



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

Summary

Date: 22 May 2012
Time: 12:45pm- 16.05pm
Venue: The Supreme Court
Chair: Arthur Lucas
Minutes: Paul Edwards - Advisory Council Secretariat

Members:
Ms Else Churchill
Mr John Collins CBE
Dr Jeevan Deol
Sir David Durie
Dr Clive Field OBE
Mr Graeme Herd
Professor Harry Dickinson
Professor Arthur Lucas CBE
Professor Michael Moss
Mr Ian Soutar
Ms Stephanie Williams
Ms Sarah Fahy
Mr Stephen Hawker CB
Mr Hamish Macarthur
Mr John Millen
Ms Elizabeth Lomas

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

Item 1. Welcome, apologies and introductions

- 1.1 Apologies of absence were received from the Master of the Rolls. Arthur Lucas chaired the meeting in the Master of the Rolls absence.
- 1.2 Apologies of absence were also received from Ms Christine Gifford and Dr Bendor Grosvenor.

Item 2. Minutes of the previous meeting

- 2.1 Subject to two typographical amendments, the minutes of the Advisory Council meeting on 09 March 2012 were approved as a correct record.

Item 3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

- 3.1 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 applications for retention.

Item 4. Access to public records designated as closed

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

Item 5. Access to public records: application for retention

- 5.1 The Advisory Council considered the applications for the retention of records. Those not subject queries were approved.

Item 6. Advisory Council Annual Report

- 6.1 Members approved the Secretariat's final draft of the Advisory Council Annual Report. Mr Oliver Morley confirmed the report would be published as part of The National Archives Annual Report, due to be published at the end of June or early July. He requested that the Secretariat circulate the link to members once available online.

Item 7. Update on 20 Year Rule Change

- 7.1 Ms Julia Stocken gave the Advisory Council an update on the latest developments in the preparation for the transition to the 20 year rule change. She explained that in January 2012 The National Archives established a cross departmental working group to discuss the challenge of sensitivity reviewing records in the context of the 30-20 Year Rule Change.
- 7.2 The Secretariat noted that the lead of the sensitivity review the CIO at the Ministry of Defence had been invited to discuss this work at the next Advisory Council meeting on the 19 July 2012.

Item 8. Update from the Chief Executive - Mr Oliver Morley

Archives for the 21st Century Refresh

- 8.1 Mr Oliver Morley confirmed that the document setting out the actions arising from the Archives for the 21st Century Refresh was in the process of being drafted. He said that the final draft would be circulated to members.

First batch release of the 'Migrated Archive' at The National Archives

- 8.2 Mr Morley noted that the first batch of the colonial administration files from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have been made publically available, these included records from Aden, Anguilla, Bahamas, Basutoland, Bechuanaland, British Indian Ocean Territories, Brunei, Cyprus, Kenya, Malaya, Sarawak, and Seychelles.

The Silken Paper Trail – Evening discussion on Openness and the national collective memory

- 8.3 Mr Morley informed the Advisory Council that following the debate on FoI and the availability of government records, in the House of Lords in January 2012, The National Archives and Friends of The National Archives will host an evening discussion. Speakers will include Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield and Professor Lisa Jardine CBE. He explained that the discussion would explore the value of our archival heritage and consider why 'sustaining the collective memory of the nation is a first-order requirement'.
- 8.4 Mr Morley confirmed that the event was in the midst of planning but said he would ask the Secretariat to circulate details of the event as soon as they were finalised.

9. Any Other Business

Freedom of Information Panel Updates

- 9.1 An update on all FOI panels since the last meeting was received and noted.

