



Dame Margaret Beckett,
Chair, Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy,

21 June 2022

Dear Dame Margaret,

Integrated Review Annual Report

Thank you for your letter of 30 May 2022. On 9 May 2022, my Strategy Director and your clerks met to discuss the Annual Report. This discussion covered much of the information that you have requested, which we will endeavour to provide.

The IR is delivered across the whole of government, so it will not be possible for us to map specific teams to IR deliverables. However, we can explain how the Cabinet Office has organised itself to deliver the IR. The list of specific IR deliverables is both evolving (giving the adaptive nature of the strategy) and sensitive. However, I can share some illustrative examples and explain how they interact with overall IR reporting and governance.

I am eager to build a productive relationship with the committee so I would like to offer you a briefing in person, prior to the submission of the Annual Report, to share some of the confidential information that you have requested. My office will be in touch with the clerks at the appropriate time.

Finally, I am pleased to tell you that Sarah MacIntosh has been appointed as Deputy National Security Adviser (International Affairs) and Matthew Collins has been appointed as Deputy National Security Adviser (Intelligence, Defence and Security). I am certain that Sarah and Matt look forward to working closely with the committee.

Yours sincerely,

STEPHEN LOVEGROVE



Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy

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Sir Stephen Lovegrove
National Security Adviser
Cabinet Office

[via email]

30 May 2022

Dear Sir Stephen,

Integrated Review – Annual Report

As you are aware, the Government has committed to bringing an Annual Report on the Integrated Review (IR) before Parliament before the summer recess. In advance of that, I wanted to communicate the Committee's expectations for the Annual Report's scope and content. Our requests are aimed at ensuring that Parliament plays its full and proper role in scrutinising the Government's implementation of the IR, and that parliamentarians understand the broader context of those implementation efforts. Our expectation is that this document will also properly inform and engage the public, in line with the spirit of the IR and its emphasis on a whole-of-society approach.

We would recommend that the Government includes the following information in the Annual Report, both this year and in future iterations:

- An updated threat assessment, outlining how the national security context and international landscape have changed in the preceding year, including by identifying any specific turning points and changes in trends;
- Any shifts in the Government's geographic focus, including in response to specific events;
- Key case studies to illustrate delivery of the IR in action – including examples not already in the public domain;
- A list of new units and teams established to support IR deliverables, broken down by policy area and department;
- Examples of public outreach and engagement in support of the IR's implementation;
- An annual update on the College for National Security – initially covering progress in establishing it fully, but future reports would be expected to provide quantitative output such as numbers of courses delivered/individuals trained and departments/external organisations engaged; and
- Relevant legislation passed and in progress.



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We previously asked that the Government share, in confidence, the NSC's priority deliverables for the Integrated Review each year, but [we were told](#) that it would “not be appropriate to provide a running public commentary on the changing priorities of the NSC, some of which could be sensitive at the time”.

As emphasised in our September 2021 report on the UK's national security machinery, Parliament's efforts to hold Government to account can enhance its long-term thinking and improve policy- and strategy-making, but it is difficult for us to do so without access to the relevant information. Our predecessor Committees have enjoyed a much more open relationship with Government, and we would welcome a return to this approach.

In addition to the Annual Report, we request that the Government shares with us the following pieces of information in confidence each year:

- A list of sub-strategies under the IR;
- The departments of the SROs for each sub-strategy; and
- Priority IR deliverables and progress against them.

I am sure you can appreciate the many advantages of establishing a more constructive and productive relationship between the national security machinery and the parliamentarians tasked with examining it. I would be happy to meet you to discuss this request, and look forward to reviewing the Annual Report in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP

Chair