



## **Summary of meeting**

### **Advisory Council on National Records and Archives**

**16 July 2009**

The following is a summary of the meeting of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Council on National Records and Archives held on 16th July 2009 at The Royal Courts of Justice, London, WC2A 2LL.

Lord Clarke of Stone-cum-Ebony, Master of the Rolls, in the Chair. Members present were:

Ms Else Churchill, Dr Jeevan Deol, Professor Harry Dickinson, Dr Clive Field, Dr Jennifer Haynes, Mr Graeme Herd, Viscount De L'Isle, Professor Arthur Lucas, Professor Michael Moss, Lord Roper, Ms Janet Smith and Mr Ian Soutar

Also present were:

Ms Natalie Ceeney, Chief Executive, The National Archives,  
Mr Nick Kingsley, Head of National Advisory Services, The National Archives  
Mr Stuart Abraham, Head of Transfer and Access, The National Archives  
Mrs Judy Anckorn, Private Secretary to the Master of the Rolls  
Ms Lâle Ozdemir, Secretary to the Advisory Council

#### **Access to public records**

Following its closure being queried by the Council, it was pleased that a government department had agreed to release some information relating to the UK and its relations with other countries.

#### **Freedom of Information cases handled by The National Archives and considered by Council Panels**

In line with its statutory role under FOIA, Advisory Council Panels advise on the strengths of the public interest test considerations applied by departments when they

seek to close historical information held at The National Archives. The Panels advise on information, which is deemed sensitive under the Freedom of Information Act and requires a public interest test. Since May the Council has convened 3 Panels. They have advised on a total of 17 cases and 20 records in total.

### **21st Century Archives consultation:**

Council response The Council approved the draft of the Council's response to the consultation.

### **Changes to services at The National Archives**

The Council expressed support for the changes proposed by The National Archives.

### **Any Other Business**

The Secretary informed the Council that it had been asked for its views on the consultation being run by the Scottish government on the duration of some of its FOI exemptions. The Secretary would draft a consultation paper for the Council members.