

- 13.1 The Chairman extended his congratulations, on behalf of the Advisory Council, to Natalie Ceeney on receiving her CBE.
- 13.2 The Chairman thanked Natalie Ceeney, Chief Executive of TNA and Lale Ozdemir, Secretary to the Advisory Council, as this was their last meeting of the Advisory Council.
- 13.3 The Chairman informed Advisory Council members that Ms Christine Gifford will represent the Advisory Council on the Hillsborough Memorial Archive Team project which will advise on the disclosure of records relating to the disaster.