

CIVIL SERVICE

in a report of the Royal Commission on Civil Service (cmnd3909 1931)

A civil servant was defined as:

“a servant of the Crown, other than holders of political or judicial offices, who is employed in a civil capacity and whose remuneration is paid wholly and directly out of monies voted by Parliament.”

Below is a list of Civil Service departments

Assets Recovery Agency
Attorney General's Office
Cabinet Office
CADW (Welsh Historic Monuments)
Central Office of Information
Central Science Laboratory
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
Charity Commission
Child Support Agency
Communities and Local Government
Communities Scotland
Companies House
Criminal Records Bureau
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
Crown Prosecution Service
CSSC Sports & Leisure
Debt Management Office
Defence Analytical Services Agency
Defence Engineering and Science Group
Defence Procurement Agency
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
Department for Children, Schools and Families
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills
Department for International Development
Department for Transport
Department for Work and Pensions
Department of Energy and Climate Change
Department of Health
DirectGov

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency
Driving Standards Agency
Estyn (HM Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales)
Export Credits Guarantee Department
Fire Service College
Fisheries Research Services
Food Standards Agency
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Forestry Commission
Government Economic Service
Government Finance Profession
Her Majesty's Courts Service
Her Majesty's Government Communications Centre
UK Border Agency

Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills
Government Actuary's Department
Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA)
Government Communication Network
Government Communications Headquarters
Government Economic Service
Government Equalities Office
Government Finance Profession
Government Legal Service
Government Office for London
Government Office for the East Midlands
Government Office for the East of England
Government Office for the South East (GOSE)
Government Office for the West Midlands
Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber
Government Office of the North East
Government Office of the North West
Government Office of the South West
Government Social Research
Government Statistical Service
Health and Safety Executive
Her Majesty's Courts Service
Her Majesty's Government Communications Centre
Highways Agency
Historic Scotland
HM Prison Service
HM Revenue & Customs

HM Treasury
Home Office
Identity and Passport Service (IPS)
Independent Review Service
Insolvency Service
Jobcentre Plus
Land Registry
London Development Agency
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA)



Marine Fisheries Agency
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Meat Hygiene Service
Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency
Met Office
Mi5 (Security Service)
Ministry of Defence
Ministry of Justice
National Archives
National Archives of Scotland
National Assembly for Wales/Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
National Fraud Strategic Authority
National Offender Management Service
National Savings and Investments
National School of Government
National Weights and Measures Laboratory
Northern Ireland Civil Service
Northern Ireland Office
Office for National Statistics
Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED)
Office of Fair Trading
Office of Government Commerce
Office of Rail Regulation
Office of the Advocate General for Scotland
Office of the Public Guardian
OGC.Buying Solutions
Ordnance Survey
Pesticides Safety Directorate
Planning Inspectorate
Postal Services Commission

Privy Council Office
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre
Registers of Scotland
Rent Service
Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office
Royal Mint
Royal Parks Agency
Rural Payments Agency

CADW (Welsh Historic Monuments)
Government Social Research
Intellectual Property Office
National Weights and Measures Laboratory
Scotland Office
Scottish Agricultural Science Agency
Scottish Court Service
Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency
Scottish Government
Scottish Prison Service
Secret Intelligence Service
Serious Fraud Office
Service Personnel and Veterans Agency
St Helena Government – South Atlantic Ocean
Sustainable Development Commission
Treasury Solicitor's Department
Tribunals Service
UK Hydrographic Office
UK Statistics Authority
UK Trade and Investment
UK visas
Valuation Office Agency
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency
Vehicle Certification Agency
Veterinary Laboratories Agency
Veterinary Medicines Directorate
Wales Office
Welsh Assembly Government
Wilton Park

An alternate view of the Civil Service is:

A large organisation made up of Whitehall departments, executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies.

The Whitehall Departments are headed by a Minister, a full time politician

The Constitutional features of Civil service are permanence, neutrality and anonymity

Permanence

Under the UK constitution civil Servants hold permanent posts in law, holding office “at the pleasure of the Crown.”

This permanency ensures that the expertise is available to the government of the day irrespective of their political persuasion.

The Private Secretary is a Minister’s closest contact with a Department and his adviser. That person remains in post when the Government changes.

Political neutrality

The Civil Service owes its loyalty to the government of the day irrespective of the political party and should demonstrate no political bias.

R v Ponting [1985] Crim LR 318

D a civil servant working in the Ministry of Defence saw documents showing the Government (of MT) had lied about the sinking of the ship "General Belgrano" during the Falklands War.

D gave copies of these documents to an opposition MP so that the matter could be raised in Parliament D was charged under the Official Secrets Act.

Held: despite the judge's clear direction that D's conduct did amount to an offence, the jury acquitted him.

Following the trial the head of the civil service issued guidance notes in which it stated:

“ The Civil Service has no constitutional personality or responsibility separate from the duly elected government of the day...”

Anonymity

In order that the Minister be seen to be the responsible and accountable person for the department, the Civil Service has traditionally been shielded from the public gaze and protected from public inquiry. If the members of the service became public figures, their ability to maintain integrity and political impartiality would be damaged.

The official guidance is that civil servants should be as helpful as possible to parliamentary committees but that advice given to ministers should never be disclosed. The rules make it clear that civil servants give advice to committees on behalf of their ministers and are subject to instructions given by ministers.

Workforce

Civil Service:

- employ 479,000 civil servants,
- workforce includes people who deliver services direct to the public such as Jobcentre Plus staff and coastguards.
- also have staff working on policy development and implementation, including analysts, project managers, lawyers and economists

The senior civil servant in a department is the Permanent Secretary
According to the Fulton Committee they have 4 functions:

- The Minister's advisor on policy
- Managing Director of the day to day operations of the department
- Ultimate responsibility for questions of staff and organisation
- Responsibility for departmental expenditure

The Minister is accountable:

To Parliament for the conduct of his department

Civil servants are accountable to the Minister for their actions and conduct

Ministers are subject to rules enforced by the Prime Minister

Civil servants are fully subjected to the criminal law, this includes Prevention of Corruption Acts

Internal rules prevail that prevent any civil servant from engaging in an activity which conflict with his interests in the Department or his duty

Strict rules about acceptance of gifts & hospitality from those whom the civil servants have official dealings.

The integrity of the service is protected by established procedures for the awarding of contracts and the disposal of surplus property.

Servants of the Crown are prohibited from parliamentary candidature and disqualified from membership of the Commons

There is a Civil Service Management code, which lays down the duties and functions of the service for example:

"The role of the Civil Service is still to support the Government of the day develop and deliver its policies and services as efficiently and effectively as possible, but we remain as politically neutral now as we have always been."