

Section 3a of request - *The minutes of any meetings at which you discussed the future of the Government Office Network (GON), and any reports, papers or internal correspondence dealing with this issue (this should include meetings, papers and correspondence from Cabinet meetings, meetings between yourself and civil servants, board members and ministerial or other Government colleagues).*

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1. Factual part of slides for Secretary of State meeting, 20 May 2010
2. Factual part of briefing for Secretary of State phone meeting, 15 June 2010
3. Factual part of briefing for submission to Secretary of State, 17 June 2010
4. Factual part of briefing for Secretary of State meeting, 1 July 2010
5. Factual part of submission from GO Network Centre and Services (GONCS) to Secretary of State, 16 July

Factual part of slides for Secretary of State meeting, 20 May 2010

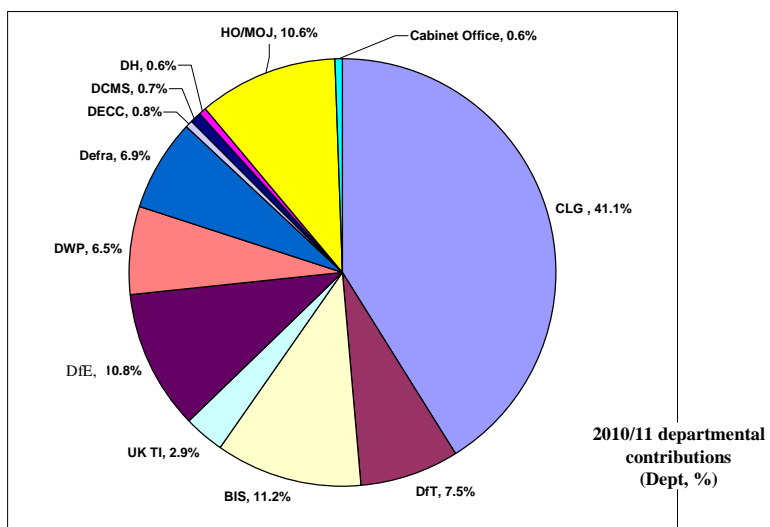
The GO Network

- 9 Government Offices, one for each English region (plus a small central team) supporting Ministers and 12 Departments for the last 16 years
- 79% of stakeholders rated the Network as having credibility with partners (IpsosMORI, March 2010)
- 1700 staff, down from 3000 in 2004 – a reduction of 43%
- £118m funding in 2010/11 – a reduction of 15% from 2004 (£139m)

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The GO Network: facts and figures GO Network funding

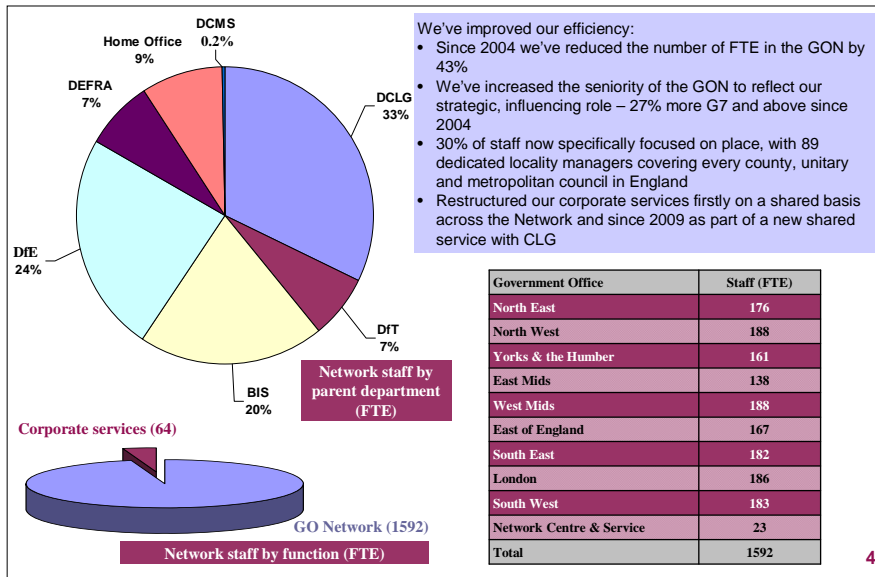
GO Network 2010/11 budget: £118m



3

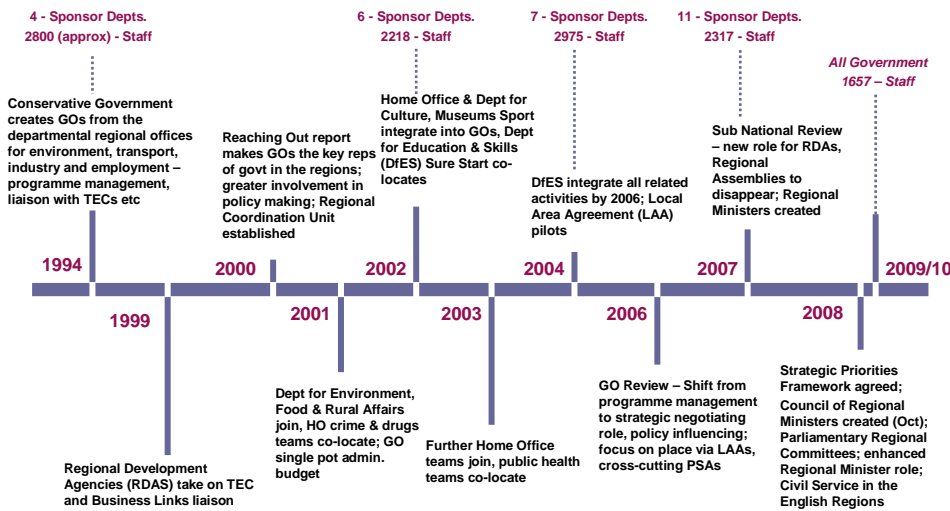
The GO Network: facts and figures

GO Network staffing



4

The evolution of the GO Network



The GO Network is Whitehall Departments in the regions, staff are civil servants drawn from and remain citizens of Departments. It is owned by its Sponsor Departments - CLG has the majority share (40%).

5

GO Network governance and policy structures

Governance CLG

Secretary of State, CLG
 Peter Housden, Permanent Secretary
 (Accounting Officer)
 Joe Montgomery,
 Director General, Regions and Communities
 (Additional Accounting Officer)

The GO Network is accountable to Sponsor Departments via the GO Network Sponsorship Board. The Sponsorship Board acts as a non executive board which decides priorities and resourcing for the GO Network on behalf of Sponsor Departments, and provides collective oversight, scrutiny and accountability. A Strategic Priorities Framework sets out Departments' collective priorities for the Network and its role in delivery of Government priorities.

Regional Directors have policy/departmental responsibilities for the Network's delivery of departmental functions providing senior level accountability and policy expertise for senior officials and Ministers.

Regional Director	Responsibilities
GONE Jonathan Blackie	Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
GOSW Jon Bright	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs Department of Energy and Climate Change
GOSE Colin Byrne	Department for Transport Communities and Local Government (housing & planning)
GOWM Trudi Elliott	Department for Culture, Media and Sport Olympics (national) Communities and Local Government (resilience) Cabinet Office (resilience)
GOYH Felicity Everiss	Department for Education Communities and Local Government (local government & regeneration)
GO Network Centre & Services Brian Hackland	HM Treasury Cabinet Office (corporate services & modernising government) Communities and Local Government (corporate services)
GO London Chris Hayes	Department for Work and Pensions Olympics (London & legacy)
GOEM Stephen Hillier	Ministry of Defence Office of Government Commerce
GONW Liz Meek	Cabinet Office (social exclusion & Office of the Third sector) Communities and Local Government (cohesion)
GO East Paul Pugh	Home Office Ministry of Justice Department of Health Government Equalities Office

Factual part of briefing for Secretary of State phone meeting, 15 June 2010

Facts

DfE and its precursors have been sponsors of the GO Network since its inception in 1994 and contribute £12.72m a year (10.6% of overall GO Network funding). 196 GON staff are engaged on Children and Learners activity, with double that number of DfE citizens (around 390).

Key activities being taken forward by the GON on behalf of DCSF include reducing child poverty, improving child safety and well-being, and raising educational attainment of young people.

What the GO Network does

6. At the moment GO Network activities include:

- Transition management for Government when new activities are introduced e.g. 16-19 changes, community programmes, scrapping of regional planning.
- Co-ordinating resilience to major civil emergencies, including in 2009/10 floods, snow and grit, swine flu and volcanic ash
- Closing European programmes 2000-2006 for CLG and DWP totalling £7.4bn and overseeing £5.3bn 2007-13 programmes
- Supporting service improvement and efficiency through the Civil Service in the English Regions Programme, including rationalising the public sector estate and freeing up Civil Service labour markets.
- Overseeing £241m of programme money for Sponsor Departments
- Intervening to help local authorities improve where services are seriously failing/at risk of failure, e.g. Doncaster, Stoke
- Supporting existing City-region pilots, 12 Multi Area Agreements and other sub-regional partnerships and thinking of new bottom-up multi-authority partnerships.
- Ministerial visits, Cabinet meetings and a range of consultative events for Ministers and senior officials.

Factual part of briefing for submission to Secretary of State, 17 June 2010

6. What the GO Network does

7. Alongside local authority performance management the GO Network is responsible for:
 - Co-ordinating resilience to major civil emergencies
 - Ministerial visits, Cabinet meetings and a range of consultative events for Ministers and senior officials.
 - Closing European Structural Fund programmes 2000-2006 for CLG and DWP and overseeing 2007-13 programmes
 - Overseeing £241m of programme money for Sponsor Departments
 - Intervening to help local authorities improve where services are seriously failing/at risk of failure, e.g. Doncaster, Stoke
 - Supporting existing City-region pilots, 12 Multi Area Agreements and other sub-regional partnerships and thinking of new bottom-up multi-authority partnerships.
 - Supporting service improvement and efficiency through the Civil Service in the English Regions Programme.
 - Transition management for Government when new activities are introduced e.g. 16-19 changes, community programmes, scrapping of regional planning.

Factual part of briefing for Secretary of State meeting, 1 July 2010

Collectively the four departments contribute 64 per cent of Government Office funding (41 per cent Communities and Local Government (CLG), 11 per cent for each of Department for Education (DfE) and Home Office (HO) and 0.6 per cent Cabinet Office (CO)) and 66 per cent of the staff (1,100 people - 980 if you exclude Government Office for London (GOL)).

Annex B

GON facts and figures (see annex C)

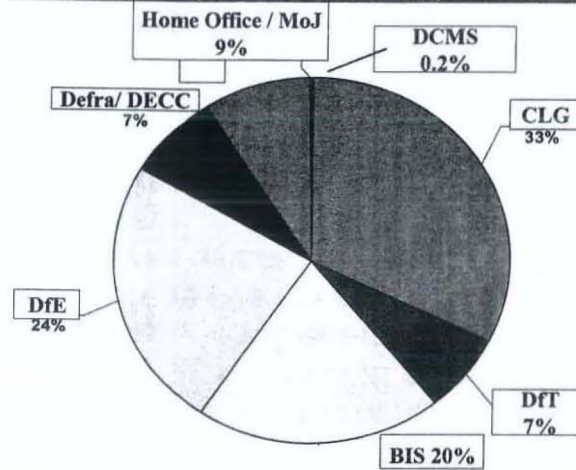
Staff in post by Department on 30 May 2010

CLG	554 including GOL	489 excluding GOL
HO	154 including GOL	129 excluding GOL
DFE	411 including GOL	359 excluding GOL
CO	nil	

Financial contributions 2010/11

CLG	£48.4 (in baseline)
HO	£12.22m (in-year transfer)
DFE	£13.75m (£9.36m baseline, balance in-year transfer)
CO	£0.656m (in year transfer)

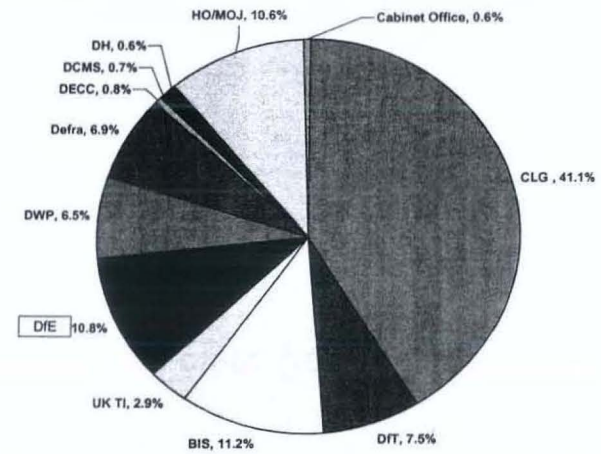
GO citizenship by parent department (FTE) (excludes UKTI)



Government Office	Staff (FTE) April 2010
North East	176
North West	188
Yorks & the Humber	161
East Mids	138
West Mids	188
East of England	167
South East	182
South West	183
Network Centre & Services	23
Corporate Services	64
Sub - Total	1470
London	186
Total	1656

GO Network: facts and figures

GO 2010/11 budget: £119m (includes UKTI)



Government Office	Budget £m
North East	8.245
North West	9.018
Yorks & the Humber	7.492
East Mids	7.169
West Mids	8.807
East of England	8.217
South East	9.792
South West	8.945
Network Centre & Services	2.570
Corporate Services	35.342
Sub - Total	105.589
London	12.990
Total	118.579

Factual part of submission from GONCS to Secretary of State, 16 July

16. Government Offices were created in 1994 to manage 4 Departments' spending programmes in the regions. Since that time they have grown to represent the interests of 13 government departments in, amongst other things, developing regional strategies, performance managing local authorities, managing programme expenditure, including European Structural Funds and joining up Government business in regions.

17. The Government Office Network has 1500 staff and baseline budget of £107m (excluding Government Office, London). Its governance arrangements reflect the cross – government nature of its work with its 13 Sponsor Departments being represented on its national board (for membership see annex B), chaired by CLG as the holder of the Accounting Officer role, and the largest funder and the largest employer of Government Office staff. (Annex C)

40. It is estimated that the public sector estate in its entirety has a value of some £360bn, of which some £60bn (16%) is the Civil Estate. It is estimated that the Civil Estate has annual running costs of £3.6bn per annum. Although data is poor there are significant opportunities to reduce costs. 79% of the Civil Estate in England is outside of London (see Annex E).

Public Sector Estate outside London– Cost & Value

COST - Overall estimate of £25 bn annual running costs of the public sector estate

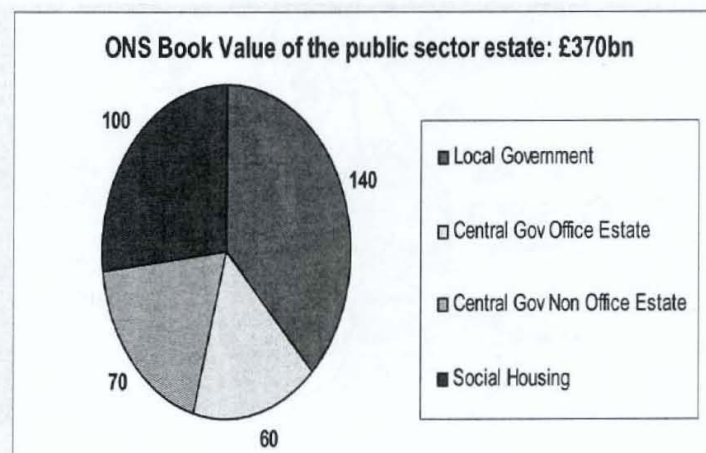
- Central Government (civil and mainly offices) = £3.6 bn
- MOD (admin and operational) = £5.0 bn
- FCO (overseas) = £0.3 bn
- Schools = £3.4 bn
- Health = £9 bn
- Local Government = £7 bn
- Justice = £1 bn

Note: Although there are estimates for departments, there is no comprehensive breakdown. Figures should not be added together. Need to reconcile to COINS data & OGC's PSPES survey. Breakdown originates from OGC material.

VALUE

Central Government estate only accounts for 35% of the whole public sector estate

16% of the entire estate relates to office property in the central estate



Section 3d of request - *all meetings of the GO Sponsorship Board which discussed the future of the GON, and any reports, papers or internal correspondence emanating from the Sponsorship Board and dealing with this issue.*

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1. Factual part of minutes for GO Network Sponsorship Board meeting, 8 June 2010.
2. Factual part of paper 3 for GO Network Sponsorship Board meeting, 12 July 2010.
3. Factual part of paper 5 for GO Network Sponsorship Board meeting, 12 July 2010.

Factual part of minutes for GO Network Sponsorship Board meeting, 8 June 2010

Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM) for example had 200 staff compared to 34,000 civil servants across West Midlands in total.

Factual part of paper 3 for GO Network Sponsorship Board meeting, 12 July 2010

Current property costs

The gross current annual cost of the Network estate is £30.3m. The GON property budget for the financial year 2010-11 (effective net costs) is c. £21m, as around £9.3m of property costs are funded by receipts from tenants. As a consequence of the Memorandum of Terms of Occupation (MOTO) break opportunities and the flexible nature of tariff agreements in place, c. £6.5m of the receipts are 'unprotected' and if tenants left could see the Network budget requirement increase.

The property costs are split as follows:

- Existing leases £22.3m (for all rent and rates charges). This includes £3.56m for GOL, reducing the costs to £18.7m;
- Other related property costs (including utilities, building services charges, FM contracts and maintenance); £8m. The GOL costs are £1.1m, reducing the cost to £6.9m.

ICT

Current contract:

The GO Network has a 5 year contract with Fujitsu to provide IT services, which runs to September 2011.

Britannic additionally provide the communications for the Network, through a contract for the telecommunications infrastructure and the VOIP facility.

The estimated expenditure in the current year for the IT outsourced contract and the GO Network telecommunications costs is £8.46m.

Budget management

2010-11:

The Network budget for 2010-11 is £118.75m.

Factual part of paper 5 for GO Network Sponsorship Board meeting, 12 July 2010

Total number of staff affected by the closure of GOL was 205 at the outset, but has reduced to 182 at 8 July due to a combination of management action and efforts of staff themselves to find other positions.