



The National Archives

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The National Archives, bringing together  
the Public Record Office, the Historical Manuscripts  
Commission and the Office  
of Public Sector Information.

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009

Dear Nick,

I would like to thank you for your contributions to the consultation process, both at the user forums you have attended, and at our meeting on 11 August, which you came along to with some colleagues. Since we announced our plans on 30 June, our consultation has ensured we have received a lot of valuable feedback in the last few weeks, and your open letter is also a useful contribution to this process.

We have endeavoured to be as open as possible with the public throughout this time, and have made available a great deal of information for all interested parties to understand what is happening and why. All this information is available on our dedicated web-pages <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/changes-ganda.htm>, as well as the published minutes from the user forums <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/events/readers.htm>, which cover many of the points you have raised. In addition, myself and colleagues have already answered many of the specific questions you raise in your letter both in these meetings, and in writing in response to previous queries.

As I have mentioned before, we are confident that our decision to reduce spending by 10% over the next three years is the only way to secure our financial future, whilst continuing to provide a high-quality service. We are committed to delivering excellent public service in our reading rooms, ensuring that historical records are made accessible to as many people as possible, offering advice and support for the management of current information across central government and the wider public sector, supporting the development of the whole UK archive sector, publishing legislation and working with government to make information more accessible. We have a wide statutory remit which makes us responsible for all of these activities, and, for each of them, The National Archives is accountable to the Lord Chancellor and, ultimately, to Parliament.



Although the reduction in spending is inevitable, we have been listening closely to suggestions we have received on other ways savings can be achieved. These are being considered alongside staff consultation, and the formal consultation process we are undertaking with the Trade Unions. We have been keen to meet with representative bodies across the sector and as part of this have met with the Institute of Historical Research, the Royal Historical Society and the Society of Genealogists, amongst others. Their valued contribution, as well as your own will be considered.

Of course, please feel free to raise any further questions you may have personally or via our dedicated email address [changes@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:changes@nationalarchives.gov.uk) by Saturday 12 September. After this date the public consultation will need to end to allow us time to evaluate the response before our announcement at the User Forum on 24 September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Natalie Ceeney', followed by a horizontal line and a period.

Natalie Ceeney  
Chief Executive