



Defence Committee  
Foreign Affairs Committee  
International Development Committee  
Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy  
Committee Office · House of Commons · London SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon. Boris Johnson MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
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Copied to Angus Brendan MacNeil MP  
Chair of the International Trade Committee

30 June 2020

### **Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy**

Dear Prime Minister,

When in April you announced that the Integrated Review was paused, our Committees continued to gather evidence and prepare recommendations on this important process, or initiated inquiries specifically to feed into scrutiny of the Review. We have now received notification, on 24 June, that work on the Integrated Review has recommenced. You have emphasised the significance of the Review and it is clear from our evidence that there is great public interest in it. But there is also clearly growing frustration with how little information about the Review is publicly available. And, while you have said that allies and experts beyond Whitehall would be consulted, the Government is yet to explain who can contribute or how.

You have agreed that transparency is vital. We therefore ask you to:

1. Add to and update the single page, now four months old, that explains the Integrated Review to the public on the Government's website.
2. Explain, in a public statement about consultation for the Review, who will be able to provide evidence and what format that evidence will take.
3. Explain what work on the Review has been completed, and what is still to come.
4. Explain how long the Review is expected to last. The Government has said that it hopes the Review will conclude in "Autumn". Which month in Autumn? What is the basis of your timetable, and your confidence that it will hold?
5. Explain the detailed Terms of Reference for the Review, and the thematic areas that it is considering. Very little is publicly known about this most fundamental aspect of the Review.
6. Explain the intended end product of the Review, and whether it will be made public.
7. Explain why the Department for International Trade was excluded from the Review.

Finally, one of the few public details of the Review was that it would consider machinery-of-Government reforms. Can you explain why the merger of DFID and the FCO, the most major

of such reforms, was decided and announced before the Review's conclusion? You said in the House on 16 June that "massive consultation over a long period" had occurred before the merger was announced. Who was consulted, and through what process?

Transparency about the process of the Review, and inclusive and diverse consultation, will be a firm foundation for future policy. Their absence would risk disappointment with the Review's conclusions, and doubt about how they were reached.

We would be grateful for a response by 10 July.



**Rt Hon. Tobias Ellwood MP**  
**Chair of the Defence Committee**



**Tom Tugendhat MP**  
**Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee**



**Sarah Champion MP**  
**Chair of the International  
Development Committee**



**Rt Hon. Margaret Beckett MP**  
**Chair of the Joint Committee on the  
National Security Strategy**