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# TNA's *custody of digital records* policy

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# 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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