



## **Press Release**

22 January 2007

### **The National Archives triumphant at the e-Government National Awards**

The National Archives is celebrating its success at the recent e-Government National Awards, announced on 17 January at the Savoy in London. The National Archives was presented with the award for Central e-Government excellence: Take-up and usage growth.

The e-Government National Awards highlight the UK's best services to improve citizen and business transactions with councils, central government departments and other public sector organisations. This award recognises the success of The National Archives' digitisation programme, responding to changing expectations and the demand for fast online access to historical material.

Despite having a largely paper-based collection, The National Archives has embarked on an ambitious and successful digitisation programme over the past five years. We will make over 90% of our most popular documents digitised by 2012, this covers over 1 million documents. The most large-scale example of this is the launch of Domesday Online, the digital version of Domesday Book. Other projects include the Censuses, prisoner of war records, ancient petitions and licensed internet associations such as [ancestestorsonboard.com](http://ancestestorsonboard.com). In addition, The National Archives has launched a digitisation on demand programme which makes the majority of its collection accessible to researchers from anywhere across the globe.

Natalie Ceeney, Chief Executive of The National Archives, says: "I am delighted that our achievements over the last year in the area of e-Government have been recognised. The National Archives is passionate about making Britain's national heritage as accessible as possible. We are proud of the success we've achieved – not only are we currently government's 5<sup>th</sup> most popular website, but researchers can now get access to our most popular records wherever they are. Our ambition is to bring history to life for everyone, and these awards recognise the progress we're making towards achieving it."

**Notes for editors:**

**The National Archives**, <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> is a **government department**; and also an executive agency of the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs. Over 600 staff work in Kew, in Norwich, at Admiralty Arch in central London and at the Family Records Centre in Islington. The National Archives brings together the Public Record Office, Historical Manuscripts Commission, the Office of Public Sector Information and Her Majesty's Stationery Office. See also [www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk)

**The National Archives is at the heart of information policy** – setting standards and supporting innovation in information and records management across the UK, and providing a practical framework of best practice for opening up and encouraging the re-use of public sector information. This work helps inform today's decisions and ensure that they become tomorrow's permanent record. **The National Archives is also the UK government's official archive**, containing 900 years of history from Domesday Book to the present, with records ranging from parchment and paper scrolls through to recently created digital files and archived websites. Increasingly, these records are being put online, making them universally accessible.

**The vision of The National Archives is to:**

- Lead and transform information management
- Guarantee the survival of today's information for tomorrow
- Bring history to life for everyone

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