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Civil Service Reform: the British Approach

A seminar by Rt Hon Francis Maude, Minister for the Cabinet Office (UK)

12.30-1.30pm Wednesday 14 November

Lecture Theatre 1, Rutherford House

Francis Maude has had a long and distinguished career in British politics. He is currently the Member of Parliament for Horsham, West Sussex and Minister for the Cabinet Office. In the latter role he is responsible for, amongst other things, civil service issues, public sector efficiency and reform, UK statistics, government transparency and cyber security. While in Opposition, he served as Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office and Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (June 2007–May 2010), Chairman of the Conservative Party (May 2005–June 2007), Shadow Foreign Secretary (February 2000–September 2001), and Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer (June 1998–February 2000). As a member of the previous Conservative government, Francis Maude served as Financial Secretary to HM Treasury (1990–1992), Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (1989–1990), Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs at the Department of Trade and Industry (1987–1989), and Government whip (1985–1987).

Francis Maude's department is leading a ground-breaking programme of Efficiency & Reform which last year saved the taxpayer £5.5 billion, and aims to save £20 billion a year by 2015. The Minister also leads the government's Civil Service Reform programme, the first steps of which were outlined in a plan published in June. The plan includes a series of practical actions to draw on the strengths of the British Civil Service while addressing its weaknesses. Separately he has commissioned a think tank, the Institute for Public Policy Research, to review civil service models in operation around the world. The IPPR have been asked by the minister to pay special attention to New Zealand and the accountability model which operates here.

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