



**Joint Committee
on the National
Security Strategy**

14 January 2025

**Rt Hon Keir Starmer MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AB**

[By email]

14 January 2025

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 Clerk, and arrangements were made for Members to read them without taking copies away.

With a new JCNSS now established for the 2024 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 2024 General Election. Continued access to this material is essential for the Committee in fulfilling its core purpose in monitoring and scrutinising the National Security Strategy and associated processes and initiatives.



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I would also like to take this opportunity to request that the Cabinet Office share the current National Security Risk Assessment with us, in confidence and to be kept securely, alongside a private briefing by officials. I understand that predecessor Committees have found such briefings invaluable in informing their understanding of Government strategy.

I would be grateful for your response by Wednesday 5 February. I will be publishing a copy of this letter, and your response, on the Committee's website in due course.

Best wishes,

Matt Western

**Matt Western MP
Chair, Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy**

Cc Rt Hon Pat McFadden MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Cabinet Office