



Cabinet Office

**Publication regarding events
surrounding the granting of Developed
Vetting to Peter Mandelson**

17 April 2026

Ref	Title	Page
1	Summary of the UKSV Vetting Summary Decision Template	3
2	15-04-2026 - Readout of Meeting between Prime Minister, Cabinet Secretary, Permanent Secretary Cabinet Office, Vidhya Alakeson and PPS to the Prime Minister	4-5

1 - Summary of the UKSV Vetting Summary Decision Template

The UKSV template contains UKSV's overall recommendation regarding vetting. It contains a free text box in which the Vetting Officer provides a brief assessment of their final decision and recommendation. This is not a detailed reproduction of the material contained elsewhere in the file.

That is then followed by two sets of RAG rated boxes. The first allows the Vetting Officer to indicate their level of concern - the options are Low Concern (Green), Medium Concern (Amber) and High Concern (Red). The second allows the officer to give their overall decision or recommendation - the options are Clearance Approved or Remains Valid (Green), Clearance Approved or Remains Valid with Risk Management (Amber) or Clearance Denied or Withdrawn (Red). The Vetting Officer ticks the appropriate box to represent their judgement.

Set out below is a blank excerpt from the template used by vetting officers. Where vetting officers felt there was a significant concern over the granting of vetting to an individual they would mark the 'High Concern' and 'Clearance Denied or Withdrawn' boxes.

Excerpt from UKSV Template

Indicate below your level of concern:

Overall Concern	Low Concern	Moderate Concern	High Concern
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Overall decision or recommendation:

Outcome	Clearance Approved or Remains Valid	Clearance Approved or Remains Valid w/ Risk Management	Clearance Denied or Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 - 15-04-2026 - Readout of Meeting between Prime Minister, Cabinet Secretary, Permanent Secretary Cabinet Office, Vidhya Alakeson and PPS to the Prime Minister

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

From: Dan York-Smith

Sent: 15 April 2026 13:38

To: Antonia Romeo <[email address]>; Catherine Little <[email address]>

Cc: [JCS] <[email address]>; Vidhya Alakeson <[email address]>; PM Private Office Support Team - Internal <[email address]>; Symes, Elkie - CO (OFF-SEN) <[email address]>

Subject: LIMDIS Readout of PM meeting on vetting

Antonia, Cat

Thanks for coming to see the PM (joined by Vidhya and me) on Tuesday evening to update him on the Humble Address and security vetting.

Cat set out that the vetting process involved UKSV in the Cabinet Office producing a vetting file which included a recommendation on whether DV should be granted, which was then passed to the sponsor department, in this case FCDO. As part of the Humble Address process, that file had been shared with Cat. On reviewing the file she had therefore learned that the recommendation from the vetting officer had been that DV should not be granted to Peter Mandelson. There is some discretion for departments to proceed with clearance and the FCDO had exercised it in this case, granting Mandelson vetting clearance. Cat had not seen the audit trail for this decision so we did not yet know on what basis the decision had been taken, contrary to the recommendation.

The PM was not aware of any of this before the meeting, including that it was even possible to grant clearance against the advice of UKSV. There is no evidence that the decision to grant DV despite the UKSV advice had been disclosed to anyone outside FCDO and UKSV before the document was shared with CO to comply with the Humble Address.

We said that we had wanted to make him aware of the situation at the earliest opportunity. Our advice to the PM was that further fact finding was required, to understand the FCDO decision making process and reasons for granting clearance and to determine whether ministers, having been provided (incorrectly) with assurances about the process, had inadvertently misled Parliament when commenting on the process which had been followed. The terms of review into the vetting system that has already been announced would also need considering in light of the new information on the circumstances around Mandelson's clearance.

The PM agreed with this advice and asked for the facts to be established urgently and advice on how to proceed from there including in terms of informing Parliament.

Dan

Dan York-Smith | Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister | 10 Downing Street, London, SW1A 2AA | [Phone Number]

For latest news and information from Downing Street visit: <http://www.gov.uk/number10>
Follow Number 10 on X (Twitter): <http://x.com/10DowningStreet>
Help save paper - do you need to print this email?

This email and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual(s) to whom they are addressed. If you are not the intended recipient and have received this email in error, please notify the sender and delete the email.

This footnote also confirms that our email communications may be monitored to ensure the secure and effective operation of our systems and for other lawful purposes, and that this email has been swept for malware and viruses.

