



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

Date: 9 May 2013
Time: 12:45pm- 16.00pm
Venue: The Blue Room, The National Archives
Chair: Lord Dyson, Master of the Rolls
Minutes: Trish Humphries - Advisory Council Secretariat

Members:

Ms Else Churchill
Mr John Collins CBE
Dr Jeevan Deol
Sir David Durie KCMG
Dr Clive Field OBE
Ms Christine Gifford
Mr Graeme Herd
Ms Elizabeth Lomas
Professor Arthur Lucas CBE
Mr John Millen
Professor Michael Moss
Mr Ian Soutar
Mr Stephen Hawker CB
Dr Bendor Grosvenor

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
Ms Julie Lennard, Head of Chief Executive's Office, The National Archives
Mr Peter Farr, Private Secretary to the Master of the Rolls
Mr Stuart Abraham, Accessions and FOI Centre Manager, The National Archives
Ms Helen Potter, FOI Manager, The National Archives
Ms Beth Watson, Advisory Council Secretary

1. Welcome, apologies and introductions

The Chairman welcomed Ms Beth Watson, the new Advisory Council Secretary to the meeting. Apologies of absence were received from Professor Harry Dickinson, Ms Sarah Fahy and Mr Hamish Macarthur.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Advisory Council meeting on 14 February 2013 were reviewed and approved as a correct record.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

The Advisory Council was given an update by Mr Abraham on queries from the previous meeting in relation to applications for public records designated as closed and retained.

4. Home Office: Progress of Review of Records Covered by Administrative Retention Instrument

The Advisory Council received an update from the Home Office on the progress of its review work.

Advisory Council thanked the department for its report and noted the work that was being undertaken. It requested a further progress update in six months time.

5. New Enquiry Panel

Ms Gifford advised members of an announcement that a panel would be set up to examine the police handling of a murder inquiry from 1987. The panel will be led by a senior judge and will review information held by various police bodies. Council members noted with interest that a similar process used for the Hillsborough Panel was being utilised again.

6. 1939 Registers

A paper outlining a proposed project to create a digital copy from the paper originals of the 1939 Register held by the Health and Social Care Information Centre had been circulated to Advisory Council members.

7. Update from the Lord Chancellor's Forum on Historical Manuscripts and Academic Research

Draft minutes of the recent meeting of the Lord Chancellor's Forum had previously been circulated and Dr Field gave a brief update on some of the issues considered.

The Advisory Council was pleased to note the continued dedication of Forum members and the wish to ensure that the Forum remains a worthwhile addition to the Council. Recent improvements in the way the Council is kept informed of issues considered by the Forum were acknowledged.

8. Access to Public records for Closure and Retention

8.1 Access to Public Records: Applications for closure – 9 May 2013

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

8.2 Access to public records; application for retention – 9 May 2013

The Advisory Council considered the applications for the retention of records. These were approved.

The Advisory Council acknowledged the high quality of application received from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

9. Update from the Chief Executive

Mr Morley provided the Advisory Council with updates on the following issues:

9.1 Hillsborough Panel Talk

Ms Gifford had kindly given a recent public talk at The National Archives on the work of the Hillsborough Panel, which had also been podcast.

9.2 UAE Visit

On 1st May The National Archives had hosted a successful by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates. The Sheikh had expressed an interest in viewing The National Archives whilst in England on a State Visit.

9.3 Hillsborough/IPCC

The Commission will be bringing together records of the investigation onto one site, temporarily, and The National Archives will be working with them to ensure that storage conditions are appropriate.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 Report on Waldegrave Initiative Conference

Dr Deol advised that he had recently attended a conference at Kings College London, considering access to documents and archives 20 years on from the Waldegrave initiative, and looking at the current situation from the perspective of historians.

The conference had attracted a small, but knowledgeable audience and Dr Deol had given a short presentation on the structure of the Advisory Council and its relationship with historians in comparison with the United States method of release.

Conference attendees had suggested that departments should be encouraged to be more pro-active in calling on historians for advice and acknowledged that the issue of information release is now climbing up the agenda for historians.

10.2 Recent Retirements

Ms Lomas advised that Mr Tim Padfield, former Advisory Council Secretary and copyright specialist, would be retiring at the end of May, and wished to record thanks, both personally and on behalf of the Council and Forum, for the assistance Mr Padfield had provided over the years.

Council members also noted the recent retirement of Ms Susan Healy, who had provided advice relating to data protection issues on numerous occasions over the years.

10.3 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Advisory Council will be held on the 25th July 2013. Location to be advised.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.