

PORTRAIT OF HM THE QUEEN IN DCLG OFFICE IN LONDON

The Department has released the following information in response to requests received relating to the purchase and display of the portrait of HM The Queen displayed in the Department for Communities and Local Government's HQ building in Victoria, London:

- the cost of the portrait was £256.74 (including framing, delivery and VAT) and it was purchased from Royal Images at: www.royalimages.co.uk;
- a copy of the invoice submitted by Royal Images is shown separately;
- the portrait is displayed in the reception area (front atrium) of Communities and Local Government's Headquarters building, Eland House;
- no internal and external consultants were used to provide advice on the choice and location of the portrait for the Department i.e. which ultimately led to it being commissioned;
- the Department does not hold any information about the name of the artist/photographer although it is possible that Royal Images might do so;
- precise information about the date that the portrait was commissioned and when the saving from consolidating papers and periodicals was identified is not held;
- the portrait is a photographic print;
- the decision to purchase the portrait was made by the Secretary of State;
- we are unaware of there being any substantive corroborative documentation relating to the purchase of this portrait;
- there were no separate costs for framing the portrait which was hung by the Department's Building Services contractors at no additional cost above their current contract;
- no lighting was installed to illuminate the portrait;
- no furniture and existing wall paintings/coverings were moved to accommodate the location of the portrait;
- the portrait is not insured because it is of low value; and
- a member of staff took a photograph to mark the hanging of the portrait.

The background to the decision to purchase the portrait can be found in the press notice that can be found on the Department's web-site at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsstories/corporate/1703827>.

The small capital cost of the portrait was funded through savings made by consolidating seven sets of papers and periodicals for Ministers and special advisers, delivering over £15,000 a year in ongoing revenue savings. A list of the papers and periodicals that were consolidated is shown below. The date that the Department cancelled and consolidated papers and periodicals was 19 July 2010.

CONSOLIDATED NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

Newspapers

Daily Mail
Daily Mirror
Daily Telegraph
Financial Times
Guardian
Independent
Daily Express
The Times
The Sun
Yorkshire Post

Periodicals

Municipal Journal
Spectator
Private Eye
Economist
Local Government Chronicle
New Statesman