

relaxing their line on perpetuity in control. In part this was in recognition that various bodies, including the FRC, are truly independent and that the Secretary of State (or whoever) involvement in setting them up is an irrelevance in terms of the current control and governance arrangements.

Whilst we have repeatedly asked your predecessor to push the ONS to review their classification of the FRC and provided all information requested - as yet no decision has been taken.

Please note our planning assumption is that the ONS will cease to classify the FRC as central gov't, in part because we think this is the right outcome but also to do anything else may result in the FRC raising this at a very senior level and/or taking some radical steps such as seeking a judicial review, which could be embarrassing for all concerned.

Whilst the designation order may not be refreshed until September, in the event that the ONS do not agree to reclassify, then we face a real issue that will need a considerable amount of time to tackle. Accordingly we would be grateful if you could exert some influence over colleagues in the ONS, such that this is addressed asap.

[REDACTED]

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