

## What is a QUANGO?

Quasi-Autonomous Non-Governmental Organisation.

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- NGO is a term preferred by the government and these organisations are widespread within the EU and world-wide. However, we will concentrate on the UK aspects of these organisations

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## A QUANGO.

- is an organisation that is funded by taxpayers, but not controlled directly by central government
- they have been around for a long time. Some of Britain's best-known organisations are classified as QUANGO's: including national galleries and museums, bodies such as the Forestry Commission and the British Council

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### They are and were created by successive governments

- If the government of the day decides that they wish to carry out a new function, for example to monitor payments by absent fathers, they can invent a QUANGO to do that e.g. the Child Support Agency.
- Hence QUANGOs are constantly being made and, until recently, not often disbanded.

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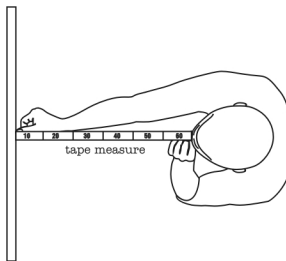
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### Government's definition of a QUANGO

- *"A body which has a role in the processes of national government, but is not a government department or part of one, and which accordingly operates to a greater or lesser extent at arm's length from Ministers."*




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### How many QUANGOS are there?

The Cabinet Office listed total 742 across the UK. However, Wales and Scotland have devolved responsibility for some of their own which are not on the list. A pressure group, the Taxpayers' Alliance, claims the figure is actually 1,162. Since the Coalition Government came to power they have dissolved or merged several and the process is ongoing.

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### What do QUANGOS do?

They can deliver public services, give advice or regulate behaviour. QUANGO's can range from tiny committees that meet a few times a year to organisations with multi-million pound budgets and thousands of staff

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### There are several different types:

- Those with executive powers
- Examples include the Environment Agency, Regional Development Agencies, national galleries and museums, regulators such as Ofcom
- AND

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- Advisory bodies which give independent, expert advice to ministers
- e.g. the Committee on Standards on Public Life, Boundary Commission
- Watchdogs that set standards and regulate behaviour, such as bodies which look at prisons, immigration removal centres, etc.




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### How much do they cost?

Estimates of the cost vary, however,

- £170 billion a year according to the Telegraph 19 August 2007

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### How many were being axed?

- The government was reviewing 901 bodies.
- 679 QUANGOS and 222 other statutory bodies
- Of those 192 were to be axed, or their functions taken over by other bodies.
- The future of other bodies is still allegedly under consideration but 380 were to be kept - while 118 were merged.

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### Those to be abolished entirely

- the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales,
- the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and Cycling England.
- The QUANGO's whose functions are being returned to Whitehall departments include the Disability Living Allowance/Attendance Allowance Advisory Board and the Appointments Commission.

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**Those retained:**

- ACAS, the Competition Appeals Tribunal,
- the Higher Education Funding Council for England,
- the Low Pay Commission,
- UK Trade International,
- the Charity Commission for England and Wales
- the Committee on Standards in Public Life

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**The government intended to merge**

- the Competition Commission with the Office of Fair Trading, Postcom and Ofcom will be merged as will the Gambling Commission and National Lottery Commission,
- Crown Prosecution Service, Single Prosecution Service and Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office,

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**FACING THE AXE??**

- British Nuclear Fuels (Former Govt owned co. in the process of being divided up and sold off)
- British Shipbuilders (still being scrapped)
- Youth Justice Board (not abolished)
- Film Council (closed 03/11 functions to BFI)
- Audit Commission (still closing)

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### FACING THE AXE??

- General Teaching Council for England (abolished some functions going to a new body the Teaching Agency, an executive agency of the D of E)
- Regional Development Agencies (scrapped replaced by Local Enterprise Partnerships may take the form of the existing RDAs in some areas)
- Chief Coroner's office (remains)
- Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (Not axed after consultation pub 01/13 it was retained)

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### Why not Scrapped?

- Government defeated and quangos Bill amended to remove many from the list.
- Government themselves also changed their minds (gasps of surprise from audience)

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### Why separate a QUANGO from government?

2 possible reasons:

to allow its functions to be more commercially exercised, independently of politics and changeable government priorities, and unencumbered by civil service practices and bureaucracy;

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Or

- to allow an elected minister to exercise patronage, and extend their influence beyond their term of office, while evading responsibility for the expenditure of public money and the exercise of legal powers.
- Quangos have been criticised as inherently undemocratic, expensive and conducive to over-extending government

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### To compare a couple of QUANGO's First the OFT

- It has about 700 staff based in London and a representative in Scotland. Its annual budget is £65.6 million.
- This includes 75 lawyers.
- Their spending on legal services, such as judicial review and criminal litigation was on average £1.6 million a year over the past 5 years
- OFT abolished in 2014 years duties, not all money, transferred to TSI and Competition & Markets Authority (CMA)

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### For a full list of QUANGOS see notes

There are those that have been highlighted by the government:

- To be scrapped (177)
- Merged (129 reduced to 57)
- Retained (350)

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### To Review

- QUANGO =quasi autonomous non governmental organisation
- Funded by taxpayer
- Not directly controlled by government
- Massive range of organisations, many well known to us all
- Government to save money
- By Scrapping some and merging others

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Any questions?

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