

The role of the Chief Executive within the Competition Commission

1. The Chief Executive has responsibility, under the Council, for the overall organisation, management, and staffing of the Competition Commission (CC) and for its procedures in financial and other matters, including conduct and discipline. This involves the promotion by leadership and example of the values embodied in the Nolan 'Seven Principles of Public Life'.
2. The Chief Executive is designated as the Accounting Officer for the CC. In this capacity he is responsible to Parliament and the Accounting Officer of the responsible department (the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)) for the resources under his or her control. The Chief Executive (or another member of staff who is authorised to act on behalf of the Council) is the main point of contact between the CC and BIS on day-to-day matters.
3. The essence of his or her role is a personal responsibility for:
 - a. the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which he or she is answerable;
 - b. the keeping of proper accounts;
 - c. prudent and economical administration;
 - d. the avoidance of waste and extravagance; and
 - e. the efficient and effective use of all the resources in his or her charge.

The Accounting Officer has a responsibility to see that appropriate advice is tendered to the Council on all these matters. Satisfactory performance of these responsibilities is fundamental to his or her role as the Chief Executive of the CC. The Treasury's handbook, *Regularity and Propriety*, describes what these concepts mean in a financial context.

4. More detailed guidance on the role of an Accounting Officer is set out in chapter 3 of *Managing Public Money*, which covers appearances before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the House of Commons.
5. The specific responsibilities of the Chief Executive are set out in the CC's Framework Document (specifically see sections 2, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 9) which is supported by the CC's Financial Memorandum which provides detailed financial guidance to the Chief Executive.