Minutes

Title of meeting	Home Office Science Advisory Council Board Meeting
Date	11 March 2025
Time	09:00-10:30
Venue	Security and Policing Conference, Farnborough

Attendees

HOSAC Members
Prof Brooke Rogers (Co-chair)
Prof Guy Nason (Co-chair)
Prof Tushna Vandrevala
Prof Mark Watson-Gandy
Prof Dave Delpy
Prof Gabriella Spinelli
Prof Paul Grasby
Prof David C Lane
Prof Shane Johnson

Home Office Officials
Dr Kyle B
Dr Nicholas Moiseiwitsch

Apologies

Prof Jennifer Rubin
Prof Owen Bowden-Jones
Prof Tom Kirchmaier
Prof Helen Margetts
Prof David Main
Prof Brian Bell
Ollie Whitehouse
Prof Lucina Hackman
Prof Stuart Boyd

Item1: Welcome from HOSAC Co-Chair

1.1 Guy welcomed attendees to the Security and Policing Exhibition 2025.

1.2 Guy reflected on and thanked members for the recent HOSAC support that has been provided to the department since the January meeting. This included the review of products produced from the VAWG sprint, CSA Oversight of RDI Lesson's Learned Review, and review of the Home Office Operational Delivery Plan.

1.3 Guy gave an update on the latest HOSAC recruitment round, highlighting that eight new members will be joining HOSAC pending them gaining their security clearance.

1.4 Guy provided an overview of expected HOSAC engagement over the next few weeks. This includes:

- a meeting between Lord Hanson, Jennifer Rubin, and the HOSAC Co-Chairs that will discuss how HOSAC can support ministerial objectives.
- a commission from Migration & Borders Group on the use of artificial intelligence.
- a separate ask on the use of AI to improve government processes from Data and Identity team.

1.5 Guy outlined the HOSAC secretariat's forward look document that aims to raise awareness of HOSAC successes and embed HOSAC support across the department. It will also look to drive more ministerial engagements, and closer work with Senior Civil Servants.

Item 2: Welcome and update from DCSA

2.1 Nicholas thanked all members for their fantastic work and noted that, although it has been under two months since our last meeting, much has progressed across the department.

2.2 Nicholas summarised some of the recent updates from STAR and CSA teams.

2.3 Nicholas summarised some of the priorities for STAR and CSA over the coming weeks/months.

Item 3: HOSAC Hosts - National Security Strategic Investment Fund (NSSIF)

3.1 Kyle provided an overview of NSSIF and its role as the UK Government's corporate venturing arm for dual-use technologies for National Security and defence customers.

3.2 Kyle outlined the key objectives of NSSIF as well as the main themes and the organisations levers (Investments, insights & R&D).

3.3 Shane outlined the opportunity to develop relationships between NSSIF and universities in the innovation space.

3.4 Brooke asked Kyle about NSSIF's appetite for speaking at CST and JSaRC boards. Kyle is very keen on this and HOSAC will create links where possible. **Action: HOSAC secretariat and Brooke to facilitate links between CST & JSaRC with NSSIF.**

3.5 Brooke agreed that HOSAC and NSSIF can work help each other going forward. Kyle established that the team are currently awareness raising and then will focus on deconfliction. He requested support from HOSAC on the current demand signal proposal. **Action: HOSAC members to give its views on the NSSIF demand signal.**

3.6 Kyle outlined that NSSIF can provide information on the commercial landscape of emerging technologies to HOSAC, including quantum capabilities and AI technologies.

Item 4: HOSAC Brainstorm: Self-proposed Papers

4.1 Brooke and Guy introduced self-proposed papers, outlining the goal to develop a consensus on the initiative, possible structure of future papers, and ideas for future topic areas.

4.2 Co-Chairs outlined that papers would be first approved by Co-Chairs, then the CSA, and that the Secretariat would check with relevant HO teams about the usefulness of any work before it was started.

4.3 A nimble, quick piece of work is likely to be more helpful as HO officials often have little time and therefore succinct information is key. Guy proposed consistent parameters to help with identification of a HOSAC paper. **Action: HOSAC secretariat to work on drawing up parameters for a HOSAC paper.**

4.4 HOSAC members are happy with the proposal and are keen to be involved in this initiative. They would, however, like to know the expected time commitment for a HOSAC paper before beginning work on it.

4.5 HOSAC papers could be stored on a HOSAC intranet to log activity and enable teams to dip into the resources when needed.

4.6 Guy suggested that explainer papers could be an area where HOSAC could provide light-touch support to teams, for example on quantum computing.

4.7 Shane supported this idea and suggested that a future explainer paper could be on the implications of emerging technologies.

4.8 Gabriella and Paul suggested papers on evaluation and impact framework methods. HOSAC can outline the health of evaluation and discuss newer methods in this space.

4.9 Shane suggested looking for pockets of excellence across the Department, and producing a paper on how its success can be replicated elsewhere. Shane is also keen to understand the Home Office's methods to prioritise which future risks to put most resource into tackling. Perhaps this is something else HOSAC could support with.

Summary of Actions

1. **HOSAC secretariat and Brooke to facilitate links between CST & JSaRC with NSSIF.**

2. **HOSAC members to give its views on the NSSIF demand signal.**

3. **HOSAC secretariat to work on drawing up parameters for a HOSAC paper.**