



# Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy



House of Commons · London · SW1A 0AA

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Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

18 May 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

## **National Security Council agendas**

Since 2013, the National Security Adviser, with Prime Ministerial approval, has provided the Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy with copies of the Agendas of the National Security Council, in confidence on a quarterly basis. Since 2018, the NSA has also provided summaries of the meetings of the NSC sub-committees (except 'NSC(Nuclear)'), again in confidence. These documents were kept securely and confidentially by the Committee clerks, and arrangements were made for members to read them without taking copies away.

With a new JCNSS now established for the 2019 Parliament, I am writing on behalf of the Committee to seek your agreement for the NSC and NSC sub-committee agendas to continue to be provided in future, as well as for meetings held since the 2019 General Election. Continued access to this material is essential for the Committee in monitoring and scrutinising the National Security Strategy and associated processes and initiatives.

It would also be helpful if you could provide us with the information that the chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee (a member also of the Joint Committee) has separately requested, namely: details of which National Security Council Sub-committees have been re-established in the current Parliament and who has been appointed to chair each of those Sub-committees, and details of which minister is responsible for each policy area covered by each of those Sub-committees (if that minister is not also the chair of the relevant Sub-committee).

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for agreeing for the Civil Contingencies Secretariat to share the 2019 National Security Risk Assessment with us, in confidence, alongside an oral briefing by officials. We would like to have this briefing in the very near future, and the Committee clerks will be in touch with Cabinet Office officials to set this up.

**Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP**  
**Committee Chair**