

Edinburgh Branch



**BCS**

THE BRITISH COMPUTER SOCIETY

# Branch Meeting

**Wednesday 27th February 2002 at 6.30pm**

## **Information Age Government**

**Alan Fraser**  
*Scottish Executive*

The subject is the Scottish Executive's vision for 21st Century government and its modernisation agenda; how that is grounded in the key policy objectives of the Executive - particularly the commitment to social justice - and how it is ultimately about the better delivery of public services and access to information.

There is a question about the Executive's own role in this change process, given that it is not directly responsible for service delivery to any significant extent. But it has responsibility for

- articulating and communicating the vision
- setting standards, both technical and performance
- facilitating exchange of best practice
- co-ordinating activity
- stimulating and supporting innovation.

A main instrument for stimulating change has been the Modernising Government Fund of £26m. The second round of the Fund was announced at the end of last year with a more narrowly focussed approach - identifying the development of a citizen's account, the use of smartcards, the development of data sharing and joining up front and back office functions, and the extension of e-procurement as key priorities.

The role of the Executive is to ensure that the benefits in terms of efficiencies of scale and of better service delivery can be realised, by supporting the adherence to common standards and to a common architecture. None of this is simple. There are many challenges to be faced. But we aim to exploit Scotland's natural and organisational advantages in pushing ahead the modernisation process

### **Venue:**

**The Royal Pharmaceutical Society**  
**36 York Place, Edinburgh EH1 3HU**

**ADMISSION FREE, NON-MEMBERS WELCOME**