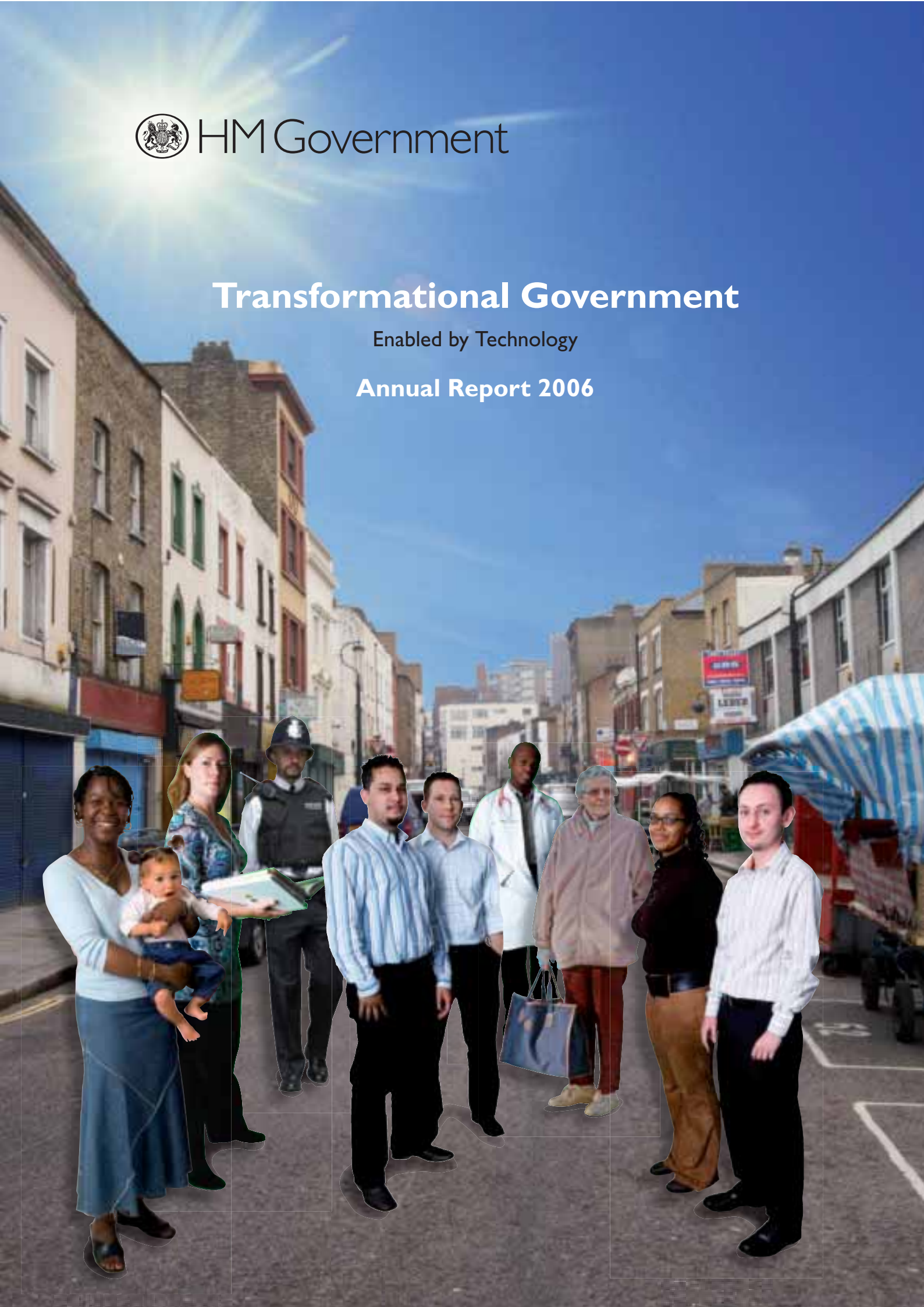


Transformational Government

Enabled by Technology

Annual Report 2006





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Enabled by Technology

Annual Report 2006

Presented to Parliament by the Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet Office
by Command of Her Majesty

January 2007

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Foreword



The [Transformational Government strategy](#)¹ sets out a six-year improvement journey for public services. In the first 18 months, we said we would deliver improvements already in the pipeline and build capacity for future transformation.

This is the first annual report showing progress towards delivering that strategy. We recognise within this report three things. Firstly, the progress we have made against each of our published work strands; secondly, the work we are doing to improve business change programmes that have an information and communication technology (ICT) element; and finally, the substantial benefit ICT provides to millions of people every day.

What has struck me in my short time as the Government Chief Information Officer is the sheer scale and complexity of the public sector and the ubiquitous uses to which ICT is put. It is amazing to think that we operate in over 140 countries, run some of Europe's and indeed the world's largest computer systems, and process tens of millions of transactions every single day of the year.

We are at the beginning of the Transformational Government strategy and we recognise that we have more to do – more to do on using ICT to improve public services; more to do on improving the value we create from the investment we make; and more to do on improving the success rate of our business change programmes. We will provide a further update in our next annual report in 12 months' time.

The IT profession within the public sector has an estimated 50,000 dedicated people. Every day their dedication and hard work support those who keep the traffic flowing, who ensure that benefits are being paid, who save lives, who educate our children and who prevent crime. As Head of Profession, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them and also thank the tens of thousands of IT professionals in the private sector who support us in these endeavours.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Suffolk". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

John Suffolk, Government Chief Information Officer

January 2007

Executive summary

This is the first Transformational Government annual report, covering progress across the three main themes of the strategy:

- customer-centric services;
- shared services; and
- professionalism.

The report itself is divided into two parts. The first part, 'Driving the strategy forward', shows the overall progress made against the three themes outlined above. The second part of the report, 'Contributions from public service providers', highlights the evidence of transformational change already apparent across the public sector.

Accompanying this report, there are a number of online publications and deliverables, including many case studies of successful technology-enabled projects.

Information on the individual programmes for the devolved administrations in [Northern Ireland](#)², [Wales](#)³ and [Scotland](#)⁴ is not contained within this report, but can be found on their own websites.

Customer-centric services

Working to the Delivery Council, the Service Design Authority has completed a number of tasks that will help to provide government with the knowledge, tools and techniques for establishing the wants, needs and preferences of both citizens and businesses. It has also provided input to the service transformation review undertaken by Sir David Varney as part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. The Service Design Authority is now working on a

service transformation delivery plan under the leadership of Sir Gus O'Donnell.

The website rationalisation policy, endorsed by ministers in April 2006, requested pan-government guidance for plans to both rationalise content and migrate it to either the [Directgov](#)⁵ website (for citizens) or the [Business Link](#)⁶ website (for businesses). Thus far, 951 websites have been considered and, of these, 90 have already closed and a further 461 are planned to be closed. 374 of the remaining sites will be reviewed by June 2007, with a view to encouraging further rationalisation.

Shared services

Sharing services represents a major change for government; already there are examples of significant progress. Transport for London has saved 30 per cent on human resources, the NHS has saved 34 per cent on processing financial transactions, the Ministry of Defence has achieved a cost reduction through the People, Pay and Pensions Agency, and the Department for Work and Pensions has released resources for front-line work. The shared service sector plans are available [online](#)⁷.

The Chief Information Officer (CIO) Council has been working to identify barriers that prevent the sharing of services, and a report has been produced on breaking down these barriers. This has included a toolkit for practitioners. Both the report and the toolkit are available [online](#)⁸.

The development of the Government Gateway acts as

an exemplar of the common infrastructure model, providing a means for accessing over 100 government services online for 9 million plus citizens.

The Government has a dedicated committee for developing an information sharing strategy across the public sector. A [vision for data sharing](#)⁹ has already been published (September 2006) making it clear that Government is committed to greater information sharing in instances where it is in the public interest, including fighting crime, providing opportunities for the most disadvantaged and delivering better public services. A full information sharing strategy is planned for summer 2007. Information sharing is being used to explore new and better methods of supporting the most disadvantaged, who need help across a number of public bodies.

The Identity and Passport Service leads on identity management, with the aim of improving government services by the more effective shared use of data. In 2006, the Government created both a Ministerial Committee and the Public Private Forum on Identity Management. Sir David Varney reported and presented a case for making the most of existing identity management assets and wider data sharing to improve front-line services.

The Chief Technical Officer Council has agreed and published the first release of a cross-government Enterprise Architecture that addresses the issues of reusing services and removing the technical barriers affecting data sharing.

Achieving a step change in professionalism

Government needs the skills to deliver the technology-enabled programmes that will transform public services. The Government IT Profession has been launched with the aim of putting such advisers on a par with other policy, legal, statistical or economic advisers.

Since July 2005, over 7,000 people have registered with the Government IT Profession and, during 2005, a competency and skills framework was introduced that will raise the quality and consistency of assessment across the Civil Service. The broader capabilities required to deliver these technology-enabled programmes are being addressed via close working with the programme and project management and procurement professions (both headed by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC)).

Two workshops were held in 2006, jointly with the National School of Government and the Said Business School, with more planned in January and February 2007. Following on from these workshops, a strategy for the creation of a Government IT Academy is due to be finalised early in 2007.

Support has also been given to departments to ensure that the

right people with the right skills are in the key roles. This has seen the role of the CIO established as a board-level position. In August 2006, the Technology in Business Fast Stream recruitment route to the Civil Service was created for those who have the potential to be the CIOs of the future.

Reliable project delivery

Building on a report from the National Audit Office (NAO), CIOs are working with the OGC to create the conditions for more reliable project delivery and to learn the lessons from those projects that have been delivered successfully. Working with OGC, the CIO Council has also approved new measures that ensure the public sector both launches the right programmes (portfolio management) and then manages and implements them in the right way (programme roles and control mechanisms).

It is intended that the introduction of portfolio management will provide oversight of each department's individual portfolio, as well as a view across the whole central government portfolio. This will ensure that, among other things, opportunities for sharing are recognised, and the right resources are allocated based on priorities.

The programme roles and control mechanisms will bring

robustness to the appointments made to key roles (eg senior responsible owners and programme directors) as well as hard-edged decision making relating to stopping or restarting a programme.

CIO expenditure

The data presented on page 23 shows the IT expenditure in 2005/06 of those parts of the public sector represented on the CIO Council (with the exception of the Government Communications Headquarters).

Working better with IT suppliers

The aim of the CIO Council's supplier management initiative is to make the Government a world-class IT purchaser, obtaining best value for taxpayers. Deliverables already include the first forward look at demand and supply of IT services (ICT Capacity Project Report); a framework that presents performance data on suppliers (Common Assessment Framework); a series of cross-government reviews of the most strategically important suppliers; and the establishment of a joint CIO Council/suppliers board that ensures consistent standards from suppliers, and aims to reduce supplier costs to the Government by up to 20 per cent while driving up IT delivery (the Strategic Supply Board).

Contributions from public sector providers

Information is presented by the following departments and local government CIOs:

- Department for Education and Skills;
- Department of Health;
- Department for Work and Pensions;
- HM Revenue & Customs;
- Department for Transport;
- Home Office and the wider criminal justice system;
- Ministry of Defence;
- Foreign & Commonwealth Office; and
- Communities and Local Government.

There are many examples of delivery against a backdrop of great scale and complexity:

- For pupils, investment in technology is making a real difference to educational attainment, with ICT Test Bed schools demonstrating twice the national rate of improvement in key stage 2 English.

- Picture Archiving and Communications Systems are now benefiting over 250,000 hospital patients per week. Using digital x-rays eliminates problems of lost x-rays and the need to reschedule 5,000 patient procedures a year or x-ray some patients twice. Emerging findings indicate that hospitals implementing these systems can free up about 100,000 staff hours a year to focus better on patients.
- The Pension Service is in the process of implementing a major transformation programme. It has replaced and simplified processes and, as a result, each transformed pension centre is now dealing with its customers' state pension claims in one 20-minute telephone call – rather than talking to customers for at least two hours and on several different occasions. This has resulted in high levels of satisfaction for both customers and staff. By 2011/12, The Pension Service will be saving £170 million annually in operating costs.

There are also further case studies available [online](#)¹⁰, each of which has been endorsed by the department concerned.

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Part I

Driving the strategy forward

Part I of this report provides an overview of progress made in the last year across the three main themes of the Transformational Government strategy: customer-centric services, shared services and professionalism (including reliable project delivery, strategic supplier management and CIO Council IT expenditure).

A detailed analysis of progress against the Transformational Government implementation plan is available [online](#)¹.




Transformation on a huge scale

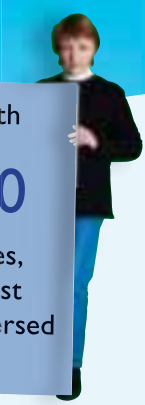
Government departments help vast numbers of people, process massive amounts of information and manage millions of financial transactions every day of every week.



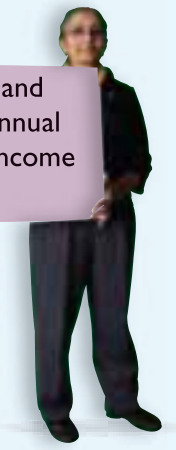
The National Insurance Recording System manages over **£300 billion** and is one of Europe's largest IT systems



The Police National Computer handles around **10 million** information requests each month



The Foreign & Commonwealth Office's network links **16,000** users in **240** posts across **144** countries, making it one of world's largest and most geographically dispersed IT networks



The Department for Work and Pensions manages a larger annual turnover than the national income of the Republic of Ireland



The Department for Work and Pensions delivers **13 million** benefit payments each week – more than **£100 billion** each year – and helps **4,000** people into jobs each day



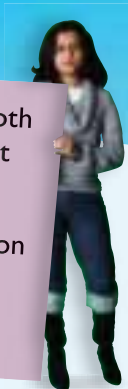
The Defence Information Infrastructure will reach **300,000** users on **150,000** terminals at almost **2,000** Ministry of Defence sites around the world




In 2005/06, HM Revenue & Customs handled **£395 billion** in receipts and administered **£17 billion** in payments

Transforming public service delivery

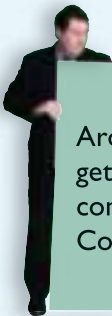
Government is delivering high-quality, accessible services to millions of citizens, businesses and front-line workers every day.



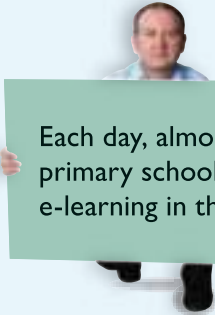
Customers can now apply for both State Pension and Pension Credit in one **20-minute** telephone call, and the information collected is also used to assess eligibility for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit



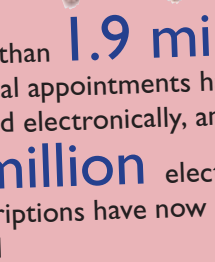
Almost **2 million** people filed their self-assessment tax returns online during the filing period ending 31 January 2006



Around **100,000** families will get IT equipment and a safe internet connection for learning as part of the Computers for Pupils initiative



Each day, almost **1 million** primary school children use e-learning in their classrooms



More than **1.9 million** hospital appointments have been booked electronically, and over **9 million** electronic prescriptions have now been issued



3.7 million motorists had renewed their car tax online by September 2006



New electronic border-control systems have generated **4,456** alerts to border agencies and have resulted in **315** arrests

Strategic context

The origins of Transformational Government

Technology has altered the expectations and aspirations of citizens, businesses and front-line workers.

Private sector transformation now provides people with a range of convenient, high-quality and often personalised services.

In part, the drive for improvement has come from forces outside government. However, pressure to change has also come from within government itself. In the 2002 Spending Review, more than £6 billion of new money was committed to public sector technology.

This enabled a wave of modernisation in health, education and criminal justice – some of the world’s most

challenging operational environments which create the most demanding transformation projects.

Access to technology was an important early goal of this investment. The most disadvantaged people can and do benefit from technology in public services. For example, homeless people have the opportunity to learn new skills, to keep in touch with family and to learn about accommodation or work through mobile telephones or an internet terminal in a hostel.

“We cannot leave public services as they were, we must build them around the personal aspirations of the individual ... renewal must and will be built upon these essential truths: a flexible economy, reformed and personalised public services ...”

Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP, speech to Labour Party Conference 2006

To invest these new resources, public services had to tackle structural problems that had lain dormant for many years while funds had been scarce: a lack of customer focus, large-scale duplication and a shortage of technology skills both in the public sector and among its suppliers.

A strategy for change

The 2005 Transformational Government strategy set out how government will tackle these problems and enable transformation.

In 2005/06 the Transformational Government agenda has moved to the heart of public service reform.

The principles of Transformational Government are at the core of Sir David Varney’s review of service transformation, which the Chancellor has published as part of the analysis informing the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review: [Service transformation: A better service for citizens and businesses, a better deal for the taxpayer](#)¹². The Government has commissioned a delivery plan to implement the report’s findings, to be published in 2007.

“Two-thirds of the country has access to the internet. Millions of people are ordering flights or books or other goods online, they are talking to their friends online, downloading music, all of it when they want to, not when the shop or office is open.

The Google generation has moved beyond the idea of 9 to 5, closed on weekends and Bank Holidays.

Today’s technology is profoundly empowering.

Of course public services are different. Their values are different. But today people won’t accept a service handed down from on high. They want to shape it to their needs, and the reality of their lives ...”

Rt Hon Tony Blair MP, speech to Labour Party Conference 2006

The departmental [Capability Reviews](#)¹³ also embody the principles of Transformational Government.

A hard path to transformation

As with any ambitious transformation agenda, we have had to learn lessons and acknowledge shortcomings. Sometimes things have gone wrong and we regret that.

“In schools we were way behind other countries in computers and IT ... in the CJS [criminal justice system] there was no common IT system at all ... there was a sense that the service was there, delivered to the consumer without much regard to their needs and preferences ... the lack of investment masked what was in reality a much more profound problem than funding alone. It was a failure to modernise.”

Rt Hon Tony Blair MP, speech to the Labour Party National Policy Forum, 9 July 2005

However, independent studies such as those carried out by [The Standish Group](#)¹⁴ in March 2003 confirm that the public sector success rate for technology-enabled change

projects is very similar to that of the private sector, but we must do much more to improve our performance.

“Public spending will be very tightly constrained in the next few years to conform with the macro-economic policy framework. This underlines the importance of IT-enabled transformation in enabling us to continue the improvements we have seen in public services while maintaining ... stability.”

Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Interview, *Computing*, 20 July 2006

Customer-centric services

Putting people's needs at the heart of the system

“We must be relentlessly customer-focused. Many people want a single point of contact for a range of services. The public are not interested in whether their needs are met by department X or agency Y, they just want a good, joined-up service where X and Y talk to each other and share the information the public have provided. We should strive to meet this demand.”

Sir Gus O'Donnell, Cabinet Secretary

Understanding the customer

Under the direction of the [Delivery Council](#)¹⁵, the Service Design Authority has:

- designed tools and techniques to allow government to use what it knows and discovers about what really matters to citizens and businesses to shape the services that affect them. The tools, techniques and exemplars are available [online](#)¹⁶;
- established the Customer Insight Forum as a network to help government gather, analyse and use information about the needs and preferences of citizens and businesses more effectively. Its work directly supports both the Transformational Government strategy and the Government Communications Group's [Engage programme](#)¹⁷;
- supported the Customer Group Directors for [Older People](#)¹⁸ and for [Farmers](#)¹⁹;
- in partnership with departments, agencies and local government developed an approach to using different [service delivery channels](#)²⁰, for example face to face, telephone and online, to their best advantage. This approach will be piloted with Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council;
- developed a model for the greater use of online channels to enable citizens to access services more effectively. This model will be piloted with the collaboration of Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council;
- provided input on customer insight and service delivery channels strategy to the work

of the [Service Transformation Review](#)²¹ undertaken by Sir David Varney on behalf of the Chancellor of the Exchequer as part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. A delivery plan is now in development for this review; and

- designed and is seeking agreement for a pilot to test the effect of putting decision making about how best to meet customers' needs into the hands of front-line staff.

Website rationalisation

The Government's objective is to have strong, strategically effective communications and service delivery via the internet, designed around the needs and lifestyles of citizens.



Directgov is an award-winning cross-government transformation programme with citizens as its focus. Since 2004, it has grown from 800,000 customer visits a month to over 5 million. It now involves 18 government departments and has links to services in nearly all 388 local authorities in England. It can be accessed via the [internet](#)²⁴, via digital television through Sky, ntl: and Telewest, and via mobile telephones. Independent research has shown high levels of customer satisfaction: 83 per cent of people who visit Directgov agree that it is a 'good place to start' and 80 per cent that it offers 'useful information'. Importantly, 70 per cent of people feel that it is 'a site I trust'. It is consistently rated in the top three government websites by usage as monitored by the independent service Hitwise and is now within the top 100 websites by usage in the UK.

Ministers commissioned the main central government departments to review their websites and develop plans for their rationalisation and the migration of content to the [Directgov](#)²² website for citizens and the [Business Link](#)²³ website for businesses.

In the first phase of departmental reviews, 951 websites were considered across 16 central government departments. Decisions have already been taken to close 551 (58 per cent) of these websites; 90 sites have already closed. Decisions have also been taken to continue with

26 websites – although some of their current content will move to Directgov and Business Link – and decisions on the remaining 374 sites will be taken in the next six months.

Further discussions will take place over the next few months in order to produce detailed implementation plans, confirm the role of departmental corporate sites, extend the review to executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies, and encourage further collaboration between departments. This will be completed by June 2007.

Directgov



Shared services

The future of shared corporate services

- Government corporate services (human resources, finance, IT, procurement, etc) could be delivered through a handful of professional organisations – serving a minimum of 20,000 but preferably 50,000 or more customers.
- Staff will be experts in their field and will operate standard business processes on a minimum number of different systems platforms.
- Users will take control of the information, enjoying the highest levels of control, assurance, transparency and self-service.
- Shared service organisations will be characterised by continuous improvement, contestability of supply and transparency of performance.

Sharing services, knowledge, infrastructure and technology represents a major change for government. By working more closely together, both across and within departments, government can save money, reduce waste and move closer to delivering services in the way that citizens want and expect.

Significant progress has already been made

- Transport for London has saved **30 per cent** on its human resources spend in the first year of operating its shared service centre.
- The NHS Shared Business Service has saved **108 health trusts** an average of **34 per cent** of the cost of processing finance transactions through shared finance services. It is on track to deliver savings of **more than £220 million** over 10 years.
- The Ministry of Defence's People, Pay and Pensions Agency is reducing costs at the same time as improving quality. Through sharing and related reforms, the Department is expecting a net benefit of over **£300 million** during the next 10 years.
- The Department for Work and Pensions Shared Services organisation was launched on 1 September 2006, bringing together a wide range of functions, from customer payments and debts to employee services for the Department's **110,000** staff, releasing resources for front-line work.

Case studies detailing progress on shared services are available [online](#)²⁵.

Shared service plans

Shared service sector plans covering the UK public sector are available [online](#)²⁶. Highlights from the plans include the following:

- The education and skills sector is promoting sharing across schools, further education colleges and universities. Work is focusing on finance, human resources and, potentially, learner administration, as well as exploring other ways of collaborating across organisations.
- The health sector will soon begin sharing services in human resources as well as finance. With **1.2 million employees** throughout the sector, this is potentially the largest shared services implementation in the world.
- Shared services are integral to the Home Office's current action plans and several departments' Capability Review implementation plans.
- The Department for Transport and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs are each implementing plans to share corporate services with their respective agencies with the aim of delivering benefits to the front line.

- Most departments have expressed an interest in buying corporate services from another organisation. A number have a preference for buying from another central government organisation. This creates the possibility of convergence within the central government sector.
- Local government has already explored shared services in the front office. One-stop shops and the subsequent joining up of back-office functions are a key example of this. Local authorities are also exploiting shared business functions (eg refuse collection).

Support from the centre

The CIO Council's Shared Services Team has been working closely with the market to ensure suppliers can support the shared service agenda, and with departments to plan and implement shared services.

The team has identified barriers to sharing and is working to break them down wherever possible. A progress report on removing barriers is available [online](#)²⁷.

A toolkit that provides shared service examples, guidelines and templates is available [online](#)²⁸ and has been accessed by practitioners around 1,500 times each week.

Common infrastructure

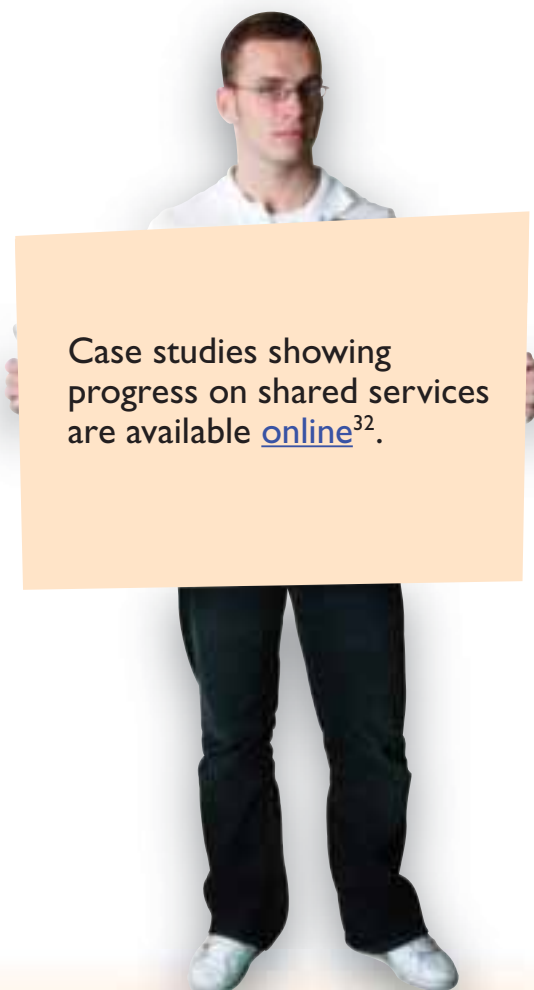
The Government Gateway is an example of the 'build-once-use-often' common infrastructure model. It provides departments and local authorities with a consistent interface through which their customers – and their agents – can securely access over **100 government online services**. There are currently over **9 million** active enrolments by individuals, agents and organisations, and **Gateway availability stands at 99.96 per cent** for the last 12-month period.

Data sharing

The Cabinet Committee, [MISC31](#)²⁹, is developing the Government's strategy for data sharing across the public sector. In September 2006 the Department for Constitutional Affairs published a new vision for [data sharing](#)³⁰, and a strategy is planned for publication by summer 2007.

Government is using information sharing to expand opportunities for the most disadvantaged, particularly those adults who require support from a number of different public bodies. One aim of the [social exclusion action plan](#)³¹, published in September 2006, is to share information so as to identify people with multiple needs and then better manage the provision of services to them.

A programme of pilots will explore alternative approaches to supporting these people. This will give government a better understanding of what information needs to be shared, (for example police, housing and employment information), how to achieve this and what barriers exist to the effective sharing of information to benefit this group.



Defra's Whole Farm Approach

Defra's Whole Farm Approach will drastically reduce the number of forms a farmer has to complete and deliver savings to the industry of up to £16.5m per year.

Identity management

Managing customer identity information more effectively and improving the way data is shared will help government improve the quality of the services it provides, target resources more efficiently and reduce the need for repeated customer contact.

The Identity and Passport Service leads on identity management policy, and one of its corporate objectives is to transform practice across the public and private sectors.

To support better identity management, in the past year government has:

- put in place a new [Ministerial Committee](#)³³ on Identity Management;
- established the [Public Private Forum on Identity Management](#)³⁴ chaired by Sir James Crosby; and
- commissioned the Service Transformation Review, led by Sir David Varney, which has now reported and presents a case for making the most of existing identity management assets and wider data sharing to improve front-line services.
- delivered a [Strategic Action Plan](#)³⁵ for the National Identity Scheme.

An Enterprise Architecture

The key achievement of the Chief Technical Officer Council over the last year has been the agreement and publication of Release 1 of the cross-government [Enterprise Architecture](#)³⁶. The first release of this Enterprise Architecture focuses on building the initial portfolio of opportunities to share and reuse proven services, patterns and designs. It also addresses the technical barriers to data sharing by providing a route to interoperability across government through a common infrastructure. This will help decision makers reduce the total cost of ownership and deliver improvements to services in a quicker and more efficient way.



Achieving a step change in professionalism

To use technology to transform public services, we need to have the skills within government to plan, develop and deliver large-scale, technology-enabled business transformation programmes.

Government IT Profession

We have launched a new profession within government that will ultimately put technology advisers on a par with policy, legal, statistical or economic advisers. More than **7,000 people** have joined the Government IT Profession since it was launched in July 2005.

The Government IT Profession offers training, career development and a framework of standards for IT staff across the public services to help increase technology and delivery expertise.

Building skills

During 2005, the Government [IT Profession skills framework](#)³⁷ was launched, based on the industry standard [Skills Framework for the Information Age](#)³⁸. As part of the Professional Skills for Government programme, this framework now underpins the recruitment, performance management and skills assessment of all civil servants working in IT. This will

raise the quality and consistency of staff assessment across the Civil Service.

The Government has strengthened its relationship with the industry-wide IT profession in the UK. The Government is working with the [ProflIT Alliance](#)³⁹ to raise the standards of professionalism in the demand and supply side of the IT industry and to establish the infrastructure of a formal IT profession.

Improving policy delivery is not just about the Government IT Profession: technology needs to be reflected in policy-makers' skills frameworks too – just as an understanding of law and economics is now. We are working closely with the Department of Trade and Industry and the Sector Skills Councils for [IT and Telecommunications](#)⁴⁰, and [government](#)⁴¹, to develop a blueprint for the IT skills required by non-IT professionals across government.

We are also working closely with other public sector professions to build the broader capabilities required to successfully deliver large-scale change. In particular, we are working closely with the OGC – in its capacity as Head of Profession for the Programme and Project Management and Procurement professions – to ensure that the necessary skills are embedded in departments.

“The Government IT Profession is taking a lead role in the development of a broader, industry-wide IT profession. Innovations like the new Technology in Business Fast Stream for talented graduates send the significant message that technology and delivery skills are no longer second class; they are a priority for government.”

Karen Price, Chief Executive of e-skills uk

Government IT Academy

To ensure that we have the skills within government to plan, develop and deliver large-scale, technology-enabled business transformation programmes, we need a focus on training.

We successfully piloted two workshops in 2006, developed and delivered with the [National School of Government](#)⁴² and the University of Oxford's [Saïd Business School](#)⁴³. We plan to run these again in January and February 2007. Following the success of the pilot, we have worked with the National School of Government to develop a strategy to create a Government IT Academy. The strategy is currently undergoing [consultation](#)⁴⁴ and will be finalised early in 2007. The Academy will have a strong virtual element and will build upon existing development opportunities. It will develop IT skills that:

- support every career level, from new IT practitioner to CIO;
- support the Government IT Profession competency and skills framework; and
- complement the 'core' skills in the Professional Skills for Government programme.

We are currently developing seminar and secondment programmes as part of the Academy, and plan to launch both during 2007.

Managing our talent

We have continued to provide support to departments and large-scale business change programmes to ensure that the right individuals with the right skills are deployed to key roles. This brokering role had not previously existed – major technology appointments used to be made in isolation. In particular, a number of departments have formally established the Chief Information Officer role as a board-level position.

In August 2006, we launched the [Technology in Business Fast Stream](#)⁴⁵ – a new scheme to recruit technology graduates as part of the Civil Service Fast Stream. The scheme will provide an entry route for talented graduates interested in delivering technology-enabled change in the public sector, and who have the potential to become future Chief Information Officers or leaders of large-scale, IT-enabled business change.

“Having started my Civil Service career as a tax inspector at the Inland Revenue in the 1970s, I know from experience that a career structure that rewards professional competence leads to successful delivery of public services. As the new CIO at the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Transformational Government strategy provides my business colleagues and me with clear direction and a framework for developing the professional skills of my staff.”

Chris Chant, Chief Information Officer at Defra

Reliable project delivery

Continuous improvement

CIOs are working with OGC to create the conditions for greater certainty of success in public sector business change programmes. The [OGC Gateway Review](#)⁴⁶ was an early foundation stone: the National Audit Office (NAO) has recognised that it (and other measures) have strengthened our capability year on year.

CIOs and OGC have worked with NAO to learn lessons from successful public and private sector programmes and projects in the UK and overseas. The recent NAO report *Delivering successful IT-enabled business change* provides recommendations on how departments can take these forward.

New measures

The CIO Council has approved new measures to help ensure that the public sector launches the right IT projects and then manages and implements them well. These new measures build on good practice in DWP, HM Revenue and Customs and Criminal Justice IT. They have been developed – and will be implemented – with input from OGC, to ensure that they complement the Gateway review and other processes.

“This report should act as an encouragement to those in government responsible for IT-enabled business change to believe that success is entirely possible.”

National Audit Office, [Delivering successful IT-enabled business change](#)⁴⁷



Portfolio management

There has been no strategic management of the government’s overall investment in IT since the mid-1970s, when all government computers were owned by a single organisation.

Portfolio management is being introduced to provide oversight of, and insight into, significant change programmes that are underway in each department and therefore central government as a whole. Through portfolio management we are seeking to:

- match supply with demand;
- anticipate generic challenges;
- identify duplication and other opportunities for standardisation and sharing;
- challenge relatively low value projects; and
- set priorities when competing for scarce capacity.

The portfolio management process will also provide a viewing platform from which to ensure that the [eight most common causes](#)⁴⁸ of failure are not occurring and that the findings from the recent NAO report are being adhered to.

Relevant case studies and a detailed description of the [portfolio management](#)⁴⁹ process can be found on the CIO website.

Programme roles and control mechanisms

CIOs will bring further improvements in management capability by ensuring the robustness of appointments and the recognition of role responsibilities. Improvements will include the following:

- Ensuring that those appointed to key roles such as senior responsible owner and programme director have skills and experience that are commensurate with programme complexity and risk.
- Encouraging departments to recognise that senior responsible owner roles are critical to programme success, and that these individuals must therefore be afforded the time to fulfil their programme responsibilities.

CIOs will also bring increased rigour to the established programme control mechanisms, based on best practice already being applied successfully in some departments. The approach complements project management and other processes already in use, and further reduces the risk of failure by providing a hard-edged control mechanism that can stop or restart a programme at key points in its life cycle – from policy formation through to benefits realisation. The approach is set out in more detail on the CIO [website](#)⁵⁰.

The challenge

Delivering success in the public sector is tough and the risk of failure is often high. The diversity and complexity of the public sector, the scale and security requirements of its operations, and the need to respond to policy change and legislative deadlines all mean that legacy issues can be expected to continue to surface.

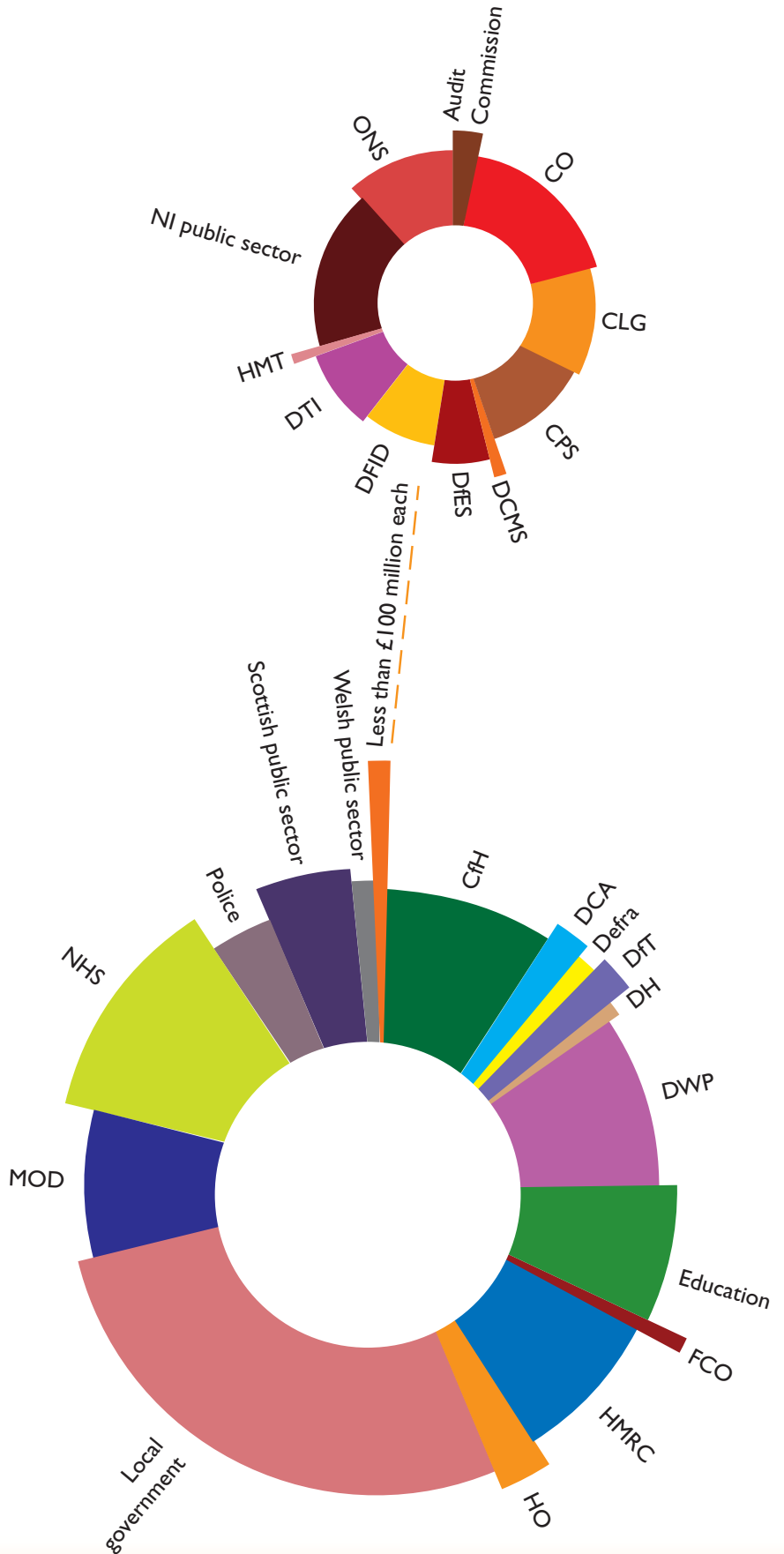
As issues arise we will review our policies, our approach, our training and risk management, and will implement changes to avoid repetition of the issue.

This annual report details other activities that are underway and that also have a positive impact on the success rate of programmes and projects. They include the professionalism agenda that aims to increase the breadth and depth of our information and communication technology teams, our work with suppliers to improve the transparency, team working and understanding between buyers and sellers, and the common infrastructure activities that seek to reuse existing assets rather than building new systems and facilities from scratch every time.

CIO Council IT expenditure

The data shown here relates to the IT expenditure in 2005/06 of those parts of the public sector represented on the CIO Council, with the exception of the Government Communications Headquarters, for which special rules apply. Other parts of the public sector, not represented on the CIO Council, are not included here. Explanatory notes are provided, as accounting practices in relation to IT expenditure can vary across the public sector.

	£ million
Connecting for Health (CfH)	1,056
Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA)	243
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	153
Department for Transport (DfT)	223
Department of Health (DH)	116
Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)	1,143
Education	850
Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO)	101
HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC)	989
Home Office (HO)	328
Local government	3,300
Ministry of Defence (MOD)	936
National Health Service (NHS)	1,441
Police	387
Scottish public sector	600
Welsh public sector	165
Less than £100 million each	383
Audit Commission	13
Cabinet Office (CO)	68
Communities and Local Government (CLG)	45
Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)	46
Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)	5
Department for Education and Skills (DfES)	25
Department for International Development (DFID)	30
Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)	34
HM Treasury (HMT)	5
Northern Irish (NI) public sector	68
Office for National Statistics (ONS)	44



Dept/ sector	IT expenditure 05/06, £ million	Explanatory notes
■ Audit Commission	13	–
■ CO	68	–
■ CfH	1,056	–
■ CLG	45	Based on 2006/07 expected expenditure, and includes capital and resource ICT spend for the department's own business purposes, together with sums that are transferred to local authorities and others for ICT-related purposes. FireControl and FireLink project expenditure is excluded.
■ CPS	46	Approximate annual spend on Compass contract with Logica CMG.
■ DCA	243	–
■ DCMS	5	–
■ Defra	153	Planned expenditure for 2006/07 for core Defra activities split across four main headings: base services, projects, Chief Information Officers Directorate overheads and IT consumables.
■ DfES	25	–
■ DFID	30	Catalyst Business Change Programme £18 million, IT function £12 million. These figures are calculated on an accrual basis. Managed telecoms service voice telecommunication service costs for the UK (£674,451) are not included in the IT function total. Overseas voice communication costs cannot be easily separated out from data communication costs and are therefore included in the overall IT function costs. Accommodation and utilities costs are not included as these are currently treated as a central overhead.
■ DfT	223	Transport Direct £16 million, Driving Standards Agency £10.5 million, Highways Agency £29 million, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency £130.5 million, Maritime and Coastguard Agency (excludes integrated data/voice services) £10 million, Government Car and Dispatch Agency £0.3 million, Vehicle Certification Agency (excludes salaries) £0.4 million, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency £26 million. The amounts shown include the costs of operational services in addition to new systems development.
■ DH	116	Manpower £3.77 million, non-manpower £0.63 million, revenue £20.92 million, capital £8.16 million, arm's-length bodies £82 million.
■ DTI	34	ICT expenditure for core DTI activities as reported in the department's annual accounts. Of this, £30 million related to expenditure with the department's preferred ICT supplier (Fujitsu) and £4 million with a range of other suppliers.
■ DWP	1,143	The reported numbers are on a resource accounting basis. They are the total of ongoing/recurring, one-off and change expenditure, including both resource and capital expenditure. Internal functions identified as entirely information system/information technology are included.
■ Education	850	Schools £600 million, further education £250 million. Does not include IT spend by higher education.
■ FCO	101	–
■ HMRC	989	Private finance initiative contract payments £151 million, IT services and consumables £507 million, IT capital expenditure £331 million.
■ HMT	5	This figure includes capital as well as revenue for the whole of HMT, but not the depreciation or cost of capital charges on capitalised equipment. It includes purchase of hardware, software licenses, maintenance and repair and telecoms, but does not include information system staff costs (£2.446 million).
■ HO	328	This includes all costs incurred by the core Home Office, including IT staff costs and resource and capital expenditure on IT. For agencies (the Identity and Passport Service and the Prison Service) it includes all expenditure except IT staff costs for the Identity and Passport Service.
■ Local government	3,300	This figure is based on an extrapolation of a voluntary 27 per cent sample of local authority returns. It includes the servicing costs of capital expenditure. It breaks down as follows: staff costs 46 per cent, software 12 per cent, contracts for services 11 per cent, hardware 11 per cent, data and voice 9 per cent, consultancy 3 per cent, other 8 per cent (source: Society of information technology management).
■ MOD	936	MOD annual report and accounts 2005/06.
■ NHS	1,441	–
■ NI public sector	68	–
■ ONS	44	Includes all expenditure by IT department and IT-related expenditure controlled by projects and programmes, but excludes capital charges.
■ Police	387	Includes £202 million for Airwave and £185 million for national police IT (including the Police Information Technology Organisation). Does not include local police forces' IT spend, which in 2003/04 was £41 million.
■ Scottish public sector	600	Includes bodies whose responsibilities are devolved to the Scottish Parliament and excludes UK departments whose functions extend to Scotland. Comprises actual expenditure from 75 per cent of the Scottish public sector, to which expenditure assumptions have been applied to cover the remaining 25 per cent.
■ Welsh public sector	165	Hardware £82 million, telecommunications £17 million, maintenance services £15 million, mobile phones £5 million, software and licences £45.6 million.
Total	12,414	

Working better with IT suppliers

The CIO Council's goal is that government should become a world-class IT purchaser – delivering to the public and government staff modern, reliable services that offer the best value for the taxpayer and being a flagship customer for the best and most innovative IT suppliers.

The CIO Council's supplier management initiative will deliver the programme of action set out in the Transformational Government strategy. Acting on behalf of the Council and under the leadership of the CIO of DWP, OGC has already done the following:

- Published the first forward look at supply and demand for IT services ([ICT Capacity Project Report](#)⁵¹). While a number of capability issues were identified, the project concluded that there is unlikely to be a widespread shortfall in ICT delivery capacity over the next three years. The Government needs to ensure that it has a detailed understanding of the IT market's capability and capacity, together with the Government's impact upon it. This analysis will be repeated every six months. Information about significant planned government procurements can be found [online](#)⁵².
- Established a Common Assessment Framework for IT suppliers, which presents consistent and objective performance data on the work that key suppliers are carrying out across government. The IT industry was closely consulted in the preparation of the framework through the trade association Intellect. It embodies relevant elements from Intellect's own supplier code of best practice.
- Completed the first ever round of formal cross-government reviews of the performance of each of the most strategically important IT suppliers, engaging all CIOs who are customers of those suppliers and agreeing actions to drive improvement where necessary. Supplier development plans will be developed on an incremental basis.

In addition to this, the CIO Council and the chief executives of the key IT suppliers have established a Strategic Supply Board to give further strategic impetus to improvement throughout the supply chain. The Board has set itself goals of substantial and sustainable improvement in three key areas over the next four years:

- To ensure that all departments and all suppliers consistently meet the best standards for project and programme delivery by 2010.
- To reduce the costs of government IT by up to 20 per cent overall (including up to 40 per cent in the total cost of government desktop), sharing the benefits between reinvestment in the technology needed for further reforms in public services and contributing to the overall financial and efficiency targets that departments will have to meet.
- To steadily improve procurement management year on year, so that by 2010 best practice is applied to all procurement and all procurement happens according to agreed timescales.



“These bold aspirations will require a radical reappraisal of the way we do things in government – and will require a willingness on the part of both government and industry to transform the way we operate, considering new approaches to delivery.”

Joe Harley, DWP IT Director General and Chief Information Officer

Part 2

Contributions from public service providers

This part of the report highlights evidence of transformational change already apparent across the public sector. This information has been contributed by the departments listed below and by local government CIOs.

Department for Education and Skills

Department of Health

Department for Work and Pensions

HM Revenue & Customs

Department for Transport

Home Office and wider Criminal Justice System

Ministry of Defence

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Communities and Local Government

Education, skills and children's services

Children, learners and teachers are benefiting from a **£3.5 billion** information and communication technology investment in education, skills and children's services.

Almost **1 million** primary school children using e-learning in class each day

A **three-fold** improvement in computer-to-pupil ratios in schools

Electronic whiteboards being used in nearly every school

Almost all UCAS **applications** are completed online

Almost **16 million users** have access to broadband throughout the education system

350,000 teachers are saving time by using ICT for lesson planning and administration

Better attainment

The Department for Education and Skills is leading the drive to use new technology to transform teaching and learning across **23,000 schools**, and throughout further and higher education, skills training, adult learning and children's services.

For pupils, investment in technology is making a real difference to educational attainment, with ICT Test Bed schools demonstrating twice the national rate of improvement in Key Stage 2 English.

Meeting individual needs

The use of digital content and services supports personalised learning – widely recognised as key to raising educational attainment. Learning technologies are particularly helpful in engaging marginalised and under-achieving pupils and in improving motivation.

- Education practitioners can more easily tailor learning materials and activities to individuals through the use of technology.
- They can use learner assessment and information systems to inform and adapt that personalisation.
- Learners have more control; they can choose digital content and media that best suit their learning needs and style.

Getting the right technology in place

In 2005/06, over **£500 million** was invested in ICT in schools: all schools now have broadband access and are linked to the [National Education Network](#)⁵³.

To ensure that locally-procured ICT offers the best value and meets the right standards, [national framework agreements](#)⁵⁴ which offer national purchasing power while still respecting local independence are being put in place.

Leaving no one behind

[Computers for Pupils](#)⁵⁵, a **£60 million** initiative to install ICT in the homes of some of the most disadvantaged pupils in England, was launched in 2006. Over an 18-month period, computing equipment and a safe internet connection for learning will be installed for around **100,000 families**.

[MyGuide](#)⁵⁶ was also piloted in 2006: it is a facility that seeks to make the internet more accessible and usable for large groups of people who do not currently use it – whether because of disability or a lack of skills or confidence.

Leading-edge schools

Shirelands, a secondary school for 11–19-year-olds in the West Midlands, is using a virtual learning environment.

- It offers an online pool of learning resources and facilities, enabling teachers to share lesson plans and best practice.
- It provides access to a personal online space for pupils, parents and teachers – not only for this school but for nine other local participating schools.
- Teachers can allocate individual tasks for pupils, pupils can access resources and ask for online support from teachers from home, and parents can get more involved by checking progress and homework.
- Rylands High School in South Africa is also connected, making it possible for pupils to collaborate on school projects and join assemblies via video conference.



Protecting children

The Government is committed to introducing an [information-sharing](#)⁵⁷ index to support the work of children's services in all areas of England by the end of 2008. The index will help to transform children's services by supporting more effective prevention and early intervention, and contributing to improved outcomes and experiences of public services for all children, young people and families.

The index will do this by supporting better communication among practitioners across education, health, social care and youth offending, allowing them to contact one another more easily and quickly. Where appropriate, the index will allow these individuals to share information about children and young people who need services or about whose welfare they are concerned.



Health

Each year in England's National Health Service:

325 million consultations take place with GPs or nurses in primary care

13.3 million people attend their first outpatient appointment

13.9 million people attend the accident and emergency department

5.4 million people are admitted to hospital for planned treatment

4.2 million emergency admissions to hospital are made

649 million prescription items are dispensed in the community

6.4 million calls are made to NHS Direct



The National Programme for IT

The [National Programme for IT](#)⁵⁸ is the world's largest civil IT project. It includes the following:

- An electronic NHS Care Records Service to improve the sharing of patients' records across the NHS with their consent.
- An electronic booking service – Choose and Book – to make it easier and faster to book hospital appointments for patients.
- An electronic prescription service.
- A national network which will ensure that the IT infrastructure can meet NHS needs – both now and in the future.
- Picture Archiving and Communications Systems.

By enabling better management of patient information and access for health professionals to that information when and where it is needed, including in an emergency, the National Programme for IT can improve care and increase patient safety. For example, it can help to reduce mistakes in prescribing

and dispensing medication, as well as delivering greater protection for the confidentiality of patient information.

Picture Archiving and Communications Systems are now **benefiting over 250,000 patients** every week. Using digital x-rays eliminates problems of lost x-rays (up to 12 per cent can be lost with traditional x-ray films) and the need to reschedule 5,000 patient procedures a year, or to x-ray some patients twice. Emerging findings indicate that hospitals implementing these systems can free up about **100,000 staff hours** a year (equivalent to 50 members of staff) to focus on patients better.

Every week, hundreds of members of NHS staff now successfully receive new systems. As a result, tens of thousands more patients receive better care. The National Programme for IT now delivers more IT support than any other public service organisation in the country. It also continues to run large heritage systems and install major software upgrades on time, to budget and without problems.

The Quality Management and Analysis System – which gives GP practices and primary care trusts objective evidence and feedback on the quality of care delivered to patients – and the national Choose and Book service – which for the first time combines electronic booking with a choice of place, date and time for first outpatient appointments – are other examples of the successful introduction of IT by the National Programme for IT.

The delivery of over **16,000 connections** to the NHS national network on time and to budget is a major milestone.

What has the National Programme for IT already delivered?

- More than **1.9 million** hospital appointments have now been booked electronically – at a rate of **12,000 a day**. These account for about **31 per cent** of NHS referrals for treatment.
- Sixty-five new Picture Archiving and Communications Systems are now live and more than **119 million digital images** have been stored, benefiting over **12 million patients** per year.
- Over **9 million electronic prescriptions** have been issued.
- When complete, the NHS network will be one of the largest virtual private networks in the world. More than **16,000 NHS locations** are connected already, and over **1 million patient records** are successfully retrieved from the Personal Demographics Service every day, helping to correctly identify patients.
- As well as the national systems, over **16,000 local systems** are serving well over **300,000 NHS staff**.

The challenges of implementation

The National Programme for IT is a large, complex programme, and the NHS is one of the world's largest organisations, itself undergoing radical change to deliver better healthcare for people. A key challenge is to introduce modern IT and the business changes necessary to exploit it fully without impacting the safe delivery of care.

In a 10-year programme of this size, scale and complexity, it is to be expected that there will be issues and difficulties; NHS Connecting for Health has been open about this.

The National Programme for IT has set itself ambitious and challenging targets to deliver systems to provide defined benefits. It believes it is better to delay implementation of a system to get it right for patients and clinicians, rather than to deploy it rapidly and get it wrong.



The software to support key national elements of the programme has been delivered on time and to budget, and parts of the national systems have gone live as planned. There have been delays to the clinical record system due to the complexity of developing software that interacts with a large number of existing systems, and also due to the need to get doctors to agree on the contents of electronic health records. The cost of these delays is being met by ICT suppliers, not the taxpayer.

Operating in this environment, and on this scale, inevitably presents challenges that the programme has overcome through innovation. These challenges include the following:

- Positively engaging clinicians in the business change necessary to deliver the benefits of the new technology to patients and staff, ensuring that systems deliver their full potential.
- The capacity and capability of suppliers within an innovative but tight contracting and performance environment.
- The capacity and capability of project and programme management within the NHS.
- Delivering such a major system at a time of great structural business change for the NHS, including the creation of independent trusts.
- Positively engaging all stakeholders to ensure that all concerns and criticisms are addressed.

The National Programme for IT has been subjected to a great deal of critical scrutiny, including from the National Audit Office; its [report](#)⁵⁹ on the value for money of the programme noted the substantial progress made, but also commented that successful implementation continues to present significant challenges.

NHS Direct

People want healthcare advice available out of hours from home or from their workplace when they can't get to a doctor: this required a real transformation in healthcare delivery. [NHS Direct](#)⁶⁰ is the first truly **multimedia 24-hour health service** organisation, giving people health information and advice on the phone, online, through digital TV and through printed self-help guides.

The service **grew by 47 per cent** in 2005/06, with more than **23 million patient contacts** throughout the year. By April 2006, NHS Direct was receiving more than 2 million patient contacts per month, more than double the level of the previous year.

In 2005/06, NHS Direct:

- answered **6.8 million** phone calls; and
- attracted **13.5 million visitors** to NHS Direct Online.

Work, benefits and pensions

In promoting opportunity for all, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is delivering better services to people, businesses and its front-line staff through a huge investment in technology-enabled business change.

A **£6 billion**-plus investment over five years from 2003 supports DWP to:

Help over **20 million customers** to find work, claim benefits and plan for older age

Serve **more customers** than Barclays UK

Deliver **13 million benefit payments** each week – totalling more than **£100 billion** each year

Help **4,000 people into jobs** every day – including putting **400,000 job vacancies** online

Transform delivery to customers so that most pensions claims can be dealt with in one **20-minute telephone call**

Manage a **larger annual turnover** than the national income of the Republic of Ireland



Helping people to find work

People looking for work now have access to over 400,000 job vacancies through 8,600 wheelchair-friendly 'job points' around the country, via the Jobseeker Direct phone service (which takes over **180,000 calls** a week), and [online](#)⁶¹. The website attracts over 1.5 million visits each week and is the biggest of its kind in the UK.

Since May 2005, employers have been able to put their vacancies online 24 hours a day using [Employer Direct](#)⁶².

This service now accounts for **27 per cent** of all notified job vacancies.

When people need to claim benefits, DWP's Customer Management System now provides staff with on-screen information and guidance: less paper is used, and contact centres can stay open longer for customers. An improvement plan has addressed the teething troubles and the Customer Management System is now delivering reliably. A new system release in November 2006 means that cases no longer have to be rebuilt when inaccurate personal information has been recorded. Looking to the future, Jobcentre Plus is refocusing its resources to ensure delivery of the new Employment and Support Allowance by 2008.

Supporting families and children

Work to improve the service of the [Child Support Agency](#)⁶³ continues alongside the announcement of the Government's plans for an improved system of child support.

The stability and operational performance of the new computer system have improved, and contracted service levels are now consistently met. An **additional £120 million** is being invested over three years to improve customer service even further.

Helping disabled people

The quality of service for **5 million callers** to the Disability and Carers Service's helpline has been transformed. Only one per cent of callers now get an engaged tone, compared with 77 per cent just two years ago.

Directgov now joins up government information, and is particularly relevant to people with disabilities: from financial support to the location of designated parking bays and accessible petrol stations, [Directgov](#)⁶⁴ is the answer.

Since March 2006, the main benefits (including those for disabled people, such as the Carer's Allowance) have been able to be claimed online. This will be extended to other areas by the end of 2007.

Providing people with security in older age

The Pensions Transformation Programme, a major initiative to improve customer service by modernising and simplifying the benefit claim process, is transforming benefit delivery for today's elderly.

In one 20-minute telephone call, customers can now apply for both the state pension and Pension Credit, and the information provided can also be used to assess their eligibility for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit.

Eight million automatic state pension [forecasts](#)⁶⁵ were generated in 2005/06, up from 2.7 million in 2004/05, helping people in work to plan for the future.

Managing customer information

DWP's Customer Information System is one of Europe's largest databases, providing a single source of secure, accurate information about **90 million customer records** across government. It is now securely accessible to **80,000** members of DWP staff, **60,000 users** from seven other government departments, and over **400 local authorities**.

The Customer Information System has improved services across government by sharing customer information. For example, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency can now automatically exempt disabled people from vehicle excise duty, and The Pension Service and local authorities can identify state pension customers who may be able to claim additional benefits. Joining up saves customers time and defeats fraud.

Transforming DWP's IT capability

DWP's realigned ICT contracts now provide for higher levels of service and better technology at market-competitive prices. The Department only pays for the services it needs for its business, rather than for surplus capacity. The services are delivered at a lower overall cost to the Department and include a desktop refresh and an upgrade to a high-quality single voice and data network – at no extra cost.

Revenue and customs

In 2005/06, HM Revenue and Customs:

Handled
£405 billion
in receipts

Administered
£17 billion
in payments

Successfully upgraded
the National Insurance
Recording System – one
of **Europe's
biggest** IT systems

Received
2 million
self-assessment tax
returns online

Handled **560 million tonnes**
of freight through **120 ports**
and **50 airports**

Processed **25 million**
import/export declarations and collected
or secured **£22 billion in**
import duties

[HM Revenue and Customs](#)⁶⁶
(HMRC) is responsible for
collecting taxes, paying tax
credits and child benefit, and
enforcing the UK's frontiers.

Tax returns made easier

In the filing period ending
31 January 2006, nearly
2 million people filed their
self-assessment tax returns online
– an increase of **38 per cent**
on the previous year. During the
two days before the deadline,
8,700 returns were received
each hour. The total number
of returns filed by December
2006 was well in excess of
the total filed to December
2005, predicting a likely further
significant increase for the period
ending January 2007.



The system has been improved in response to customer feedback and now remembers personal details securely, pre-fills forms, performs all calculations automatically and makes instant refunds electronically.

The online service also saw **1.1 million employer annual returns** and over **40 million** end-of-year summaries being filed by businesses – a **13 per cent increase** on the previous year. Another increase is certain for 2006/07.

The CD-ROM for employers, developed in response to customer feedback, has an improved training package that makes life easier for employers using online filing for the first time. It includes comprehensive and easy-to-follow instructions and a means of checking calculations. In 2006 the CD-ROM won the Institute of Payroll Professionals Innovation Award – after being put forward not by HMRC but by the people who use it.

Benefiting families

Six million families, including 10 million children, depend on [tax credits](#)⁶⁷. During 2005/06, **£17.3 billion** was distributed in child tax credit and working tax credit.

An unprecedented attack by fraudsters caused HMRC to close the online tax credit service in December 2005. Work is continuing to improve the site's security so that online applications can start again as soon as possible.

Making importing and exporting easier

Importers, exporters and freight forwarders can complete customs formalities online; last year HMRC processed over **25 million customs** transactions and collected **£22 billion** in customs duties.

Work also began to develop the International Trade Single Window, providing online information to anyone importing to, or exporting from, the UK. This is a joint initiative between HMRC, the Department of Trade and Industry's Small Business Service, and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

An information business

Data is at the heart of HMRC's business, and by addressing the root causes of poor quality data, HMRC is improving both operational efficiency and customer service.

Through initiatives such as the joint work between HMRC and DWP to share basic information such as name and address details, customers don't have to provide the same information so many times, and fewer mistakes are made. The initiative also makes it easier to identify any abuse of tax allowances and benefits.

The National Insurance Recording System provides information relating to **70 million records** to over **66,000 users** in private industry and government. It processes **1 billion off-line** and **300 million online transactions** each year, manages over **£300 billion**, and is one of Europe's largest IT systems.

Maintaining this system is vital to ensuring correct forecasts and payments for the millions of people planning their retirement, in receipt of benefits or in receipt of a pension, and it was successfully upgraded in 2006.

Streamlined systems

When HMRC was formed in April 2005, it looked to improve efficiency while bringing together over 100,000 staff running corporate services and using a variety of incompatible systems.

The first phase of an enterprise resource planning system delivered new financial and procurement processes and systems in 11 months, on time, to budget and using standard industry software. The second phase, a new human resources system, went live in November 2006.

Transport

Last year, **2.6 million people** booked their driving test online, with **£70 million** of fees collected automatically

Around **19,000 MOT garages** are now linked by computer

3.7 million motorists have renewed their car tax online

Each year, the Highways Agency receives **78,000 calls** and **13,000 emails** to its enquiry service and **45,000 calls** to its automated traffic information service

40,000 Highways Agency customers have signed up for automated email traffic alerts



Faster, more convenient 24-hour services for customers online

With **39 million drivers**, **32 million vehicle keepers** and **100,000 commercial vehicle operators** the Department for Transport's agencies work on a scale far larger than any private sector transport organisation. Yet investment in technology is allowing them to provide cutting-edge online services that live up to their customers' demands.

Self-service facilities now enable private motorists to go online to apply for a first provisional driving licence, book a driving test, renew their car tax or declare their vehicle off the road. To renew car tax once meant a trip to the Post Office with a pile of documents. Turning it into a five-minute transaction on the internet meant **computerising 19,000 MOT garages**, a major reworking of government business processes that serve **32 million people**, and persuading the insurance industry to provide a central database of insurance details. Computerising MOT garages proved more challenging and took longer to deliver than expected, but the Department for Transport and the supplier worked together to overcome the challenges, and the system was delivered successfully.

For commercial vehicle operators there are a host of internet services, and **60 per cent of all transactions** with operators are now carried out online.

Convenient and accessible online services may improve the customer's experience but another important benefit is that convenience increases compliance with the law. This in turn reduces the demands on those who investigate and enforce it and, more importantly, improves road safety.

Front-line staff

Technology allows the Driver, Vehicle and Operator group of agencies to share information and opens up access to that information for their front-line staff. Thanks to a hand-held computer, staff from the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency can improve enforcement and road safety by accessing commercial vehicle data at the roadside. They can use the device to check whether the vehicle has passed the required tests or whether there is a warning out against a particular vehicle or operator.

Safety is also the ultimate benefit of the computerisation of around 19,000 MOT garages. The link-up makes MOT testing more consistent and secure, which in turn helps to prevent fraud.

Informed travellers

The Highways Agency has increased the use of existing services and the number of ways it provides travel information to its customers. New services include advanced warnings of planned events and more strategic information on roadside variable message signs, and a 24-hour automated 'Traffic England' telephone service and website. Trials of high-tech interactive information points at 24 motorway service areas displaying live traffic information attract over **60,000 people each month**. Live traffic information from the Highway Agency's National Traffic Control Centre is also broadcast on several radio stations.

Transport Direct

The Department for Transport-funded online journey planning service, [Transport Direct](#)⁶⁸, is helping people to plan door-to-door journeys across the whole of Great Britain by any mode of transport. Since its launch in late 2004, the site has been accessed **11 million times a year**.



Crime and borders

During 2005/06, the Crown Prosecution Service prosecuted over **1.17 million cases**, with over **895,000 defendants convicted** in Magistrates' Courts and almost **73,000** convicted in the Crown Court

New electronic border-control systems have generated **4,456 alerts** to border agencies and have resulted in **315 arrests**

The Police National Computer handles around **10 million requests** for information every month

The Crown Prosecution Service IT programme provides a national computer network, desktop equipment and case management software to around **8,000** of its own personnel and over **1,000 police staff** engaged in victim and witness cases

The Crown Prosecution Service Case Management System is now supporting staff in almost **700 sites**. **4 million cases** have been registered on the system

Improving the criminal justice system

In January 2006 alone, the [Police National Computer](#)⁶⁹ processed **10 million transactions**, helping the police and criminal justice agencies research vehicles, crimes and property.

The Police National Computer is accessible to **every force in the UK** and is now accessible to police in the field through Airwave hand-held digital radio devices.

Airwave is a digital radio service that enables much clearer, more secure communication than the old analogue system. The Airwave service is being delivered under a 19-year private finance initiative valued at over £3 billion. The migration of police forces from their old systems to Airwave

is now in the final stages, with **160,000 active users** out of a planned police total of 180,000. The recent adoption of Airwave by the fire and ambulance services will improve radio interoperability between the emergency services.



A national fingerprint identification service provides support to the police service by processing **100,000 records of arrests** every month. The system also interfaces with the Immigration and Asylum Fingerprint System in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate, providing both organisations with additional identification capabilities.

The [National Offender Management Information System](#)⁷⁰ will support end-to-end offender management by providing prisons and probation services with a single record of an offender that can be accessed and updated in real time. Introduction of the system into **139 prisons** (including privately run establishments) and **42 separate probation areas** will take place over two years from its start in December 2006 and will involve the training of over **78,000 staff**, the building of a single IT infrastructure and the merging and migration of **200,000 offender records**.

Secure email now enables police to respond to a request for details of previous convictions from a probation officer on the same day.

The criminal justice system Exchange XHIBIT Portal provides Crown Court hearing information to Magistrates' Courts, the Witness Service, Victim Support, the police, the National Offender Management Service and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in minutes rather than days. The Exchange facility also enables the electronic transfer of case information between police and CPS systems.

The Witness Management System, part of the joint Crown Prosecution Service/police service initiative, No Witness No Justice, enables witness care officers to support the needs of individual victims and witnesses. By the end of August 2006 in excess of **half a million cases** had been registered on the system.

In response to the establishment of the [Serious and Organised Crime Agency](#)⁷¹ in April 2006, infrastructure was set up to enable CPS's organised crime division to exchange confidential information with it.

The [IMPACT Programme](#)⁷² is improving the ability of the police service to manage and share operational information to prevent and detect crime and make our communities safer. The programme has already delivered the IMPACT Nominal Index, which enables forces to see which other forces may hold information on particular individuals of interest to them.

Information technology has transformed crime-fighting by helping to deny criminals the use of the road. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) National Automatic Number Plate Recognition system processes 5 million readings daily, and will build to 50 million daily in 2007 to make it one of the biggest web services in Europe. For every £1,000 spent on the system there are 2.02 arrests, 8.18 fixed penalty notices and 2.46 vehicle seizures.

Better border control

The Joint Border Operations Centre, which opened in 2005, runs an e-borders system to match information in travel documents with data from the Immigration and Nationality Directorate, HM Revenue and Customs, the police, the Identity and Passport Service and UKvisas.

The Joint Borders Operation Centre analyses **12 million airline passenger movements on 36 routes and 17 carriers**. The number of checks is expected to grow to **30 million** by March 2008.

UKvisas is rolling out a system to support fingerprint checking for UK visa applicants worldwide.

In March 2006, the Identity and Passport Service launched the biometric passport to counter fraud, and in July 2006 issued the millionth biometric passport.



Defence and foreign affairs

The Defence Information Infrastructure will reach **300,000 users** on **150,000 terminals** at about **2,000 Ministry of Defence sites** around the world

Using ICT to improve asset management means that the Army's vehicle fleet has been reduced, leading to **benefits worth around £30 million**

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office's global network links **16,000 users** across **144 countries**

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office website receives **12 million visits** each month

Supporting the Armed Forces

New information systems are making UK armed forces more effective, better run and more efficient. Underpinning these systems is the [Defence Information Infrastructure](#)⁷³, which was rolled out in September 2006.

The infrastructure will deliver a secure, joined-up computer system for 300,000 users on 150,000 terminals at nearly 2,000 Ministry of Defence sites around the world – including the front line. The system will be fully rolled out before the end of 2009.

Logistics are essential to modern warfare; the job of maintaining and supporting equipment all over the world is managed by the [Defence Logistics Organisation](#)⁷⁴ (DLO).

Over the last five years, DLO has improved the way its business is carried out through the [Defence Logistics Transformation Programme](#)⁷⁵, much of which has been enabled by new technology systems. The Joint Asset Management and Engineering Solution has changed the way the Army manages its vehicle fleet. It has already enabled more efficient vehicle use and a reduction in fleet numbers to deliver benefits in the region of **£30 million**. It is used by **more than 3,000 people** to manage **23,000 equipment types**.



Benefits for staff

Using the Defence Information Infrastructure, the People Programme enables civilian staff to book training and leave, and apply for jobs online. Further work will improve the way civilian staff are paid – a service that the Ministry of Defence also delivers to several other government organisations.

The joint personnel administration [programme](#)⁷⁶ harmonises a range of Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force policies and regulations, and provides a single, modern administration system that personnel can access wherever they are in the world. The programme went live with the Royal Air Force in March 2006 and will roll out to the other two services by the end of 2007, eventually serving almost **300,000 regular and reserve personnel**.

Better buying

Every year, the Ministry of Defence handles nearly **400,000 contracts**. Expansion of the [Defence Electronic Commerce Service](#)⁷⁷ (DECS) will enable more of the demand for commodity items to be managed electronically. It also hosts the stock management system for the bulk fuels inventory, which processes over **750 million litres of fuel** each year.

The benefits of DECS have also been extended to other government organisations. A [collaboration programme](#)⁷⁸ enables the Ministry of Defence, other government departments and industry to interact in a secure and trusted environment.

Delivering diplomatic and consular services

Britain's diplomats all over the world need the right information at the right time, in the right place, and often in a hostile security environment. The [Foreign & Commonwealth Office](#)⁷⁹ (FCO) has one of the largest and most geographically dispersed IT networks in the world, linking **16,000 users in 240 posts across 144 countries**. This global network offers fast, secure and reliable services to staff and customers at home and overseas.

British citizens need up-to-the minute advice about precautions to take when travelling. To get this information, **3 million citizens** across the world access FCO websites in the UK and embassy websites overseas up to **12 million times each month**, mostly for travel advisory and visa services. The Department also sends 1.5 million emails every year, alerting subscribers of any changes to travel advice.

In the future, integrated systems will be an important part of the FCO's service to British and foreign citizens overseas. Work is underway to securely link the FCO's information systems with those in other government departments, particularly the Home Office, Cabinet Office, Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence.



Communities and local government

New technology is already transforming the way people use local government services. And that same technology is expected to bring efficiency gains of over £1.1 billion by 2007/08.

The typical local authority has **98 per cent** of its services e-enabled

4 million e-payment transactions will be accepted via local authority websites during 2006/07

Over **113,000** electronic planning applications are expected to be received in 2007

Local authority websites receive around **15 million** unique visits per month

Strong and prosperous communities

New technology is already transforming the way people use and access local government services. That same technology is expected to bring efficiency gains of **over £1.1 billion** by 2007/08. Many local authorities have already risen to the challenges laid out in the Transformational Government strategy and are delivering significant performance improvements and cost savings. New targets are being set for what transformed local government, supported by technology, should look like.

Commitments for transforming local services are set out in Chapter 7 of the local government

White Paper *Strong and Prosperous Communities*⁸⁰. Those commitments are designed to take forward work in the following areas:

- Business process improvement.
- New ways of working.
- Shared services and joint working across organisations.
- Improved customer focus.
- Moving people to new channels.
- Understanding 'costs to serve' in order to increase efficiency.

A **'business improvement package'** for local public services is planned to be published in early 2007, setting out a coherent package of improvement tools covering business process improvement techniques, technology and collaboration.



Under the guidance of the National Process Improvement Project, a package of support is also being developed to examine and redesign end-to-end business processes, targeting service improvement and increased efficiency. In addition, work has been initiated with the Local Government Association to create a vision for joined-up access to front-line services, across services within councils, between councils and with other agencies. This will support best practice that is already underway.

Local e-Government

The transformational local government agenda is also reflected in three ongoing national projects building on the work of the local e-government programme.

The first of these projects is [Government Connect](#)⁸¹: the aim is that by sharing customer information between local and central government securely, services can be tailored to suit an individual citizen's needs. For example, a customer can seamlessly access council and central government services at the same time. A citizen wanting to claim benefits currently often needs to contact their local authority housing benefits department, Jobcentre Plus, Citizens' Advice Bureau and Registered Social Landlord. By using Government Connect to help join up these agencies, the citizen should receive improved accuracy in their claims processing and quicker service delivery.

There are a wealth of innovative and successful IT initiatives across local government that are often overlooked. There are too many to list in full here, but there follow a few contrasting examples:

- **Hampshire County Council** has developed [OT Direct](#)⁸⁴, an improved system for handling requests from citizens, social services and healthcare professionals for help from occupational therapy services in Hampshire. By transforming access mechanisms and business processes, waiting lists for services have been reduced from months to weeks – with direct benefits for Hampshire citizens. Significant increases in service demands have also been met without increasing the demand for full occupational therapy assessments.
- **Hammersmith & Fulham Council** developed a customer-focused segmentation model to understand how people like to interact with the Council. It is now planning a major restructuring programme to bring service delivery and means of communication more in line with customer preference and need.
- **Birmingham City Council** is achieving huge efficiency gains by transforming its corporate business processes. By **investing £100 million** in transforming its infrastructure, processes and culture, the Council will **save £600 million** over the next 10 years.
- The **Liverpool Direct** council contact centre is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The centre currently handles around **50,000 calls per week**, and in **90 per cent of cases** the call is resolved the first time, without the caller having to be put through to another team. There are plans to extend the centre to deal with 80 per cent of council services.
- At **Tameside Council**, the internet has become the primary means for accessing council services. The council has succeeded in managing its business more efficiently by moving people to cheaper delivery channels, while providing the same or better service, during a period when the total number of customer contacts has risen.

The second project is [Local Directgov](#)⁸², which provides citizens with easy and direct links between the Directgov website and all the services that their local authority provides online.

The third project is the 'Connect to your council' [Take-Up Campaign](#)⁸³, which is designed to raise citizen awareness of the range of local authority services now available online, and to encourage people to use them.

Digital inclusion

It is crucial to ensure that the most vulnerable people have the capability to use transformational local government services. Communities and Local Government is supporting initiatives that focus on identifying and delivering local services to excluded people using new technologies.

- The [digital challenge](#)⁸⁵ competition will fund a world-leading example of a digital community, focusing on benefiting those at risk of social exclusion.
- The digital challenge inclusion network will create dialogue across sectors (public, private, voluntary and academic) in order to see how ICT can better address digital and social exclusion issues.
- A digital inclusion team has been established, with the key objectives of focusing support and development on the use of technology to ensure better delivery to the most excluded.

People who live in remote rural areas and who don't have a computer at home are not being left out either. For example, in the **East Riding of Yorkshire**, the CitizenLink initiative allows people in rural areas to access information remotely through video-conferencing. In **North Cornwall**, local volunteer trainers are helping people to make free use of computers and internet connections in places like village halls. Local residents have an opportunity to see how easy it is to access local council, county council and central government services online in a safe environment, with skilled support.

Up to now, people with restricted mobility have had to make trips to the council to sort out benefits queries or home care support, or get others to make these visits on their behalf. This is difficult and can lead to delays in receiving payments and other entitlements. In **Leeds**, people can be visited in their own homes by a social care worker who can record their details with digitally-enabled pen and paper technology, and transfer it straight into a council computer, speeding up the processing of their entitlements. In **Halton**, the 'Benefits Express' bus is a high-tech, mobile doorstep service dealing with benefits claims; it helps to greatly reduce the time it takes for thousands of people in the borough to get through their entitlement reviews.

More remains to be done to exploit the potential of technology to help vulnerable or excluded groups, either through the services that support them directly or by accessing services electronically which are designed to meet their needs.

The challenges

There are several challenges ahead if we are to see the kind of innovation described above being taken up more generally by local authorities as part of a coherent business improvement strategy.

Replication and roll-out

There needs to be further work to determine what needs to be done to ensure that the models mentioned here and many other working examples can be disseminated in such a way that they can readily be taken up and implemented by other local authorities as appropriate.

Take-up

In the early stages of any innovation, the innovation itself and the publicity it generates are often enough to engage with the natural 'early adopters'. As the innovation is further developed and mainstreamed, a robust and transparent business case and benefits analysis needs to be developed if the particular initiative is to be taken up by organisations in any great numbers.

Achieving widespread citizen acceptance and take-up of services via new channels presents an urgent and important challenge if we are to realise the benefits from these new and innovative ways of working. In order to do this, we need to improve our understanding of customer preferences, as well as their needs.

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