

How does Whitehall really work

This programme gives an overview of the UK government in Britain. It decodes and demystifies the function of Whitehall, external stakeholders and Parliament that anyone working in government, or working with government, needs to understand.

Aim

To provide participants with a clear understanding of:

1. The structure and function of central government and its agencies/non-departmental public bodies
2. How the civil service works on a formal and informal basis
3. How successful civil servants operate and create good policy
4. Whitehall's interaction with Parliament

Methodology

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

- Actively involving the participants throughout the training
- Enabling participants to share their thoughts and questions
- 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

Agenda

10.00. Welcome, introductions and expectations

How the Civil Service is structured

10.30. The cultures and practices of the civil service

Break

11.30. How do you navigate the Whitehall machine?

Lunch

13.30. What are the tools to succeeding in the civil service?

14.30. How does Whitehall interact with Parliament?

15.30. Questions, discussion and planning session

16.30. Review and Close