

Public Bodies Bill and The National Archives

Between 2003 and 2006 the administrative functions of the Public Record Office, the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, and the Office of Public Sector Information have joined together to form a single body; The National Archives.

Using the Public Bodies Bill, the department seeks to place The National Archives, the Keeper of The National Archives and the Lord Chancellor's records advisory bodies on a clearer legal footing, which simply enshrines in legislation the current administrative practice put in place between 2003 and 2006.

This will be done by renaming the Public Record Office, the Keeper of Public Records and the Advisory Council on Public Records. There is no intention to remove or alter any of the existing functions of any of these bodies. The proposed reforms have been agreed with, and led by, the current Chief Executive of the National Archives who is the Keeper of Public Records.