



The Rt Hon. Pat McFadden MP  
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Matt Western MP  
Chair  
Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy  
Houses of Parliament  
London, SW1A 0AA

10 April 2025

Dear Matt,

Thank you for your letter dated 3 March. I wanted to write to you to reiterate the Government's desire to have a productive working relationship with the Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy and to suggest a new approach to information sharing with the Committee that I hope you will agree has the potential to provide more value to your important work.

The National Security Council is a vital part of the Government's national security architecture, but its agendas do not necessarily represent the full spectrum of our priorities or workstreams. Therefore, I propose that the NSA and/or Deputy NSAs write to you on a quarterly basis, summarising key national security priorities and actions of the Government over the preceding period. I hope that you agree this would provide a more rounded and detailed view of the Government's work in this area, which may include issues that have been discussed at the NSC, but would not be a specific list of meeting agendas.

This arrangement would provide the Committee with privileged insight into the Government's national security work and as such the information would be shared in strict confidence, not for publication or sharing beyond the Committee itself, including in annual reports. I hope this arrangement will be satisfactory to you and will set us on a path for positive dialogue and relations.

In terms of public sessions of the Committee, I would like to reiterate the Government's commitment to transparency and cooperation. As per section (12) of the Osmotherly Rules, "the decision on who is best able to represent the Minister rests with the Minister concerned. It remains the right of a Minister to suggest an alternative civil servant, or additional civil servant(s), to the person named by the Committee if he or she feels that would be a better way to represent them." I, and my fellow Ministers who deal with various national security matters, remain able and willing to appear before the Committee's public sessions, as are each of the Deputy NSAs.

**Yours sincerely,**

**The Rt Hon. Pat McFadden MP  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster**