

Understanding the UK Government

Whether you're an Arm's Length Management Organisation or a private sector company, if your organisation has any dealings with government then you need to know how it works. This course will ensure that you understand how government works, and how your organisation should be interacting with it.

Aim

To provide participants with a clear understanding of:

1. Features of the British system of government
2. Role of the Prime Minister
3. Role of the Cabinet and Cabinet Committees
4. Organisation of the Civil Service and wider public sector
5. Duties and responsibilities of civil servants and the key principles of the Civil Service Code
6. Parliamentary process including how Parliament holds Government to account: Parliamentary Questions, Select Committees and Legislation

Methodology

The training approach to be used, which governs the design and delivery of the training is based on the following principles:

- To actively involve the participants throughout the training
- To enable participants to share their thoughts and enquiries

- The training is designed based on the needs and expectations of the participants that are reflected in the pre-training questionnaire

Workshop methods and tools

In order to achieve the objectives of the training, the following tools and methods will be utilised:

- **Presentations:** presentations will be used in order to provide the background of each subject and create discussion and questions.
- **Discussions:** throughout the training, participants will be encouraged to contribute to discussions and share their experiences and thoughts with the rest of the group. The discussions will be facilitated and coordinated by the facilitator in order to maintain the focus in the key areas of interest
- **Case studies:** case studies will be used so as to facilitate and trigger discussion, as well as allow external benchmarking so as to achieve competitiveness
- **Group work:** group work will be used in order to facilitate practical understanding of the issues and in order to enhance team working, team building and cooperation amongst participants.

Sample programme

10.00 Welcome and Introductions

The structure and context of Government

- Our constitution in a boiled egg
- The machinery of government and its constraints

Refreshment Break

Political and administrative functions and relationships

- The role and power/duties of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- The role of Special Advisers and the expanded Private Office

Lunch

Policy-Making & Decision taking in Government

- How decisions are taken and communicated
- How legislation is made
- How policy is developed and the players involved in the process

Refreshment Break

How Parliament holds Government to account

- The role of Select Committees, Parliamentary questions & debates
- MP's correspondence and meetings

17.00 Review and close