

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

BUDGET AND SECRETARIAT MERGER

Issue

1. The merger of the four independent offices' budgets and secretariat teams, with effect from 1 April 2013.

Recommendation

2. For information only.

Detail

3. Paper CB(13)12, considered at the Board's March meeting, highlighted the accounting, transparency and efficiency challenges associated with the four budgets¹ managed by Clare remaining separate. In particular, the lack of transparency and risk for fraud going undetected in the various recharges for staff time between the four organisations had been identified by NAO as a vulnerability. And, looking ahead to future budget cuts or uncontrollable increases in workload (eg numbers of competitions), the opportunity to achieve efficiency gains would be greater if the resources were combined.
4. The Board agreed that the Commission should agree with the Government that, in future, the CSC Secretariat should be responsible for providing secretariat support for all the four 'independent offices' that Clare currently manages (with the appropriate transfer of budget and staff). The Government has agreed that **this should happen with effect from 1 April 2013.**
5. The Board is unlikely to notice a significant change as a result of this merger: the staff concerned (four individuals plus a vacancy we hope to fill shortly) will continue to service HoLAC and ACoBA and the existing CSC staff will not be diverted onto other work.
6. The finance page of the monthly Board report will, however, look slightly different. It will include (clearly marked) expenditure on HoLAC, ACoBA and OCPA business, in addition to 'normal' CSC business and will exclude the baffling and opaque 'recharges' between the four institutions that have been a previous feature of Board reports. The overall headline total, within which we will be required to operate, will also be raised in proportion to the existing budgets of

¹ Civil Service Commission, Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA), House of Lords Appointments Commission (HoLAC) and the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments (ACoBA).

the other three organisations (see below) and the equivalent 'overhead' charge for the additional staff that we already pay in relation to the CSC. If and when OCPA becomes responsible for appointments to the Recognition Panel provided for in the still draft Royal Charter on press regulation, the additional resources associated with that work will be added to the topline budget.

Budgets of the four independent offices, 2013-2014

Civil Service Commission	£1,133,000
Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments	£430,000
Advisory Committee on Business Appointments	£204,000
House of Lords Appointments Commission	£120,000

Note: the budgets shown above exclude the per capita overhead charge for accommodation, IT, legal and HR support etc which are top sliced by Cabinet Office before the budget is given to Clare.

Secretariat
April 2013