

## **MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT**

### **Moving work on civil society from the Cabinet Office to the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport**

1. The post of Minister for Civil Society and policy responsibility for growing a stronger civil society has been moved from the Cabinet Office to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). This Cabinet Office paper describes the consequences of this change for the functions of the DCMS.
2. The Minister for Civil Society is supported by the Office for Civil Society (OCS). The responsibilities of OCS have transferred with the Minister to DCMS, including responsibility for:
  - growing volunteering, social action, community action and philanthropy;
  - creating the conditions for a more independent and resilient voluntary, community and social enterprise sector;
  - promoting social investment and social impact bonds, helping to develop a capital market that supports social impact;
  - leading across government on the development of mutuals;
  - developing government policy on mission-led businesses;
  - supporting youth policy, leading on the creation of opportunities outside school for young people to develop skills and have a stake in society; and
  - expanding the National Citizen Service.
3. The responsibility that OCS has for the Policy Lab, who work with departments on live policy projects to apply new thinking in digital, data and user-centred design; and the Business Partnerships Team, which helps manage relationships with large UK businesses to deliver central government policy priorities, have remained within the Cabinet Office.

4. Included in the transfer to DCMS is responsibility for:
  - the Government's relationship with the National Citizen Service Trust, the Big Society Trust, the Reclaim Fund, Big Society Capital and the Dormant Assets Commission;
  - policy sponsorship of the Big Lottery Fund;
  - charity law, dormant asset legislation and the local authority statutory duty for youth services;
  - voluntary sector and youth sector honours, including the Queen's Awards for Voluntary Service; and
  - Ministerial appointments to the Charity Commission.
  
5. DCMS will become responsible for delivery of the following commitments:
  - guaranteeing every child a place on National Citizen Service, so that they can learn new skills and meet young people from different walks of life;
  - scaling up social impact bonds and payment-by-results, focussing on youth unemployment, mental health and homelessness;
  - supporting the Prince of Wales's 'Step up to Serve' initiative, encouraging young people to serve in their community;
  - helping everyone volunteer and supporting action to help the vulnerable;
  - supporting an increase in public service mutuals – organisations that are owned by their staff and deliver public services – by guaranteeing a 'right to mutualise' within the public sector; and
  - examining how the Government can build on innovative ways of delivering high quality public services.
  
6. The expanded Department for Culture, Media and Sport brings together in one place OCS's work to build a stronger civil society with DCMS's existing work to enrich lives. It will enable stronger links between the National Citizen Service and social action opportunities in the arts, heritage and sport. And it will clarify accountabilities and sponsorship relationships for the lottery providers, by removing the division between policy stewardship for

the Big Lottery Fund (which has sat in the Cabinet Office) and Accounting Officer responsibility (which is in DCMS). Overall, OCS's responsibilities will sit well with DCMS's vision of "driving growth, enriching lives and promoting Britain to the world."