



Rt Hon. John Glen MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

Our reference: MC2023/12661

Sir Bernard Jenkin MP
Chair, Liaison Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

By email: liaisoncommittee@parliament.uk (cc. bernard.jenkin.mp@parliament.uk)

1 December 2023

Dear Sir Bernard,

Thank you for your email of 2 November to the Deputy Prime Minister, regarding the proposal for a Civil Service Parliamentary Scheme. As Minister responsible for this policy, I am responding on his behalf.

Following the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee's report in 2018, work commenced on scoping a programme based on the Armed Forces Scheme. This new scheme would be built on the principle of 'leaders teaching leaders' and enable MPs to see the connection between policy, strategic implementation and frontline services.

Initial scoping identified the need to ensure any programme would provide unique learning opportunities and effectively complement the existing engagement that MPs undertake with frontline public services in their constituencies. A Cabinet Office team worked with colleagues in the Operational Delivery Profession to look at proposals.

In 2020, Cabinet Office Ministers asked the Government Skills and Curriculum Unit to develop a programme that would enable new Ministers to build the skills and knowledge required to navigate their new roles. This involved a consultation with a range of Ministers appointed following the 2017 and 2019 General Elections to understand first hand the knowledge and skills that new Ministers required in the early days of their new roles.

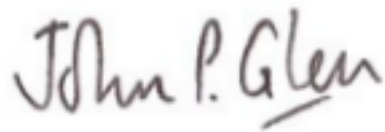
This work identified that both new and experienced ministers could be most effectively supported through direct access to senior experts on the policy areas where ministers are expected to make high-level decisions or interventions. As a result, a programme of 8 expert-led workshops were designed, and are now available to Ministers. Through this programme, an induction package for new Ministers was developed and is available to all

new Ministers when appointed, allowing them to access advice from experienced Ministerial colleagues and senior civil servants with technical expertise.

The Government Skills and Curriculum Unit is working closely with officials in the House of Commons and House of Lords to provide knowledge exchange opportunities for officials in Parliament and Government. The parliamentary capability programme, designed in partnership with Commons and Lords officials, was accessed by a total audience of 11,241 between April 2022 and March 2023, and continues to be an important part of the strong and collaborative relationship between government and parliament.

I am grateful to you for taking the time to write on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Glen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the letter "n" in "Glen".

**RT HON. JOHN GLEN MP
MINISTER FOR THE CABINET OFFICE
HM PAYMASTER GENERAL**