



# Minutes

**Title of meeting** Home Office Science Advisory Council – Forward Look  
**Date** 10 September 2023  
**Time** 15:00-16:00  
**Venue** Microsoft Teams (virtual)

**Attendees** HOSAC Members  
Prof Brooke Rogers (Co-chair)  
Prof Guy Nason (Co-chair)  
Prof David Delpy  
Dr. Paul Grasby  
Prof Helen Margetts  
Prof Jonathan Shepherd  
Prof Hugh Griffiths  
Prof David Main  
Prof Brian Bell  
Prof David C Lane  
Prof Tushna Vandevala  
Prof Mark Watson-Gandy  
Dr. Gabriella Spinelli  
Prof Tom Kirchmaier [first 40 minutes]

Home Office Officials  
Prof Jennifer Rubin (CSA)  
Ed Wightman (Secretariat)  
Callum Davies  
Lizzie Gray

**Apologies** Prof Owen Bowden-Jones  
Prof Shane Johnson  
Ollie Whitehouse

**Meeting objectives** Forward Look

### **Item 1: Welcome and Updates**

- 1.1 The Co-Chairs welcomed HOSAC members and Home Office officials to the meeting, and introduced the new permanent secretariat.
- 1.2 Brooke highlighted updates from members since the last meeting. Brooke and Guy thanked Jonathan Shepherd for his 10 years of service to HOSAC, and Jonathan reflected on his tenure.

### **Item 2: Welcome and Update from CSA**

- 2.1 Jennifer Rubin welcomed and thanked HOSAC members for joining and outlined Home Office priorities for the year ahead across migration, public safety and homeland security including: fraud and illegal migration.
- 2.2 Jennifer said that Members interested in these topics should get in touch directly.
- 2.3 ACTION RAISED – Members to consider area of Home Office work where they would like to proactively engage. And get in touch with the Secretariat to take forward.**
- 2.4 Jennifer agreed to share relevant internal departmental updates with Members to keep them up to date with Home Office work and priorities. Jennifer also agreed to share HOSAC updates back with the Department.
- 2.4 Helen Margetts asked, to what extent HO is involved in Online Safety Bill. Jennifer said we are involved and offered to link Helen Margetts with the lead Director. Secretariat to set up a meeting.
- 2.5 ACTION RAISED - Secretariat to put Helen Margetts in touch with relevant Home Office lead on Online Safety Bill.**
- 2.6 David Lane expressed an interest in Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).
- 2.7 ACTION RAISED - Secretariat to put David Lane in touch with the relevant Home Office lead on VAWG.**

### **Item 3: 2023 Forward Look**

- 3.1 Guy introduced the item and papers and invited Members to provide comment.
- 3.2 Members agreed to consider further additions to the pool of experts.
- 3.3 ACTION RAISED – Members should engage with colleagues who they think could be useful additions to the HOSAC Pool of Experts.**

3.4 Brooke provided an overview of the Secretariat Action Plan and invited comments from members:

- i. David Delpy stated the plan must be realistic given the demands on senior officials.
- ii. Brooke agreed that we need to make it easy for the Department to engage with HOSAC.
- iii. Gabriella Spinelli and Paul Grasby stated that links to SCS have been productive.
- iv. Brooke thanked everyone for their comments and requested that any other comments should be sent to the secretariat.

3.5 Guy introduced the workplan and explained the idea for 2 on 1 meetings. Here, each member will meet with the chairs to discuss the refreshed workplan and agree their priority areas of work for the year ahead.

#### **Item 4: AOB**

4.1 Dave Delpy said, unlike other OGDs, the Home Office's Areas of Research Interest (ARIs) doesn't provide names of contacts against each area. If external researchers are interested, they have to come via Jennifer's office.

**4.2 ACTION – Secretariat to raise ARI accessibility with Deputy CSA**

4.3 Members expressed interest in attending other Home Office corporate and policy boards.

**4.4 ACTION – Both the secretariat and members to explore opportunities for members to get involved in higher level boards.**

#### **Item 5: Thanks and Close**

5.1 Chairs remarked on a productive meeting and thanked members for joining.