

10 JUNE 2024**Purpose**

1. This paper provides the Committee with an update on the latest FC Security Improvement Plan (SIP) along with an outline of the key achievements made since the previous version.

Background

2. The FC's Security Risk Management Forum (SRMF) met on 13th March 24 to review the actions included in the FC SIP. It was agreed that good progress has been made against many of the actions and that some of the work has become BAU. An action was taken for security leads to draft a new plan for FY 2024/25 which includes more current, specific, and measurable actions. The updated plan can be found in Annex A.
3. Key actions that have been closed and removed are:
 - ❖ Policies have been developed and approved covering incident management, business continuity and physical security.
 - ❖ The FC now has in place a security clearance tracker which contains the details of all security clearances held by employees across Forestry England, Forest Services and the Commissioners' Office beyond the standard pre-employment checks outlined in HMG's Baseline Personnel Security Standard. No security clearances are currently held by staff in Forest Research. It includes details of those clearances at Counter-Terrorist Check (CTC), Security Check (SC) and Developed Vetting (DV). Until recently, this information wasn't available in a central place.
 - ❖ Information asset registers are in place across the organisation, roles are established for Information Asset Owners and Information Asset Champions, each with their own communication channels.
4. We will soon be assessed on our compliance against the functional standard for security through the Departmental Security Health Check (DSHC), an annual questionnaire. This is due to be commissioned in June and at the end of the process we will receive a

report from the Government Security Group with our scores by each security category i.e. personnel, physical. Whilst we feel our position has improved since the 2023 questionnaire, new standards have been produced for personnel security and incident response – this will impact our ability to compare our results whilst also noting that the benchmark has moved.

5. The FC EB will be updated on progress made against the SIP following each SRMF meeting via its meeting summary notes.

Recommendation

6. The committee are invited to review and discuss the achievements made to date and the updated FC SIP.

Head of Internal Governance
May 24