



Summary of meeting

Advisory Council on National Records and Archives

17 July 2008

Note of the meeting

The following is a summary of the meeting of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Council on National Records and Archives held on 17 July at The Royal Courts of Justice, London WC2A 2LL.

Sir Anthony Clarke, Master of the Rolls, in the Chair. Members present were Sir Rodric Braithwaite, Ms Else Churchill, Viscount De L'Isle, Sir David Durie, Dr Clive Field, Dr Jennifer Haynes, Mr Graeme Herd, Professor Arthur Lucas, Professor Heidi Mirza, Professor Michael Moss, Mr Ian Soutar and Ms Stephanie Williams.

Also present were, Ms Natalie Ceeney, Chief Executive, The National Archives and Ms Meg Sweet, Head of Records Management and Cataloguing, The National Archives, Mrs Judy Anckorn, Private Secretary to the Master of the Rolls, and Ms Lâle Ozdemir as Secretary.

Home Office Moratorium

The Council queried if the Home Office had made any progress on its outstanding project on data population. The Council was informed that the formal report on progress was due at the November Council meeting and that the data population project was still suspended. However plans were in place to address the issue and to identify different categories of files with work beginning in late August.

Access to public records

The Council asked if applications for closure under Freedom of Information Act, 2000 (FOIA) for case files (such as benefit claimant and some criminal cases) could be batched for the next meeting. The National Archives agreed.

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

Since the last meeting the Council has convened 2 Panels. They have advised on a total of 6 cases relating to 8 records in accordance with the Council's statutory role under FOIA.