TNA’s custody of digital records policy
Main points

• Practicalities: ‘what is’ [Public records only]

• Economics, existing arrangements

• Distribution issues: records *and* custody

• UK archival system: capacity for change, timescales……

• Clarifying some aspects of PRA 1958 [retention / PoD]
TNA “Seamless Flow”

- Change programme, TNA and departments
- Automation of process
- Moving forward; breaking a logjam
- Timing of archival transfer and custody of non-archival records needed for long periods
- Paper paradigm [serendipity] wouldn’t work!
Wider issues

• Change: PRO to National Archives……

• Incremental way of ‘governing the exceptions’, working without new PRA

• Extent of DP infrastructure in wider public sector

• Other institutions’ and TNA’s collection policies [strategic]

• Politics [Politics]

• Governance & trust [theory]
Mechanisms

- Policy itself…
- Followed by Transfer agreements [pilot *icw* appraisal]
- Generic wording, schedule following
  - Flexibility [granularity, existing archiving…….]
  - Transparency
- PRA s.3 still relevant; dealing with parts undesirable not to be pinned down for digital records
Consultation

- Public record bodies [record creators]
- Full public consultation phase [Feb 2005]
- Main comments:
  - Some detailed ones on implications, clarifications
  - ACALG most substantive comments
- Finalised March 2005:
  http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/recordsmanagement/custody/
Stakeholder implications

- Public record bodies [record creators]
- Places of deposit, LA views [DP costs; preservers]
- Users
- Transitional arrangements
- No intention to upset local / specialist repository system which works well
- New *Collection policy* may have to pick up some of these issues
Implications: mini case studies

- MoD trading funds
- The Coal Authority
- Ministry of Defence HQ
Mapping the issues...

Archival science

- Distributed custody? Not as post-custodial *theory*......
- *Partially* distributed
- Trust / governance issues
- TDR concept
- Statutory archive *selection*
- Collection policy: by consent and agreement
- Vires

Practical

- Link to arrangements, requirements for long term business retention
- Trust and governance [FOIA]
- See as ‘business archive’ or RM system?
- Cost / Delivery mechanisms for Preservation
Questions

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