Minutes

Title of meeting	Home Office Science Advisory Council Board Meeting
Date	16 June 2025
Time	13:00-16:00
Venue	2MS / Microsoft Teams

Attendees

<u>HOSAC Members</u>
Prof Guy Nason (Co-Chair)
Prof Tushna Vandrevala
Prof Tom Kirchmaier
Prof Dave Delpy
Prof Gabriella Spinelli
Ollie Whitehouse
Prof David C Lane
Prof Helen Margetts
Prof Shane Johnson
Prof Nicholas Lord
Prof Rowland Seymour
Prof Mateja Jamnik
Prof Michael Levi
Prof Nik Lomax
Prof Laura Smith
Prof Christina Boswell
Prof Mark Watson-Gandy
Prof Sally Robinson
Prof Lucina Hackman
Prof Stuart Boyd
Prof Brian Bell

<u>Home Office Officials</u>
Prof Jennifer Rubin
Dr Nicholas Moiseiwitsch
Frank Long
Fran Dowling

Apologies

Prof Brooke Rogers (Co-Chair)
Prof Paul Grasby
Prof Owen Bowden-Jones
Prof Mohamed Khamis

Item 1: Welcome and update from HOSAC Co-Chairs
1.1 Guy Nason introduced the meeting, summarised recent HOSAC activity, and welcomed the eight new HOSAC members.

Item 2: Welcome and update from Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA)
2.1 Jennifer Rubin thanked all members for their ongoing support and briefly summarised her role and the purpose of HOSAC for the benefit of the new members.

Item 3: Introduction to New HOSAC Members
3.1 The new HOSAC members in attendance briefly introduced themselves – see the [HOSAC Member Biographies](#).

Item 4: HOSAC Hosts – CSA Oversight of RDI
4.1 Nicholas summarised the RDI oversight process over the last 12 months and thanked the Council for their existing work to date.

4.2 Frank presented the expected timelines for CSA oversight process for 2025/26, and Nicholas explained that this year we will have more time to assess the Departmental RDI spend with greater rigour.

4.3 Tom expressed an interest in working more closely with the Home Office teams to help them to develop their R&D plans.

4.4 Ollie added that this year could look more closely at what an RDI activity is trying to achieve.

4.5 Gabriella suggested a day for pre-pitch ideas, or drop-in sessions.
ACTION 1 - Secretariat to facilitate RDI Oversight drop-in sessions with HOSAC members.

4.6 Jennifer reiterated that the purpose of this process is to enable to support to teams across the Department, not to block spending, and we'd also be interested in what RDI you believe could be missing.

Item 5: Associate member updates
5.1 The Chairs of AESAC, ASC & BFEG provided short updates on the recent activity of their respective committees.

5.2 The ACMD Secretariat provided an update on behalf of the Chair who could not attend.

Item 6: HOSAC Brainstorm – Top 5 Opportunities and Challenges
6.1 Guy summarised the 'Top 5' commission from Lord Hanson, also part of HOSAC's shift towards being more proactive rather than reactive.

6.2 Laura explained the priority area she proposed and led on – Disrupting Tech-Facilitated Intimate Partner Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls.

6.3 Nick explained the priority area he proposed and led on – Federated Database Systems for Fraud Data Sharing (Enabled Through Fully Homomorphic Encryption).

6.4 Tushna explained the priority area she proposed and led on – Borderless & Organised Crime Using New Digital Technology: Decentralised Online Group Threats.

6.5 Christina explained the priority area she proposed and led on – Better Understanding the Dynamics and Drivers of Unauthorised Migration to Inform Interventions.

6.6 Tom explained the priority area he proposed and led on – Police Productivity Improvements Through Science and Technology.

Item 7: HOSAC Hosts - Online Crime Coordination Centre

7.1 Fran introduced the Online Crime Coordination Centre (O3C) and explained the importance of the work despite financial constraints and other challenges.

7.2 Ollie drew links to work by the National Cyber Advisory Board, on cyber defence, as well as by DSIT to address competition concerns. The i100 is a good example of an existing agreement between government and industry.

7.3 Nick highlighted the potential use of fully homomorphic encryption to address some challenges in this space.

ACTION 2 – Fran to be included in future HOSAC conversations about Fully Homomorphic Encryption.

7.4 Dave suggested assessing what topic areas private companies may be most interested in putting money towards as a means of getting this work off the ground.

Item 8: AOB and Close

8.1 Guy thanked Shane Johnson and David Lane, who were at the end of their final term on HOSAC, for their excellent support over nearly a decade of service on the Council.

Summary of Actions

1. **Secretariat to facilitate RDI Oversight drop-in sessions with HOSAC members.**
2. **Fran to be included in future HOSAC conversations around Fully Homomorphic Encryption.**