



Commentary

The civil servant and the New Public Management society - notes in the footsteps of Dag Hammarskjöld

Emil Oljemark

Abstract

A parliamentary democracy includes that civil servants have restrictions on how they can express opinions and values. Elected politicians are responsible for setting out the prevailing line of executive power. However, in order for the individual to be able to feel trust in the public sector, there must be interaction between politicians and civil servants. A functioning interaction between civil servants and politicians is a prerequisite for the public sector to have the opportunity to deliver in a legitimate and efficient manner. The text is based on an article written by Dag Hammarskjöld in 1951 that explores the civil servants' space to express values and speak out. Over the ensuing 70 years, the protection of fundamental rights has been codified and its management has been permeated by a market ethos. The civil servants' space to speak out faces new challenges as administrative policy takes on new forms and the human-centred approach is challenged.

Keywords: expert role, governance, trust, transparency.



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