

**FCO Board Meeting**  
**26 September 2008**

Summary of Minutes

The Board discussed the **FCO's strategic financial position**. This is likely to be very tight in forthcoming years and will need to be kept under review.

Modernising the FCO's corporate services remains a top priority for the Board. The Board agreed to a new **Corporate Services Programme** to streamline, simplify and standardise services, to reduce the load on posts, improve management information and controls, and support DSO1.

The Board undertook their quarterly review of FCO **change programmes**. The past quarter has been a period of sustained work. Directors and Heads of Mission were encouraged to talk to their staff about how ongoing programmes affect them.

The Board agreed proposals to make **interviewing** the standard way we select people for jobs at home and abroad. HR Directorate will continue to provide guidance, oversight and administrative support. The aim is faster and better decisions, a more flexible system that meets business needs, and offers a better deal for both line managers and staff.

The Board reviewed the roll out of **F3G**. The UK rollout has gone largely to schedule and plans are in place to complete in early October. Accelerated deployment overseas is underway with all posts having agreed deployment dates before the end of 2009.