NEW CIVIL SERVICE CODE

A new version of the Civil Service Code is being launched today: www.civilservice.gov.uk/civilservicecode.

Thank you to all of you who responded to the consultation exercise – we received over 2,150 responses from a wide range of departments and key stakeholders.

It hasn’t proved possible to take on board all comments made but we have incorporated many of them. A summary of responses can be accessed via the Civil Service website: www.civilservice.gov.uk/civilservicecode.

The new Code has been deliberately written in more everyday language which, we hope, will make it more relevant to you and your work. We have also tried to keep it short. The new Code is an accessible, high level summary of core values and behaviours which are common to all civil servants rather than a full list of everything that we do. More detailed guidance, like your own departmental staff handbooks and values and mission statements, will flow from it.

The Civil Service Code is your Code. It is a very important document as it sets out the core values of the Civil Service and the standards expected of you as a civil servant. It forms part of your terms and conditions. We have therefore asked departments and agencies to ensure that every civil servant has access to it in either paper or electronic format.

Hard copies of the Code can be obtained by sending an email request to: civilservicecode@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0207 276 2451/2454/2452.

Gus O'Donnell
First Civil Service Commissioner