



**CABINET OFFICE  
LONDON SW1A 2AS**

Mr Matt Western MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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*From the Deputy National Security Adviser*

13 August 2025

Dear Mr Western,

I hope you and the Committee found the session you held with the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on the National Security Strategy insightful and fruitful. I am at your disposal as the Committee continues to scrutinise the Government's work to keep the country safe, and I look forward to accompanying the National Security Adviser at his private session soon.

After reviewing the transcript for the session from 14 July, I have a point of clarification to raise to ensure the public record accurately reflects Government structures: The National Security Adviser does chair some meetings of the National Security Council (Officials). However, the role of Secretary is fulfilled by either myself or the relevant Deputy National Security Adviser, to ensure that points four and five of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers are adhered to.

**Yours sincerely,**

**MATT COLLINS**  
*Deputy National Security Adviser*