

**THE**

**NATIONAL**

**ARCHIVES**

# Statement of Public Task

October 2022

## **Statement of Public Task**

The National Archives' Public Task under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 ('the Regulations') consists of the obligations of The National Archives and the duties of its officials (including those duties delegated by the Secretary of State to the Keeper of Public Records):

- Under the Public Records Act 1958 and associated legislation
- Under the Historical Manuscripts Commission Royal Warrant
- Under the Letters Patent, appointing the King's Printer of Acts of Parliament
- Under the Scotland Act 1998, appointing the King's Printer for Scotland
- Under the executive action, appointing the Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office and Government Printer of Northern Ireland
- As official publisher of UK legislation
- As leader of the archives sector in England
- As a non-ministerial government department sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

The National Archives produces, holds and uses documents within its Public Task:

- In any and all formats and media
- In physical and digital form, both online and offline
- On The National Archives' premises and externally.

The National Archives produces, holds and uses documents within its Public Task for the purposes of:

- Accessioning public records
- Preserving public records and other deposited records
- Providing reasonable facilities for the public to inspect and obtain copies of public records
- Publishing legislation
- Providing advice and guidance for government and the archives sector
- Promoting collaboration and sharing of good practice within the archives sector
- Satisfying its statutory and non-statutory obligations.

Where appropriate, The National Archives shares information with other public sector bodies as part of our, and their, Public Tasks.

The National Archives actively seeks to maximise the public value of its collection, including by undertaking activities that are beyond its Public Task. For example, other people or organisations might commission or fund the digitisation of public records (producing digital surrogates<sup>1</sup>), in partnership with The National Archives, to widen access or to achieve a commercial return. Information created for these purposes is outside our Public Task.

Therefore, the following information products are outside our Public Task:

- Digital surrogates of public records, created or funded by others for commercial purposes
- Digital surrogates of public records, created or funded by others to widen access to the collection

Information on re-use of documents available under the Regulations can be found on the Copyright and re-use pages of [nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://nationalarchives.gov.uk). The National Archives encourages interested parties to comment on the statement. Questions, comments and complaints may be submitted through The National Archives' [contact pages](#) and/or [complaints procedure](#).

This statement will be reviewed every three years and is due to be considered again in 2026. We will publicise the review on our website and will collate and publish a summary of any comments we receive.

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<sup>1</sup> A 'digital surrogate' is a representation of a record, usually an image, stored in digital form.