



**Joint Committee
on the National
Security Strategy**

Friday 28 March 2025

**Dan Jarvis MBE MP
Minister for Security
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF**

[By email]

Dear Dan,

Thank you for appearing before our committee on Monday 17 March for our inquiry into Defending Democracy. We would like to follow up with some further questions relating to the session and the Government's work.

Protective security arrangements

During the session, you committed to respond with further details about Operation Bridger and Operation Ford.¹ We would also be grateful for further details on:

1. What is your assessment of the success of these measures?
2. At what points from December 2023 did sitting MPs and prospective candidates receive communications regarding the physical and cyber security offerings?
3. How many candidates took these up?
4. Given there were many candidates standing at the election for independent parties, or selected at a late stage, how did agencies ensure candidates were engaged with and people were not missed?

The Defending Democracy Taskforce's relationship with social media firms

5. Please could you list the social media firms with which the Government has engaged as part of its counter-disinformation preparations for the General Election? Are you satisfied with all of their responses and efforts?

¹ [Q 2](#) (Shaun Hipgrave). We also note the NCSC's cyber security [guidance](#), and the work of the [Speaker's Conference](#).



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The Defending Democracy Taskforce's role in co-ordinating efforts to tackle foreign interference

During the session, you set out the Taskforce's role as a "fulcrum point" for Government activity and agreed to revert back with further details about its work.² In addition:

6. What is the relationship between the Taskforce, Cabinet Office and the National Security Council?
7. How often does the ministerial grouping of the Taskforce typically meet?
8. What involvement does HM Treasury have in the Taskforce? And what are the mechanisms for ensuring that major decisions around economic partnerships are taken with reference to wider national security concerns – such as those presumably documented by the China Audit?
9. What is the mechanism for the China Audit findings to influence the National Security Strategy? What role does the Taskforce play here?

Relationship between offensive and defensive measures

Thank you for agreeing to follow up with further information about the action HMG has taken against adversaries seeking to interfere in our democratic processes and institutions.³

10. What punitive actions has the Government taken since December 2023 - for example travel bans, financial sanctions, or targeting adversary IT infrastructure? And what is your assessment about the efficacy of these actions as a deterrent against future wrongdoing?

Whole of society approach

Your letter of 18 December 2024 stated that tackling risks to democracy requires "a genuinely whole of society approach".⁴

² [QQ 9-10](#) (Dan Jarvis MP)

³ [Q 12](#) (Dan Jarvis MP)

⁴ [Correspondence from the Minister for Security to JCNSS Committee](#), 18 December 2024



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11. What objectives has the Taskforce set for itself or partners to achieve a “whole of society” approach? Do you envisage any new workstreams over the next two years to deliver on these objectives?

Political finance

Your letter of 18 December 2024 stated that the Government “intends to strengthen the rules around donations to political parties to protect our democracy. MHCLG is developing proposals to give effect to this commitment”.⁵

12. Please could you update us on the details of the rule changes and implementation timelines?

We note some details may be sensitive: any information that cannot be published may be provided to us in a separate confidential note with appropriate handling instructions.

We are grateful for your assistance and look forward to your response. We would be grateful for a reply by 23 April 2025.

Yours sincerely,

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

⁵ [Correspondence from the Minister for Security to JCNSS Committee](#), 18 December 2024