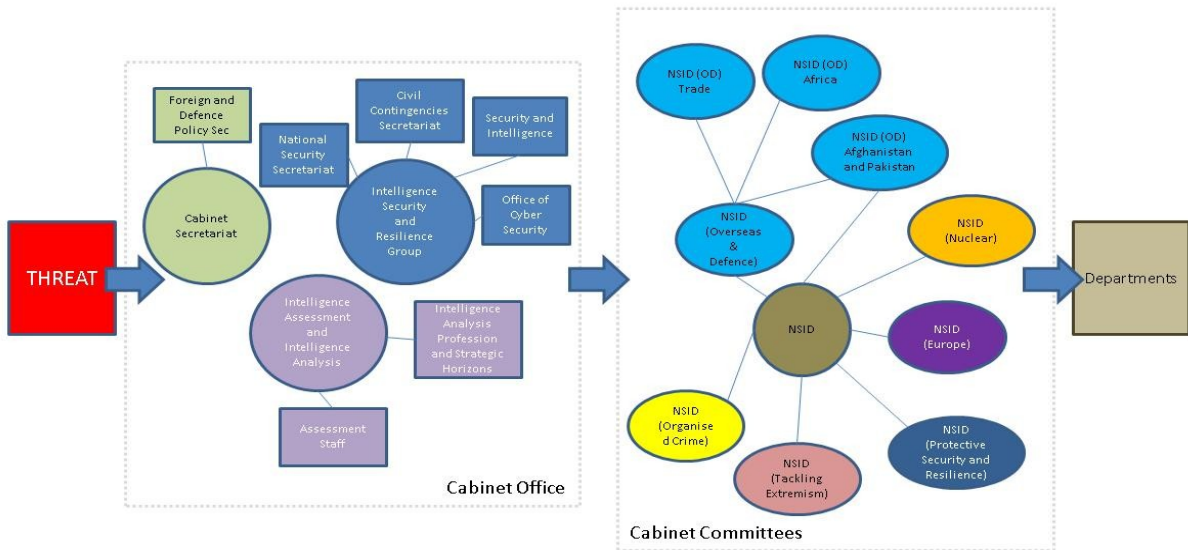


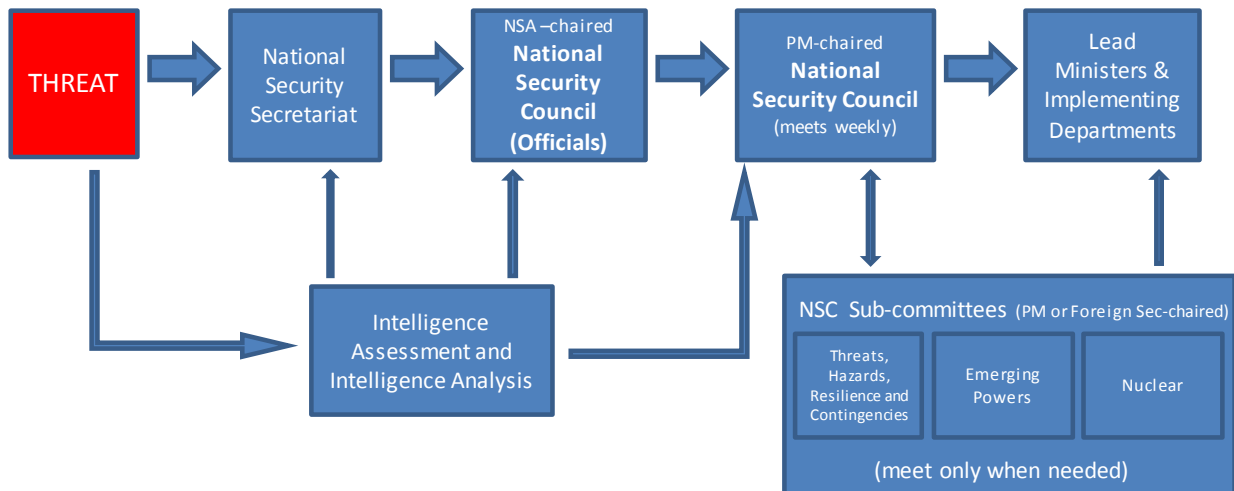
Fact Sheet 21: Coordinating Our National Security Approach

We need intelligent strategy...

National security is a complicated business. It involves coordinating the approaches of a number of Government Departments, and delivery on the ground through the Armed Forces, police, and others, in response to some of the biggest challenges the country faces. However, complicated structures are not necessarily the best way to respond to complicated challenges. The diagram below illustrates the previous central national security structures:



The new National Security Council and supporting structures will enable greater clarity of strategic direction, consolidated consideration of all national security risks and threats, and coordinated decision-making and responses to the threats we face. They will also reduce the potential for wasteful duplication of work, or worse, for important national security risks to fall through the cracks because they don't fit neatly into any one Government Department's remit. The diagram below illustrates the new central national security structures:



Any structure is only effective if it is properly utilised. The National Security Council, chaired by the Prime Minister, routinely meets every week. Since its establishment the Council has directed the National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review, and has considering the government's approach to current issues such as Afghanistan and the UK response to Pakistan's floods.

...based on the clearest information...

The quality of the information underlying the decisions taken by the National Security Council is crucial. Piecemeal consideration of issues by too many different bodies risks leading to incoherent decision-making and a lack of overall prioritisation. With the development of a new "all hazards" approach to national security this has changed, including:

- the creation of a new National Security Risk Assessment to be updated every other year;
- constant assessment of all sources of information concerning those priority risks, feeding directly into the National Security Council;
- a coordinated early warning mechanism to identify and monitor emerging risks;
- a cross-Government horizon-scanning system to look at risks and threats which might emerge in the longer term.

...and cross-cutting delivery structures...

Structures may sound boring but getting them right makes all the difference: allowing cross-cutting implementation of strategic decisions made by the cross-cutting NSC.

In future, each major National Security theme will be led by an accountable Lead Minister, responsible for coordinating a whole-of-Government approach to that issue and for reporting back to the NSC. In addition, new co-ordination mechanisms will be introduced:

- our transformative National Cyber Security Programme will be led by a strengthened Office of Cyber Security (with resources drawn from across Government);
- our new integrated approach to building stability overseas will bring together our diplomatic, development, Armed Forces and intelligence resources, coordinated, in country, by Ambassadors and High Commissioners as whole-of-Government representatives;
- the remit of the Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat will be expanded to include coordination of the UK response to all possible civil emergencies;
- a strengthened Crisis Management Capability, which will include military and civilian specialists sitting within the Cabinet Office, will support this improved response to managing crisis;
- a National Crime Agency will draw together all the tools for dealing with organised crime and protecting our borders including a new National Border Security Group;
- a new virtual hub for counter-proliferation technical assessment will be established to bring all relevant sources of Government expertise together.

...but this is just the start of a culture shift.

It will take time to instil a genuinely integrated approach to national security. This review marks the beginning, not the end, of a process:

- through weekly sessions of the National Security Council, we will continue to adapt to changing circumstances;
- we will create a formal "thinking network" to support the development of forward-looking defence and security policy, including by engaging with thinkers from outside government;
- every year, the NSC will make an annual statement of progress;
- every Parliament the Review will be fully refreshed.

The overall aim is clear strategy and direction, effectively and efficiently delivered.