

The Civil Service

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

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

A civil servant

Is a servant of the Crown, a civilian employee other than a politician or member of the judiciary



Their remuneration is paid out of money voted by Parliament

What are the main civil service agencies or departments?

The list is too long to put on a power point slide

It includes all Government Departments



Ministers head up government departments,

- The civil service are the workforce of these departments
- The civil servants will also brief their Minister and keep him up to date
- Cabinet reshuffles/elections mean the Minister will change frequently

The Constitutional features of Civil service

Permanence

Neutrality (in a political sense)

Anonymity (individuals not in the public eye)

Civil Servants hold permanent posts

- 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.
- The Government may change but the civil servants remain
- See R v Ponting in the notes

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 public inquiry.

If the members of the service became public figures, their ability to maintain integrity and political impartiality would be damaged.

Civil Service Management Code

“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.”

Sir Robert (Bob) Kerslake **Head of the Home Civil Service**

The Civil Service

'We aim to provide high-quality advice and support to the Government and help deliver world-class public services, while consistently applying our core values of honesty, objectivity, integrity and impartiality.'

The Civil Service helps the Government of the day to develop and deliver its policies as effectively as possible



civil servants work in an enormous variety of roles

- 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

Those 4 functions are:

- 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
- 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

- http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/UKgovernment/Centralgovernmentandthemonarchy/DG_073447
- <http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/index.aspx>
