



Home Office

Minutes

Title of meeting	Home Office Science Advisory Council
Date	4 th May 2022
Time	13:00-15:00
Venue	Microsoft Teams (virtual)
Attendees	<p><u>HOSAC Members</u></p> <p>Prof Brooke Rogers (Chair)</p> <p>Prof Mark Watson-Gandy</p> <p>Prof Shane Johnson</p> <p>Dr Paul Grasby</p> <p>Prof Jonathan Shepherd</p> <p>Prof Hugh Griffiths</p> <p>Prof David Main</p> <p>Prof Owen Bowden-Jones</p> <p>Oliver Whitehouse</p> <p>Prof David Lane</p> <p>Prof Helen Margetts</p> <p>Prof Tushna Vandrevala</p> <p>Dr Gabriella Spinelli</p> <p>Prof Tom Kirchmaier</p> <p><u>Home Office Officials</u></p> <p>Prof Jennifer Rubin (CSA)</p> <p>Dr Luke Reynolds</p> <p>Karen Meadows</p> <p>Jessica Linacre</p> <p>Gareth Morris</p> <p>Callum Davies</p> <p>Kieran O'Malley</p> <p>Darcy Coop (Secretariat)</p> <p><u>Observers/Guests</u></p> <p>Oscar O'Mara</p>
Meeting objectives	Routine Meeting, introduction for new members, and discuss potential new projects

Item 1: Welcome and Updates

1.1 The Chair welcomed HOSAC members and Home Office officials to the meeting.

1.2 The Chair provided updates on HOSAC workstreams.

1.3 The Chair then outlined that the main purpose of the meeting was to hear from Home Office officials regarding potential projects.

Item 2: Actions from the last meeting

2.1 The status of various Actions from previous meetings was discussed. A few Actions were completed and were marked as 'closed'.

Item 3: CSA and Secretariat Updates

3.1. Prof Jennifer Rubin provided a short update to HOSAC, thanking members for attending the meeting, as well as thanking Prof Brooke Rogers for her support during her recent bilateral with the US Department for Homeland Security.

3.2 Prof Jennifer Rubin highlighted the 'Dinner Speakers Series', which she had discussed with the Chair, and suggested she would like to progress this.

ACTION RAISED: Secretariat and Chair to progress the 'Dinner Speakers Series'.

3.3 Prof Jennifer Rubin reiterated her aim as Chief Scientific Adviser to build a science ecosystem in the Home Office and noted that HOSAC engagement had been encouraging.

3.4 Member Jonathan Shepherd responded to collaboration with US agencies stating that the US National Cardiff Network which CDC is supporting comprises agencies from 15-20 US cities, which all are implementing or preparing to implement the Cardiff Model for Violence Prevention

Item 4: HOSAC Hosts Luke Reynolds

4.1 The Chair then introduced Luke Reynolds, Deputy Director and lead of the new Futures and Foresights (F&F) function within STAR.

4.2 Luke gave a summary of his background before taking up his current role and then delivered a short presentation on the function he leads, which includes responsibility for exploring new concepts and developing frameworks for futures advice.

4.3 Luke highlighted how this function could have multiple uses, for example with policing and drones.

4.4 Luke noted his aim to bring more attention to the Futures and Foresight function, and work with colleagues to apply this thinking into their work.

4.5 Members then asked a number of questions and made a number of comments regarding Luke's presentation. Key points are highlighted below:

4.5.1 The Futures element was in policy and professions across government. Luke was planning to build on this within the Home Office and create pathways for training and understanding.

4.5.2 Luke highlighted that there were examples of this function in corporate companies, and the case studies were encouraging.

4.5.3 Responding to a question regarding how technology interacts with this function, Luke noted that technology plays a vital part in thinking forward. For example, he noted that tech horizon scanning was very useful – but using the F&F function thinking about how to make it more streamlined, going forward.

4.6 Member Helen Margetts noted that she would be happy to join discussions on F&F, specifically on areas such as machine learning. She suggested a collaborative discussion.

4.6.1 Tom Kirchmaier also noted he would be happy to join and discuss 'for living' data.

ACTION RAISED – Secretariat to organise HOSAC Workshop with Luke on the F&F function.

Item 5: HOSAC Hosts Karen Meadows

5.1 The Chair then introduced Karen Meadows, science advisor for Chemical/Biological threats.

5.2 Karen gave a short overview of what the team do and areas they are seeking input on, including mitigation methods.

5.3 HOSAC members then asked a number of questions and made a number of comments about Karen's presentation. The key points are summarised below.

5.3.1 Member Ollie Whitehouse noted multiple sensor and software approaches, as applied in air pollution.

5.3.2 Responding to a query on cross-departmental discussions, Karen noted that this was part of her role and various discussions were already in place

5.3.3 Member Jonathan Shepherd noted that emergency services could be part of surveillance and intelligence.

5.3.4 When asked about HOSAC targeting different parts of the process to support work in each area, Karen noted this would be helpful and the team welcomes engagement from academics and industry experts.

5.4 The Chair thanked Karen, and noted that HOSAC would be happy to provide support.

ACTION RAISED: Ollie Whitehouse and Karen agreed to discuss further.

ACTION RAISED – Karen will prepare a document for HOSAC members to comment on, and potentially hold a discussion/workshop following this.

Item 6: HOSAC Hosts Jessica Linacre

6.1 The Chair introduced Jessica Linacre, Deputy Director of Port Provisions.

6.2 Jessica discussed a new project – Future Ports. She highlighted the two elements of the work which includes Model Port which showcases the best current technology, provisions and processes to industry; demonstrating best practices of the day. Second is Research and Development (R&D) which is focused on creating environments to model and test new innovations at the UK Border; embedding continuous improvement and enabling port operators to drive and implement innovative border-focused solutions. She highlighted why this project was important, and how they aim to achieve it.

6.3 HOSAC members then asked a number of questions and made a number of comments about Jessica's presentation. The key points are summarised below.

6.3.1 The Chair suggested a workshop for the Future Port team and HOSAC members. She noted that approaches used in other facilities may be able to provide insight for this project

6.3.2 Helen Margetts agreed with the Chair, and noted that a discussion on machine learning and detection would be beneficial for the project

6.3.3 Ollie Whitehouse suggested that learning from Open RAN would be useful. He also noted the use of data architecture.

6.3.4 CSA noted she was interested in the range of innovation and commissioning mechanisms that the Home Office is using and would be interested to hear more from Jessica.

6.3.5 Tom Kirchmaier suggested that Jessica and her team look at the use of trade lens in the shipping industry, which may be helpful when thinking about Future Ports.

6.3.7 Member Jonathan Shepherd noted imaging may have potential, stating that although it was not his speciality, he was aware of the use of high energy X-Ray scanning of containers, and gamma ray screening for nuclear materials.

ACTION RAISED – Secretariat and Chair to appoint a lead for this project.

ACTION RAISED – Secretariat to set up meeting between lead and Jessica.

Item 7: HOSAC Hosts Gareth Morris

7.1 The Chair introduced Gareth Morris, part of the Planning Unit in the Strategy Directorate.

7.2 Gareth presented on the Home Office's Outcome Delivery Plan (ODP). He highlighted what the ODP was, why it is important, and what part it plays in the Home Office and wider Government. He noted this ODP would be a 3 year plan.

7.3 He noted that there are 4 priority outcomes led by the Home Office, and the ODP essentially asks, 'what are we going to do and how are we going to do it?'

7.4 Gareth noted that the team welcomed HOSAC members to give feedback on the current draft.

7.5 HOSAC members then asked a number of questions and made a number of comments about Gareth's presentation. The key points are summarised below.

7.5.1 The Chair suggested 'future proofing' the process of drafting the ODP.

7.5.2 Member Hugh Griffiths noted the issue of measuring progress. Gareth stated that for each Outcome there are a set of metrics and/or targets.

7.5.3 Member Paul Grasby suggested HOSAC members could be a friendly challenge some of the impact evaluation plans. Gareth welcomed this, and noted that the team are always looking for feedback on impact evaluation.

ACTION RAISED – HOSAC members to comment on ODP draft by middle of the week commencing 9 May.

Item 8: Thanks and Close

8.1 The Chair drew the meeting to a close and thanked all members for their attendance. Details of the next meeting would be provided by the Secretariat.

Summary of New Actions

1. Secretariat and Chair to discuss Dinner Speakers Series
2. Secretariat to organise HOSAC Workshop with Luke on the F&F function
3. Ollie Whitehouse and Karen agreed to discuss further offline
4. Karen Meadows to prepare a document for HOSAC members to comment on, and potentially hold a discussion/workshop following this
5. Secretariat and Chair to appoint a lead for Future Ports project
6. Secretariat to set up meeting between Future Ports lead and Jessica
7. HOSAC members to comment on ODP draft by middle of week commencing 9 May