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OTHER CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENTS, AND BODIES FUNDED BY THE TREASURY PROGRAMME

- **Registry of Friendly Societies**
- **Parliamentary Bodies,
Honours and Dignities**

REGISTRY OF FRIENDLY SOCIETIES (RFS)

6.1 On 23 July 1997 the then Economic Secretary to the Treasury announced that the general responsibilities of the Building Societies Commission (BSC), the Friendly Societies Commission (FSC) and the Central Office of the Registry of Friendly Societies (RFS) would transfer to a new single regulator of financial services, subsequently named as the Financial Services Authority (FSA). The transfer of these responsibilities took place on 1 December 2001.

6.2 In the intervening period the Department co-operated with FSA, and the other financial regulators, in the work of creating the new single regulatory regime and in preparing for the transfer of responsibilities. To assist this process the services provided by RFS were contracted out to FSA under Service Level Agreements (SLAs). Those services provided to BSC, FSC and the Credit Union section of Central Office were contracted from 1 January 1999 and those provided to the remainder of the Central Office were contracted from 1 February 2001. The staff providing these services transferred to FSA's offices in Canary Wharf where they continued to provide them, either as secondees or as direct employees of FSA. The BSC, FSC and the Chief Registrar received regular reports on the level and quality of service provided by FSA.

6.3 Because of the imminent transfer of responsibilities of RFS, BSC and FSC to FSA, the Treasury agreed that RFS should not participate in current initiatives for Civil Service reform

and the modernisation of Government. This report should therefore be considered in the context that RFS has now transferred all its functions to FSA and has effectively ceased to exist.

6.4 The RFS and the statutory authorities were linked by a common overall aim:

"to help create the most favourable regulatory climate for the formation and long term success of mutual societies, ensuring that they provide proper stewardship of individual members' funds."

6.5 Further information about RFS, BSC and FSC, including details of performance against objectives during their final period of activity, may be found in the following publications:

- Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies 2000-2001
- Annual Report of the Building Societies Commission 2000-2001
- Annual Report of the Friendly Societies Commission 2000-2001
- Final Report of the Building Societies Commission
- Final Report of the Friendly Societies Commission

Copies of the Chief Registrar report are available through FSA's website at www.fsa.gov.uk. E-mail copies of the BSC reports are available from Sorralyn.Duff@fsa.gov.uk. Copies of the FSC report are available from Lauren.Brisbane@fsa.gov.uk

PARLIAMENTARY BODIES, HONOURS AND DIGNITIES

6.6 The Treasury's programme contains provision for:

- four parliamentary bodies
 - the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
 - the British American Parliamentary Group
 - the Inter-Parliamentary Group; and
 - the British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body;

these bodies aim to foster understanding between Members of Parliament and elected representatives of other countries;

- honours and dignities, covering the cost of:
 - salaries;
 - insignia etc for the Central Chancery of Orders of Knighthood:
 - of annuities of UK civilian holders of the George Crossand:
 - some ceremonial expenses.

