

***The House Magazine Roundtable Discussion on Government Efficiency in
association with Steria***

***Thursday, 26th March 2009
08:30 in the Bishop Robing Room, Church House Conference Centre***



Chair

Michael Hepburn

Attendees

Richard Bacon MP (Con), Member, Public Accounts Select Committee

Jonathan Baume, General Secretary, FDA Union

Debbie Brockbank, Shared Service Centre Director - Government, Steria

Jane Dudman, Guardian Public

John Hayes, Director of Services, Improvement and Development Agency

John Hemming MP (Lib Dem), Member, Select Committee on the Modernisation of the House of Commons

Barbara Moorhouse, Director-General, Corporate Resources, Department for Transport

Ruth Ormsby, Director, Shared Services, Department of Health

Paul Rowen MP (Lib Dem), Member, Public Administration Select Committee

Graham Steel, Senior National Officer, PCS Union

Keith Venables, Director Concept & Technology, Ministry of Defence

Agenda

08:30 - Guests arrive (Tea and Coffee served)

08.35 - Introduction from the Chair (Breakfast is served)

08.40 - Roundtable Discussion

09.50 - Wrap-up from Chair

10.00 - Event finishes

Topics for discussion

The government's Operational Spending Programme is due to report by Budget 2009. The programme was launched to identify ways to achieve efficiency savings across public spending.

- Is government making the most of private sector expertise and ideas to achieve greater efficiency and value for money across all departments and services?

The use of new technology, shared services, private contracts, as well as offshoring and outsourcing are all options available to government.

- What should be the government's approach to potential effective working practices, which of the available options work best in the public sector?

The effects of the recession will be felt across many public services and growing demands on public management may risk impacting upon efficiency targets.

- What are the issues surrounding regulation and compliance? Can the private sector help government departments to bear the weight of new and bigger demands on services?

Regardless of which party forms the next government, efficiency savings need to be a priority for the civil service in order to create economic, social, environmental and public benefit.

- In the approach to the general election, what can be done to ensure efficiency measures are not slowed down by any period of transition?