

INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNMENT

10 years



David Sainsbury

Chair of the Institute for Government

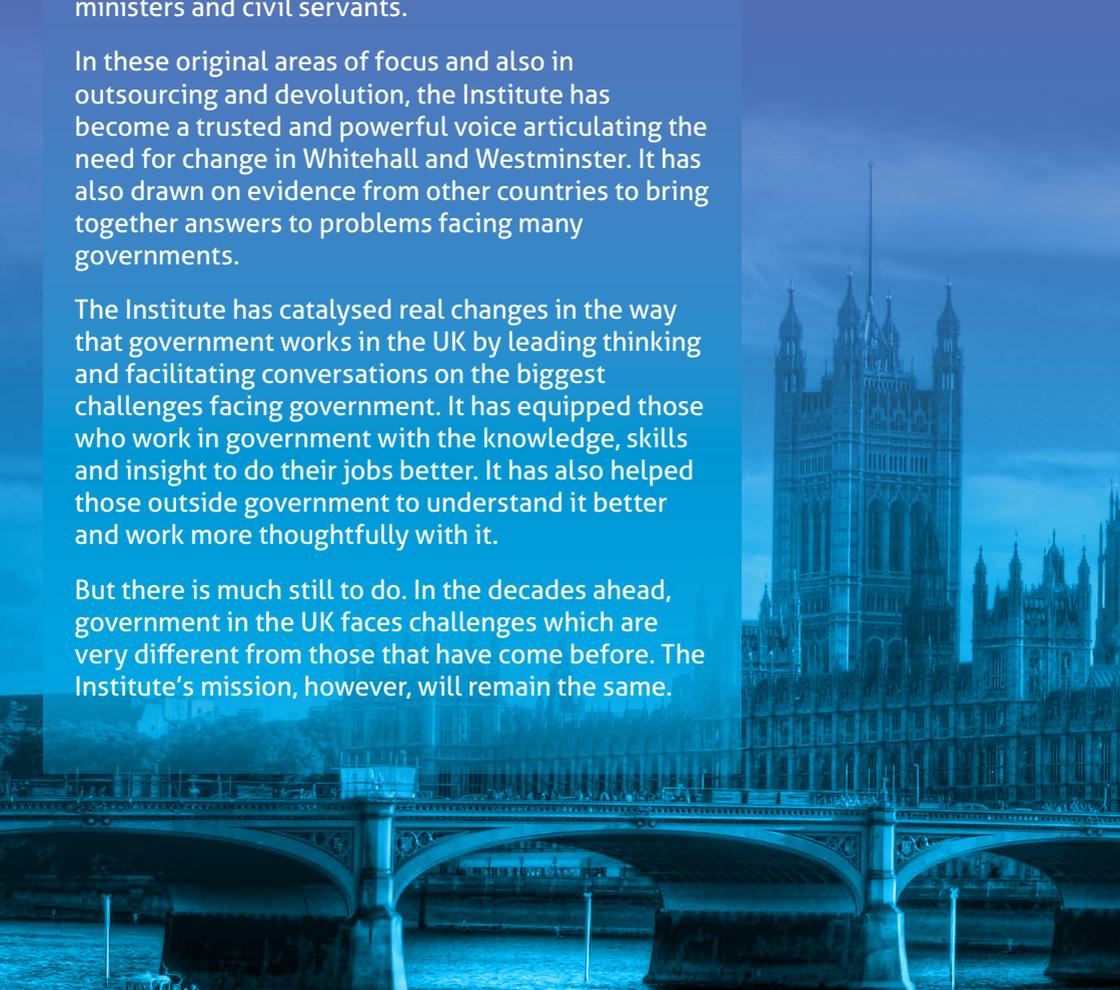
The mission of the Institute for Government from the start, just over a decade ago, has been to increase the effectiveness of UK government.

The IfG chose four initial areas of focus: the successes and failures of Whitehall policy making; the relationship between the centre of government (No. 10, the Cabinet Office and the Treasury) and individual departments; how departments supervise the public bodies they manage, and how to keep accountability clear and strong. In each area, it has analysed the evidence and recommended change to ministers and civil servants.

In these original areas of focus and also in outsourcing and devolution, the Institute has become a trusted and powerful voice articulating the need for change in Whitehall and Westminster. It has also drawn on evidence from other countries to bring together answers to problems facing many governments.

The Institute has catalysed real changes in the way that government works in the UK by leading thinking and facilitating conversations on the biggest challenges facing government. It has equipped those who work in government with the knowledge, skills and insight to do their jobs better. It has also helped those outside government to understand it better and work more thoughtfully with it.

But there is much still to do. In the decades ahead, government in the UK faces challenges which are very different from those that have come before. The Institute's mission, however, will remain the same.



Bronwen Maddox
Director of the Institute for Government

The Institute for Government has achieved a lot in our first ten years. We can point to many areas where our work has made a real difference to the running of government in the UK and beyond.

But it is a hard time to run a modern government. The challenges are complex and change rapidly, demanding new skills and new answers from politicians and civil servants.

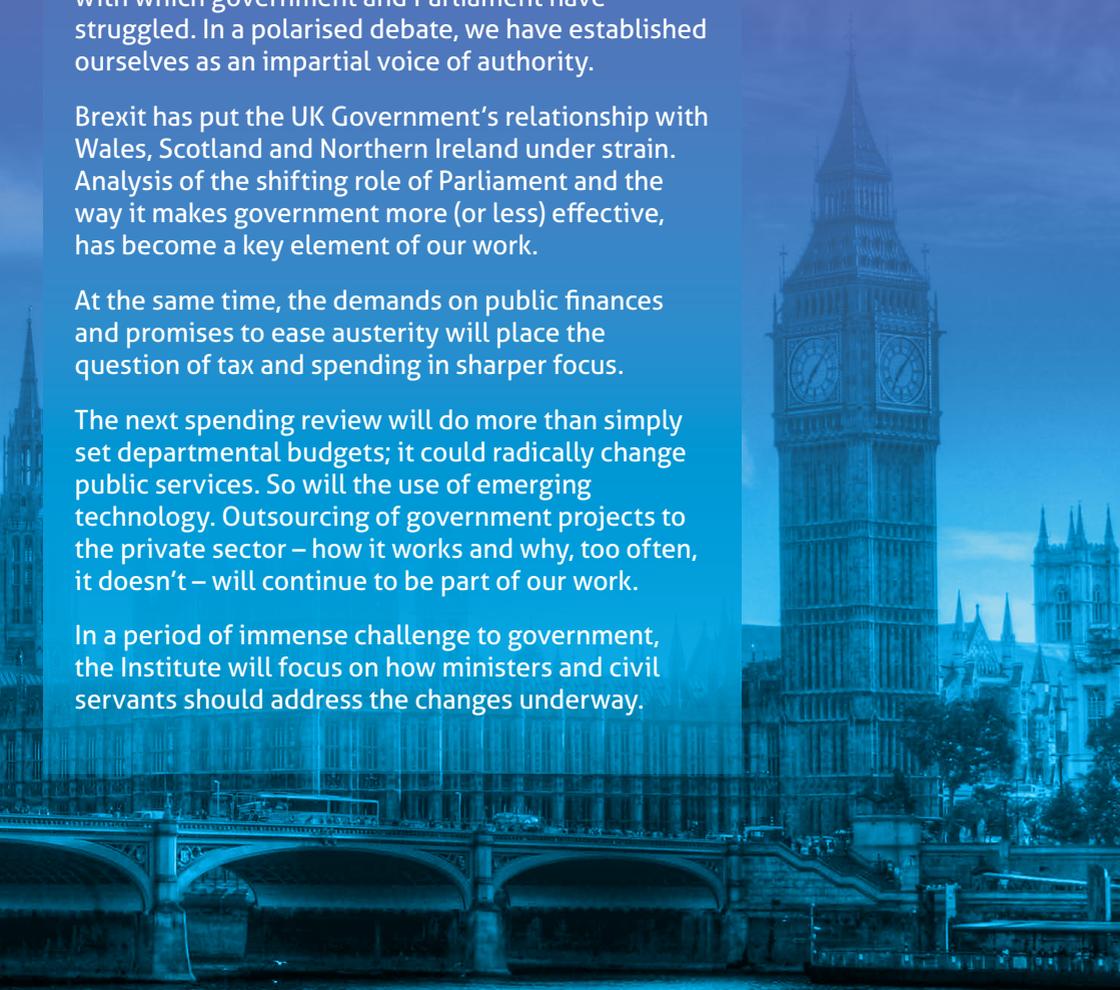
Since the 2016 referendum result, we have given our account of the Brexit process to answer questions with which government and Parliament have struggled. In a polarised debate, we have established ourselves as an impartial voice of authority.

Brexit has put the UK Government's relationship with Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland under strain. Analysis of the shifting role of Parliament and the way it makes government more (or less) effective, has become a key element of our work.

At the same time, the demands on public finances and promises to ease austerity will place the question of tax and spending in sharper focus.

The next spending review will do more than simply set departmental budgets; it could radically change public services. So will the use of emerging technology. Outsourcing of government projects to the private sector – how it works and why, too often, it doesn't – will continue to be part of our work.

In a period of immense challenge to government, the Institute will focus on how ministers and civil servants should address the changes underway.



Four ways in which we make a difference

Publishing research with impact

We produce research which brings about change, from our flagship work on behavioural insights, tax policy making and infrastructure, to our strong support for the professionalisation of the civil service and parliamentary committees.

Overview

Twenty years ago, devolution transformed the governance of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Wide-ranging powers to make law, manage public services and set public spending priorities were transferred to new institutions in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast. Devolution is now a permanent part of the UK constitution, but the devolution settlements have been anything but settled. Since 2014, devolution has evolved continuously. Extensive further powers have been transferred from Westminster and the UK Parliament and Government have had to adapt in various ways. Since 2016, Brexit has created new tensions in the relationship between the UK and devolved governments.

“[The Institute for Government] is a remarkable innovation and absolutely timely.”

Rt Hon Tony Blair
Former Prime Minister



Building understanding of government

We inform debates,
demystify government
decisions and processes,
track key activities and
analyse crucial data.



“The IfG provides unrivalled analysis of how Whitehall operates and how government can be improved. Their work is highly valued by policy makers and politicians.”

Rt Hon Nicky Morgan
Conservative MP



03 Holding conversations

We convene conversations, offering a public platform for leading international thinkers and UK civil servants and politicians. We curate debates and facilitate private workshops.



"In its first decade, the IfG has made a significant contribution to public understanding of how Whitehall works and what government should be doing."

Rt Hon Hilary Benn
Labour MP



Developing skills for government

We equip ministers with the tools they need to lead, civil servants with the skills they need to deliver, and MPs with the expertise to hold government to account.



“The IfG has been working to make government more effective by learning from its successes and failures, by promoting innovation and by assessing new initiatives.”

Lord O’Donnell
*Former Cabinet Secretary
and Head of the Civil Service*



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Whitehall Monitor 2019

David Foray (Ed); Alan Cheung (M&P); Guy Peacock (Program); Jeremy Cole (Copy); Lucy Lambert (Design); James Taylor (Director of Content)

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Trade after Brexit

Options for the UK's relationship with the EU

Jon Owen (Lead); Alison Stephens (Ed); Peter Butler

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The 2019 Spending Review

How to run it well!

Martin Whelan (Ed); Oliver Huxford (Ed); Nicky Kirby (Editor)

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Parliamentary Monitor 2018

Paul Kelly (Lead); Hannah White (Ed); Jimmy Hoag

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All Change

Why Britain is so prone to policy reinvention, and what can be done about it

Emma Harris (Ed); Rachel Wolf (Ed); Philip Collins

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Moving On

The costs of high staff turnover in the civil service

Tom Sizer (Ed); Emma Harris

Cabinet/Office

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MINDSPACE

Improving behaviour in major public policy

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What's wrong with infrastructure decision making?

Conclusions from six UK case studies

Colleen Mills (Ed); Chris Walker (Ed); Pauline Ingham (Ed); Nick Davies (Ed); Emma Harris

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MAKING POLICY BETTER

How to do it well

CIPFA

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Performance Tracker 2018

A data-driven analysis of the performance of public services

Chris Anderson (Ed); Graham Mills (Ed); Lucy Lambert (Ed); Gareth Smith (Ed); Guy Peacock

GOVWING WISE

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Government procurement

The scale and nature of contracting in the UK

Nick Harris (Ed); Oliver Chan (Ed); Alan Cheung (Ed); David Foray (Ed); Emma Harris

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The Brexit Effect

How government has changed since the EU referendum

Mark Lloyd

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Devolution at 20

Alan Cheung (Ed); David Foray (Ed); Lucy Lambert