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FSC.EMI/139/25  
20 May 2025

ENGLISH only



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**NOTE NO. 32/22**

The United Kingdom Delegation to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe presents its compliments to the participating States of the Forum for Security and Co-operation (FSC), and to the Conflict Prevention Centre, and has the honour to convey its response to the questionnaire on the *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security* for 2025. The response also includes voluntary information on Private Military and Security Companies, Children and Armed Conflict, Women, Peace, and Security, and Climate Security.

The United Kingdom Delegation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the delegations, and to the Conflict Prevention Centre, the assurance of its highest consideration.

**UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION**  
VIENNA

06 May 2025

To all Delegations / Permanent Missions to the OSCE  
To the Conflict Prevention Centre



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INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON  
POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY:  
UK CODE OF CONDUCT QUESTIONNAIRE RETURN 2025

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## Section I: Inter-State elements

### 1. Account of measures to prevent and combat terrorism

#### 1.1 To which agreements and arrangements (universal, regional, sub regional and bilateral) related to preventing and combating terrorism is your State a party?

| Convention                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Signature | Ratification |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1. Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, signed at Tokyo on 14 September 1963                                                                                                                                               | 14 Sep 63 | 29 Nov 68    |
| 2. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, signed at The Hague on 16 December 1970                                                                                                                                                       | 16 Dec 70 | 22 Dec 71    |
| 3. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 23 September 1971                                                                                                                                 | 23 Sep 71 | 25 Oct 73    |
| 4. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 14 December 1973                                                       | 13 Dec 74 | 2 May 79     |
| 5. International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 17 December 1979                                                                                                                            | 18 Dec 79 | 22 Dec 82    |
| 6. Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, signed at Vienna 3 March 1980                                                                                                                                                                      | 13 Jun 80 | 6 Sep 91     |
| 7. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports serving International Civil Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 24 February 1988 | 26 Oct 88 | 15 Nov 90    |
| 8. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation. Concluded at Rome on 10 March 1988                                                                                                                                 | 22 Sep 88 | 3 May 91     |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 9. Protocol to the above-mentioned Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf. Concluded at Rome on 10 March 1988 | 22 Sep 88  | 3 May 91        |
| 10. Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, Done at Montreal on 1 March 1991                                                                            | 1 Mar 91   | 28 Apr 97       |
| 11. International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15 December 1997                                             | 12 Jan 98  | 7 Mar 01        |
| 12. International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 9 December 1999                                      | 10 Jan 00  | 7 Mar 01        |
| 13. International Conventions for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism                                                                                                                | 14 Sept 05 | 24 September 09 |

**UNITED KINGDOM ADHERENCE TO EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON TERRORISM**

|                                                                                                 |           |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, concluded at Strasbourg on 27 January 1977 | 27 Jan 77 | 24 Jul 78           |
| Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism                                     | 16 May 05 | UK has not ratified |
| Protocol amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism                       | 15 May 03 | UK has not ratified |
| Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism          | 22 Oct 15 | UK has not ratified |

Following the UK's departure from the EU, we established in 2024 a UK-EU Counter Terrorism Dialogue. The UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement has a section on law enforcement and criminal justice which provides for additional UK-EU capabilities in this area which support CT cooperation.

**Tokyo Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft 1963**

Jurisdiction of State of Registration – Article 3

Section 92 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 provides for the application of the criminal law to offences committed on board British-controlled aircraft in flight outside the UK. The definition of “British controlled aircraft” is found in section 92(5) and goes somewhat wider than simply aircraft registered in the UK.<sup>1</sup>

#### Powers of the aircraft commander – Articles 5-10

Section 93 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 sets out the powers of the commander of an aircraft, to give effect to these Articles of the Convention.

#### Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft – Article 11

Specific legislative enactment is unnecessary in respect of this Article. Reasonable force is permissible under the common law in defence of the person, and in relation to preventing crime and arresting offenders by virtue of section 3 of the Criminal Law Act 1967.

#### Powers and duties of States - Articles 12-15

The necessary legislative enactment is unnecessary beyond the provision of section 93 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982. Powers of detention are primarily regulated under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. Powers of removal of aliens are regulated under immigration legislation.

#### Article 16

It is accepted for the purposes of the United Kingdom’s general extradition arrangements with individual States that offences committed aboard aircraft are offences committed within the territory of the State of registration of such aircraft – Extradition Act 2003. In addition, extradition is permitted to contracting parties to the Tokyo Convention in respect of offences committed on board aircraft in flight by virtue of section 193 of the Extradition Act 2003 and the Extradition Act 2003 (Parties to International Conventions) Order 2005 (SI 2005/46) .

#### Article 18

The Secretary of State is empowered to make designations in relation to joint air transport operating organisations under s.98 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982.

### **The Hague Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft 1970**

#### Article 1 – The Offence

Section 1 of the Aviation Security Act 1982 establishes the offence of hijacking in terms similar to the Convention. Under the general criminal law, accomplices to offences may themselves be prosecuted as principal offenders under section 8 of the Accessories and Abettors Act 1861. In addition section 6(2)(a) of the Aviation Security Act 1982 establishes ancillary offences in respect of persons in the UK who induce or assist the commission outside the UK of hijackings of military or police aircraft, or aircraft for which the place of take-off and landing is the same as that of the State of registration (matters excluded from the scope of the Convention under Article 3(2) and (3)).

Furthermore, legislation needs to be enacted in order to extend the conventions to the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories. The first five conventions detailed below have been extended to all of these territories; the process of extending the remaining seven is on-going.

#### Article 2 - Penalty

The offence of hijacking is punishable by life imprisonment (section 1(3) of the Aviation Security Act 1982).

#### Article 3 – Interpretation and exclusions

The interpretation of when an aircraft is considered to be in flight for the purposes of the Convention (Article 3(1)) is mirrored in section 38(3) of the Aviation Security Act 1982. The excluded matters in

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<sup>1</sup> However, it is important to note that the UK is made of three different law districts, namely (i) England and Wales, (ii) Scotland, and (iii) Northern Ireland. Whilst primary legislation that has been introduced specifically to implement treaty obligations will usually apply in all three law districts, aspects of substantive and procedural criminal law differ considerably in each. For the sake of brevity, this reply sets out the position in England and Wales. Implementation of the Conventions differs in a number of respects in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Articles 3(2) (military and police aircraft) and (3) (aircraft for which the place of take-off and landing is the same as that of the State of registration) are mirrored in section 1(2) of the Aviation Security Act 1982, except (i) where the hijackers of such planes are UK nationals or (ii) the hijacking occurs in the UK or (iii) the aircraft is registered in the UK or used in the service of the UK military or police.

#### Article 4 - Jurisdiction

Hijacking is an offence under section 1 of the Aviation Security Act 1982, whether it takes place in the UK or elsewhere. In accordance with section 8, proceedings in respect of these offences require the consent of the Attorney-General. Provision is also made for extraterritorial jurisdiction over a number of ancillary offences committed in connection with a hijacking, including homicides and various other offences against the person, as well as explosives offences (section 6(1) of the Aviation Security Act 1982).

#### Article 5 – Joint air transport operating organisations

The Secretary of State is empowered to make designations in relation to joint air transport operating organisations under s.98 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982.

#### Article 6 – Detention and investigation

Specific implementing legislation is not required since powers of detention and investigation are governed primarily under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and its associated Codes of practice. Further powers of investigation and detention in relation to terrorist activity are contained in the Terrorism Act 2000. Arrests can be made without having first to seek the consent of the Attorney-General, by virtue of section 25 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

#### Article 7 aut dedere aut judicare

Specific legislative implementation of this provision in UK law is unnecessary, though it will be observed by the authorities deciding upon extradition and prosecution.

#### Article 8 – Extradition

The UK has various general extradition arrangements with individual States under which the offences covered by the convention are included as extradition crimes. However, where no such general arrangement exists, extradition is permitted to contracting parties of The Hague Convention in respect of offences under sections 1, 6(1) and 6(2)(a) of the Aviation Security Act 1982, by virtue of section 193 of the Extradition Act 2003 and the Extradition Act 2003 (Parties to International Conventions) Order 2005 (SI 2005/46).

#### Article 9 – Preventive Measures

Specific legislative enactment is unnecessary in respect of this Article. Reasonable force is permissible under the common law in defence of the person, and in relation to preventing crime and arresting offenders by virtue of section 3 of the Criminal Law Act 1967. However, section 7 of the Aviation Security Act 1982 enables the police to take measures to prevent a person from embarking on an aircraft where they suspect he intends to commit hijacking offences.

#### Article 10 – Mutual Legal Assistance

The United Kingdom co-operates in criminal proceedings and investigations with the authorities of other States in accordance with the provisions of the Crime (International Cooperation) Act 2003.

#### Article 11 – Notifications

Specific legislative authority is not required in this respect.

### **The Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation 1971**

#### Article 1 – The Offences

The offences set out in Article 1(1) are reflected in the provisions of sections 2(1), 2(2), 3(1), and 3(3) of the Aviation Security Act 1982.

As regards attempts and accomplices for the purposes of Article 1(2), section 2(2) of the Aviation Security Act 1982 provides that it is an offence to place a device or substance on an aircraft which is likely to destroy or damage it. Additionally, under the general criminal law, attempts to commit one of these

offences are covered by the Criminal Attempts Act 1981, and accomplices to offences may themselves be prosecuted as principal offenders under section 8 of the Accessories and Abettors Act 1861.

Further, section 6(2)(b) of the Aviation Security Act 1982 establishes an ancillary offence in respect of persons in the UK who induce or assist the commission outside the UK of the destruction or sabotage of military or police aircraft, or the commission of violent acts which are likely to endanger the safety of such aircraft. Section 6(2)(c) establishes an ancillary offence in respect of persons in the UK who induce or assist the commission outside the UK of destruction or damage to property likely to endanger the safety of aircraft. Section 6(2)(c) also establishes an ancillary offence in relation to persons in the UK who induce or assist the commission outside the UK of the communication of false or misleading information which endangers or is likely to endanger the safety of aircraft in flight.

#### Article 2 Interpretation

The interpretation of when an aircraft is considered to be “in flight” or “in service” for the purposes of the Convention is mirrored in section 38(3) of the Aviation Security Act 1982.

#### Article 3 Penalties

Offences under Sections 2 and 3 of the Aviation Security Act 1982 are punishable by life imprisonment.

#### Article 4 – Exclusions

The UK legislation limits the exclusions in Article 4 of the Convention in certain respects.

#### Article 5 – Jurisdiction

The offences under section 2 of the Aviation Security Act 1982, (i.e. the destruction or damage to aircraft in service, acts of violence which endanger the safety of aircraft, and placing of a device or substance on board an aircraft likely to destroy or damage aircraft or endanger their safety) are offences in UK law, whether they are committed in the UK or elsewhere, whatever the nationality of the accused, and whatever the State in which the aircraft is registered (section 2(3)). In accordance with section 8, proceedings in respect of these offences require the consent of the Attorney-General.

For the offences under section 3 of the Aviation Security Act 1982 (i.e. the destruction or damage to property such as to endanger the safety of aircraft in flight, and the communication of false or misleading information such as to endanger the safety of aircraft in flight), the grounds of jurisdiction are set out in section 3(5) and reflect the grounds set out in Article 5(1) of the Convention.

#### Article 6 – Detention and investigation

Specific implementing legislation is not required, since powers of detention and investigation are governed primarily under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and its associated Codes of Practice. Further powers of investigation and detention in relation to terrorist activity are contained in the Terrorism Act 2000. Arrests can be made without having first to seek the consent of the Attorney-General, by virtue of section 25 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

#### Article 7 – aut dedere aut judicare

Specific legislative implementation of this provision in UK law is unnecessary, though it will be observed by the authorities deciding upon extradition and prosecution.

#### Article 8 – Extradition

The UK has various general extradition arrangements with individual States under which the offences covered by the convention are included as extradition crimes. However, where no such general arrangement exists, extradition is permitted to contracting parties of the Montreal Convention in respect of offences under sections 2, 3, 6(2)(b) and 6(2)(c) of the Aviation Security Act 1982, by virtue of section 193 of the Extradition Act 2003 and the Extradition Act 2003 (Parties to International Conventions) Order 2005 (SI 2005/46).

#### Article 9 – Joint air transport operating organisations

The Secretary of State is empowered to make designations in relation to joint air transport operating organisations under s.98 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982.

#### Article 10 – Preventive measures

Specific legislative enactment is unnecessary in respect of this Article. Reasonable force is permissible under the common law in defence of the person, and in relation to preventing crime and arresting offenders by virtue of section 3 of the Criminal Law Act 1967. However, section 7 of the Aviation Security Act 1982 enables the police to take measures to prevent a person from embarking on an aircraft where they suspect he intends to commit hijacking offences.

#### Article 11 – Mutual Legal Assistance

The United Kingdom co-operates in criminal proceedings and investigations with the authorities of other States in accordance with the provisions of the Crime (International Cooperation) Act 2003.

#### Articles 12 and 13 - Notifications

Specific legislative authority is not required in this respect.

### **Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents 1973**

#### Articles 1 and 2 – The Offences

Most of the offences set out in Article 2(1) are offences against the general criminal law in the UK, whether committed against internationally protected persons or not. Hence murder, manslaughter, culpable homicide, rape, assault occasioning actual bodily or causing injury, kidnapping, abduction, false imprisonment or plagium, as well as the various statutory offences under sections 18, 20-24, 28-30, and 56 of the Offences Against the Persons Act, and the offence of causing explosions with intent to endanger life under s.2 of the Explosive Substances Act 1883, are well-established offences when committed in the United Kingdom. Similarly, criminal damage and arson are established statutory offences under the Criminal Damage Act 1971 when committed within the UK.

However, section 1(1) of the Internationally Protected Persons Act 1978 provides for the application of the law extraterritorially when these offences are committed against an internationally protected person.

Section 1(2) of the 1978 Act also provides that attempts to commit one of those acts, or aiding or abetting others to do so, whether the attempt or aiding or abetting took place in the UK or not is an offence. Similarly, section 1(3) creates the offence of threatening to commit one of the offences, or attempting, aiding or abetting such threat.

#### Article 3 – Jurisdiction

The offences under section 1 of the Internationally Protected Persons Act are offences for the purposes of UK law whether they are committed within the UK or not. However, in relation to offences under the Act (i.e. essentially those involving the assertion of extraterritorial jurisdiction, proceedings require the consent of the Attorney-General (section 2 of the 1978 Act).

#### Articles 4 and 5 - Preventive measures and co-operation

No specific legislative measures are necessary beyond the usual police powers and the arrangements for co-operation in this respect.

#### Article 6 – Detention and investigation

Specific implementing legislation is not required, since powers of detention and investigation are governed primarily under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and its associated Codes of Practice. Further powers of investigation and detention in relation to terrorist activity are contained in the Terrorism Act 2000. Arrests can be made without having first to seek the consent of the Attorney-General, by virtue of section 25 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

#### Article 7 aut dedere aut judicare

Specific legislative implementation of this provision in UK law, is unnecessary, though it will be observed by the authorities deciding upon extradition and prosecution.

#### Article 8 – Extradition

The UK has various general extradition arrangements with individual States under which the offences covered by the convention are included as extradition crimes. However, where no such general arrangement exists, extradition is permitted to contracting parties of the Convention in respect of offences

under sections 1(1)(a), 1(1)(b) and 1(3) of the Internationally Protected Persons Act 1978, by virtue of section 193 of the Extradition Act 2003 and the Extradition Act 2003 (Parties to International Conventions) Order 2005 (SI 2005/46).

#### Article 9 – Fair Treatment

There are numerous guarantees in relation to fair treatment in criminal procedural law, notably the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. Treatment must also meet the standards of the European Convention of Human Rights under the Human Rights Act 1998.

#### Article 10 – Mutual Legal Assistance

The United Kingdom co-operates in criminal proceedings and investigations with the authorities of other States in accordance with the provisions of the Crime (International Cooperation) Act 2003.

#### Article 11 – Notification

Specific legislative authority is not required in this respect.

### **The International Convention against the Taking of Hostages 1979**

#### Article 1- The Offence

The offence of “hostage-taking” is established in UK law by section 1 (1) of the Taking of Hostages Act 1982 in similar terms to Article 1(1) of the Convention. As regards attempts and accomplices (Article 1(2)), under the general criminal law, attempts are covered by the Criminal Attempts Act 1981, and accomplices are covered under section 8 of the Accessories and Abettors Act 1861.

#### Article 2 - Penalty

The offence of hostage taking is punishable by life imprisonment (section 1(2) of the Taking of Hostages Act 1982).

#### Article 3

No specific legislative enactment is required in this respect.

#### Article 4 - Preventive measures and co-operation

No specific legislative measures are necessary in this respect beyond the usual police powers and the arrangements for co-operation in this respect.

#### Article 5 - Jurisdiction

Hostage taking is an offence under section 1 of the Taking of Hostages Act 1982, whether it takes place in the UK or elsewhere. By section 2 of that Act, proceedings require the consent of the Attorney-General.

#### Article 6 – Detention and investigation

Specific implementing legislation is not required, since powers of detention and investigation are governed primarily under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and its associated Codes of Practice. Further powers of investigation and detention in relation to terrorist activity are contained in the Terrorism Act 2000. Arrests can be made without having first to seek the consent of the Attorney-General, by virtue of section 25 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

#### Article 7 – Notification

Specific legislative authority is not required in this respect.

#### Article 8 aut dedere aut judicare

Specific legislative implementation of this provision in UK law is unnecessary, though it will be observed by the authorities deciding upon extradition and prosecution.

#### Articles 9 and 10 – Extradition

The UK has various general extradition arrangements with individual States under which the offences covered by the convention are included as extradition crimes. However, where no such general arrangement exists, extradition is permitted to contracting parties of the Convention in respect of offences under the Taking of Hostages Act 1982, by virtue of section 193 of the Extradition Act 2003 and the Extradition Act 2003 (Parties to International Conventions) Order 2005 (SI 2005/46).

#### Article 11 - Mutual Legal Assistance

The United Kingdom co-operates in criminal proceedings and investigations with the authorities of other States in accordance with the provisions of the Crime (International Cooperation) Act 2003.

#### Articles 12-15

No legislative enactment is required in these respects.

### **The Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material 1979**

#### Article 7 - The Offences

Most of the offences set out in Article 7 are offences against the general criminal law in the UK, whether committed in relation to nuclear material or not. Hence murder, manslaughter, culpable homicide, assaults as well statutory offences under sections 18 and 20 the Offences Against the Persons Act, and section 1 of the Criminal Damage Act 1971, are well-established offences when committed in the UK law. Similarly, theft, embezzlement, robbery, burglary, aggravated burglary, fraud and extortion are established offences when committed within the UK.

However, section 1(1) of the Nuclear Materials Act 1983 provides for the application of the criminal law extraterritorially when these offences are committed outside the UK in relation to or by means of nuclear material.

Section 2 of the 1983 Act also provides that preparatory acts and threats to obtain nuclear material in relation to these offences shall themselves be offences (in accordance Article 1(1) (e) and (g) of the Convention). In addition, under the general criminal law, attempts are covered by the Criminal Attempts Act 1981, and accomplices are covered under section 8 of the Accessories and Abettors Act 1861.

Penalties vary in according to the different crimes charged. An indication of the gravity with which these crimes are viewed in UK law can be seen from section 2(5) of the 1983 Act which provides for a maximum sentence of 14 years, in relation to the offences concerning preparatory acts and threats in section 2.

#### Article 8 – Jurisdiction

The offences under sections 1 and 2 of the Nuclear Material (Offences) Act 1983 are offences for the purposes of UK law whether they are committed within the UK or not. However, in certain cases, essentially involving the assertion of extraterritorial jurisdiction, the consent of the Attorney-General is required in relation to prosecutions (section 2 of the 1978 Act).

#### Article 9 – Detention and investigation

Specific implementing legislation is not required, since powers of detention and investigation are governed primarily under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and its associated Codes of Practice. Further powers of investigation and detention in relation to terrorist activity are contained in the Terrorism Act 2000. Arrests can be made without having first to seek the consent of the Attorney-General, by virtue of section 25 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

#### Article 10 - aut dedere aut judicare

Specific legislative implementation of this provision in UK law is unnecessary, though it will be observed by the authorities deciding upon extradition and prosecution.

#### Article 11 – Extradition

The UK has various general extradition arrangements with individual States under which the offences covered by the convention are included as extradition crimes. However, where no such general arrangement exists, extradition is permitted to contracting parties of the Convention in respect of offences under sections 1(1) and 2 of the Nuclear Material (Offences) Act 1983, by virtue of section 193 of the Extradition Act 2003 and the Extradition Act 2003 (Parties to International Conventions) Order 2005 (SI 2005/46).

#### Article 12 – Fair Treatment

There are numerous guarantees in relation to fair treatment in criminal procedural law, notably the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. Treatment must also meet the standards of the European Convention of Human Rights under the Human Rights Act 1998.

#### Article 13 – Mutual Legal Assistance

The United Kingdom co-operates in criminal proceedings and investigations with the authorities of other States in accordance with the provisions of the Crime (International Cooperation) Act 2003.

#### **Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports 1988**

This supplementary Protocol to the 1971 Montreal Convention is given effect in UK law under section 1 of the Aviation and Maritime Security Act 1990. The offences set out in Article 1 of the Protocol are given effect in UK law by sections 1(1) and 1(2) of the 1990 Act. Offences are punishable by life imprisonment (section 1(5)). Extraterritorial jurisdiction is provided for under Section 1(3), but the consent of the Attorney-General is required for the institution of proceedings (section 1(7)). Extradition is provided for as per the 1971 Montreal Convention.

#### **The Rome Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation 1988**

##### Article 3 – The Offences

The offences set out in Article 3(1) of the Convention are implemented in UK law in the following sections of the Aviation and Maritime Security Act 1990:

- Section 9 - hijacking of ships;
- Section 11(1) (c) - acts of violence such as to endanger a ship;
- Section 11(1) (a) and (b) - destruction of and damage likely to endanger the safety of ships;
- Section 11(2) - placing on board of a device or substance likely to destroy or damage a ship;
- Section 12(1) - destruction or damage of maritime navigational facilities;
- Section 12(3) - communication of false information endangering safety of ships;
- Section 14 - violent acts ancillary to the commission of the offences in sections 9, 11, and 12.

As regards attempts and accomplices (Articles 3(2) (a) and (b)) under the general criminal law, attempts are covered by the Criminal Attempts Act 1981, and accomplices are covered under section 8 of the Accessories and Abettors Act 1861. In accordance with Article 3(2) (c), threats are made offences by section 13 of the Aviation and Maritime Security Act 1990.

##### Article 5 – The penalties

The offences contained in sections 9, 11, 12 and 13 of the Aviation and Maritime Security Act 1990 are all punishable by life imprisonment (see sections 9(3), 11(6), 12(7) and 13(5) respectively).

##### Article 6 – Jurisdiction

The offences under sections 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the Aviation and Maritime Security Act 1990 are offences for the purposes of UK law whether they are committed within the UK or not. However, the consent of the Attorney-General is required in relation to prosecutions (section 16).

##### Article 7 – Detention and investigation

Specific implementing legislation is not required, since powers of detention and investigation are governed primarily under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and its associated Codes of Practice. Further powers of investigation and detention in relation to terrorist activity are contained in the Terrorism Act 2000. Arrests can be made without having first to seek the consent of the Attorney-General, by virtue of section 25 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

##### Article 10 - aut dedere aut judicare and fair treatment

Specific legislative implementation of Article 10(1) in UK law is unnecessary, though the authorities deciding upon extradition and prosecution will observe it. There are numerous guarantees in relation to fair treatment in criminal procedural law, notably the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. Treatment must meet the standards of the European Convention of Human Rights under the Human Rights Act 1998.

#### Article 11 – Extradition

The UK has various general extradition arrangements with individual States under which the offences covered by the convention are included as extradition crimes. However, where no such general arrangement exists, extradition is permitted to contracting parties to the Convention in respect of offences under sections 9, 11, 12, or 13 of the Aviation and Maritime Security Act 1990, by virtue of section 193 of the Extradition Act 2003 and the Extradition Act 2003 (Parties to International Conventions) Order 2005 (SI 2005/46).

#### Article 12 – Mutual Legal Assistance

The United Kingdom co-operates in criminal proceedings and investigations with the authorities of other States in accordance with the provisions of the Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003.

#### Article 13 - Preventive measures and co-operation

No specific legislative measures are necessary in this respect beyond the usual police powers and the arrangements for co-operation in this respect.

#### Articles 14 -15 - Notifications

No legislative enactment is required in these respects.

### **Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf**

#### Article 2 – The Offences

The offences set out in Article 2(1) of the Convention are implemented in UK law in the following sections of the Aviation and Maritime Security Act 1990:

Section 10 - seizure of platforms;

Section 11(1) (c) - acts of violence such as to endanger the safety of a platform;

Section 11(1) (a) and (b) - destruction of and damage likely to endanger the safety of a platform;

Section 11(2) - placing on board of a device or substance likely to destroy or damage a Platform;

section 14 - violent acts ancillary to the commission of the offences in sections 10 and 11.

As regards attempts and accomplices (Articles 2(2) (a) and (b)) under the general criminal law, attempts are covered by the Criminal Attempts Act 1981, and accomplices are covered under section 8 of the Accessories and Abettors Act 1861. Threats under Article 2(2) (c) are made offences by section 13 of the Aviation and Maritime Security Act 1990.

#### Article 5 – The penalties

The offences contained in sections 10, 11, and 13 of the Aviation and Maritime Security Act 1990 are all punishable by life imprisonment (see sections 10(2), 11(6), and 13(5) respectively).

#### Article 6 – Jurisdiction

The offences under sections 10, 11, 13 and 14 of the Aviation and Maritime Security Act 1990 are offences for the purposes of UK law whether they are committed within the UK or not. However, the consent of the Attorney-General is required in relation to prosecutions (section 16).

In other respects, the Protocol is implemented in UK law as per the 1988 Rome Convention.

### **The Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purposes of Detection 1991**

The Convention is implemented in UK law by *The Marking of Plastic Explosives for Detection Regulations 1996* (SI No. 890/1996), made under enabling powers in the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. The Regulations prohibit the manufacture of unmarked explosives in accordance with Article II of the Convention. The Regulations prohibit the importation into the UK of unmarked explosives. Further restrictions to prohibit and prevent the transfer into or out of the territory of the UK in accordance with Article III may be given effect through the licensing system generally applicable to importation and exportation. The Regulations also prohibit the possession of unmarked explosives and save in respect of stocks held for military and police purposes.

### **The International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings 1997**

#### Article 2 – The Offences.

Offences relating to explosives have long been a part of UK criminal law. The Offences Against the Person Act 1861 provides for the following offences:

- (a) causing bodily harm by gunpowder (section 28);
- (b) causing gunpowder to explode with intent to do grievous bodily harm (section 29); and
- (c) placing gunpowder near a building with intent to cause bodily injury.

In addition, under the Explosive Substances Act 1883 the following are offences:

- (a) causing an explosion likely to endanger life or property (section 2);
- (b) doing any act with intent to such explosion, conspiring to cause such an explosion, or making or possessing explosive with intent to endanger life or property (section 3);
- (c) acting as an accessory to either of the above offences (section 5).

Section 1 of the Biological Weapons Act 1974, and section 2 of the Chemical Weapons Act 1996, create various offences concerning the use possession and development of biological and chemical weapons respectively. Similar offences in relation to the use of nuclear weapons are established under section 47 of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001.

As regards attempts and accomplices (Articles 2(2) and 2(3)) under the general criminal law, attempts are covered by the Criminal Attempts Act 1981, and accomplices are covered under section 8 of the Accessories and Abettors Act 1861. Conspiring to commit offences is also an offence by virtue of section 1 of the Criminal Law Act 1977.

Finally, a person who directs a terrorist organisation commits an offence under section 56 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

#### Article 4 – Domestic Criminal Law and Penalties

The offences contained in Article 2 are part of UK domestic law by virtue of the statutory provisions set above. Offences under section 2,3 and 5 of the Explosive Substances Act 1883; section 1 of the Biological Weapons Act 1974; section 2 of the Chemical Weapons Act 1996; and section 47 of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 are all punishable by life imprisonment.

#### Article 5

The offences in UK law cited above are offences regardless of such motivations on the part of the accused.

#### Article 6 – Jurisdiction

By virtue of section 62 of the Terrorism Act 2000 extraterritorial jurisdiction is extended over the offences under Articles 2, 3 and 5 of the Explosive Substances Act 1883, and the offences in section 1 of the Biological Weapons Act 1974 and section 2 of the Chemical Weapons Act 1996. However, by virtue of section 117 of the Terrorism Act 2000, the consent of the Attorney-General to prosecutions will be required where such extraterritorial jurisdiction is to be asserted. Extraterritorial jurisdiction is also exercisable with the consent of the Attorney-General in respect of offences relating to use etc. of nuclear weapons under section 47 of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001.

#### Article 7 – Detention and investigation

Specific implementing legislation is not required, since powers of detention and investigation are governed primarily under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and its associated Codes of Practice. Further powers of investigation and detention in relation to terrorist activity are contained in the Terrorism Act 2000. Arrests can be made without having first to seek the consent of the Attorney-General, by virtue of section 25 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

#### Article 8 - aut dedere aut judicare

Specific legislative implementation of this Article in UK law is unnecessary, though it will be observed by the authorities deciding upon extradition and prosecution.

#### Article 9 – Extradition

The UK has various general extradition arrangements with individual States under which the offences covered by the convention are included as extradition crimes. However, where no such general arrangement exists, extradition is permitted to contracting parties to the Convention in respect of offences under sections 2, 3 and 5 of the Explosive Substances Act 1883, section 1 of the Biological Weapons Act 1974 and section 2 of the Chemical Weapons Act 1996, by virtue of section 193 of the Extradition Act 2003 (Parties to International Conventions) Order 2005 (SI 2005/46).

#### Article 10 – Mutual Legal Assistance

The United Kingdom co-operates in criminal proceedings and investigations with the authorities of other States in accordance with the provisions of the Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003.

#### Article 11 – Exclusion of the Political Offence Exception

The Extradition Act 1989 has been repealed and replaced by the Extradition Act 2003, which no longer prohibits extradition for a political offence.

#### Article 14 – Fair Treatment

There are numerous guarantees in relation to fair treatment in criminal procedural law, notably the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. Treatment must meet the standards of the European Convention of Human Rights under the Human Rights Act 1998.

#### Article 15 – preventive measures

In relation to Article 15(a) it should be noted that by virtue of sections 59-61 of the Terrorism Act 2000 incitement to terrorism overseas is an offence in UK law.

### **The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism 1999**

#### Article 2 – The Offences

The offences set out in Article 2(1) of the Convention are reflected in UK law in the following offences under the Terrorism Act 2000:

- (a) Fund-raising for the purposes of terrorism (section 15);
- (b) Use and possession of money for the purposes of terrorism (section 16);
- (c) Involvement in funding arrangements for the purposes of terrorism (section 17);
- (d) Money laundering and similar offences in relation to terrorist property (section 18).

As regards attempts and accomplices (Articles 2(4) and 2(5)) under the general criminal law, attempts are covered by the Criminal Attempts Act 1981, and accomplices are covered under section 8 of the Accessories and Abettors Act 1861. Conspiring to commit offences is also an offence by virtue of section 1 of the Criminal Law Act 1977.

A person who directs a terrorist organisation commits an offence under section 56 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

#### Article 4 – Domestic Criminal Law and Penalties

The offences contained in Article 2 are part of UK domestic law by virtue of the statutory provisions set above. The maximum custodial sentence in relation to offences under section 15-18 of the Terrorism Act 2000 is 14 years imprisonment (section 22). The offence of directing a terrorist organisation under section 56 of that Act is punishable by life imprisonment.

#### Article 6

The ideological or similar other motivation of the offender offers no excuse in relation to the offences under section 15-18 of the Terrorism Act 2000 but rather is a defining element of “terrorism” for the purposes of the Act (section 1).

#### Article 7 – Jurisdiction

By virtue of section 63 of the Terrorism Act 2000 general extraterritorial jurisdiction is extended over the offences under sections 15-18 of the same Act. However, by virtue of section 117 of the Terrorism Act 2000, the consent of the Attorney-General to prosecutions will be required where such extraterritorial jurisdiction is to be asserted.

#### Article 8 – Seizure of Terrorist Funds

Section 14 to the Terrorism Act 2000 provides the definition of “terrorist property”. In addition to the general powers of the police and other financial authorities to freeze and forfeit funds and property used in connection with criminal and prohibited activities, the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 provides additional powers in relation to the investigation, freezing and forfeiture of terrorist property, which includes cash, listed assets and funds held in certain accounts. The Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023, amended these powers to include provisions for seizing, and applying to freeze and forfeit terrorist cryptoassets.<sup>2</sup>

#### Article 9 – Detention and investigation

Specific implementing legislation is not required, since powers of detention and investigation are governed primarily under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and its associated Code of Practice. Further powers of investigation and detention in relation to terrorist activity are contained in the Terrorism Act 2000. Arrests can be made without having first to seek the consent of the Attorney-General, by virtue of section 25 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

#### Article 10 - aut dedere aut judicare

Specific legislative implementation of this Article in UK law is unnecessary, though the authorities deciding upon extradition and prosecution will observe it.

#### Article 11 – Extradition

The UK has various general extradition arrangements with individual States under which the offences covered by the convention are included as extradition crimes. However, where no such general arrangement exists, extradition is permitted to contracting parties to the Convention in respect of offences under sections 15-18 of the Terrorism Act 2000, by virtue of section 193 of the Extradition Act 2003 (Parties to International Conventions) Order 2005 (SI 2005/46)

#### Article 12 – Mutual Legal Assistance

The United Kingdom co-operates in criminal proceedings and investigations with the authorities of other States in accordance with the provisions of the Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003.

#### Article 14 – Exclusion of the Political Offence Exception

The Extradition Act 1989 has been repealed and replaced by the Extradition Act 2003, which no longer prohibits extradition for a political offence.

#### Article 17 – Fair Treatment

There are numerous guarantees in relation to fair treatment in criminal procedural law, notably the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. Treatment must meet the standards of the European Convention of Human Rights under the Human Rights Act 1998.

### **European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism 1977**

#### Articles 1 and 2 – Exclusion of the Political Offence Exception

The Extradition Act 1989 has been repealed and replaced by the Extradition Act 2003, which no longer prohibits extradition for a political offence.

#### Article 4 – Extraditable Offences

Offences are extraditable if they meet the criteria in the Extradition Act 2003.

#### Article 6 – Jurisdiction

Under section 4 of the Suppression of Terrorism Act 1978 jurisdiction can be asserted over certain of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Act where they were committed in the territory of a State party to the Convention. However, the consent of the Attorney-General is required in relation to prosecutions for acts made unlawful under that section 4(4) of that Act (i.e. in cases in which extraterritorial jurisdiction is claimed).

#### Article 8 - aut dedere aut judicare

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<sup>2</sup> [Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/20/section/14)

Specific legislative implementation of this Article in UK law is unnecessary, though the authorities deciding upon extradition and prosecution will observe it.

#### Article 9 – Mutual Legal Assistance

The United Kingdom co-operates in criminal proceedings and investigations with the authorities of other States in accordance with the provisions of the Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003. The amendments made by the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 to the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001<sup>3</sup> have increased the provisions for cryptoasset forfeiture investigations to run for three years rather than two years, where a request for “Mutual Legal Assistance” is outstanding in another jurisdiction. This additional time is needed to properly investigate cryptoassets which are often held abroad.

#### **Additional Protocol to the 2005 Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism**

On 22 October 2015, the UK signed but has not yet ratified an Additional Protocol to the 2005 Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism. This new measure sets out common and shared minimum standards to tackle the growing terrorist threat posed by individuals, who travel abroad for the purposes of terrorism, often referred to as “foreign terrorist fighters”.

**For bilateral treaties regarding mutual legal assistance in criminal matters please refer to the list below:**

\_ Antigua and Barbuda 1997 - concerning the investigation, restraint and confiscation of the proceeds and instruments of crime  
eif: 01/10/2004 Treaty Series 004/2004: Cm 6336

\_ Algeria 2006 – on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters  
eif: 27/03/07 Treaty Series 0117/2010, Cm 7922

\_ Argentina 1991 - concerning mutual judicial assistance against illicit drug trafficking  
eif: 06/01/94 Treaty Series 031/1994: Cm 2592

\_ Australia 1988 - concerning the investigation of Drug Trafficking and confiscation of the proceeds and instruments of crime  
eif: 12/09/1990 Treaty Series 088/1990: Cm 1342

\_ Australia 1997 - concerning the investigation, restraint and confiscation of the proceeds and instruments of crime  
eif: 10/05/2000 Treaty Series 077/2000: Cm 4760

\_ Bahamas 1988 - concerning the investigation of drug trafficking and confiscation of the proceeds of drug trafficking  
eif: 24/10/90 Treaty Series 013/1991: Cm 1448

\_ Bahrain 1990 - concerning mutual assistance in relation to drug trafficking  
eif: 01/01/92 Treaty Series 007/1994: Cm 2474

\_ Barbados 1991 - concerning mutual assistance in relation to drug trafficking  
eif: 01/06/93 Treaty Series 031/1993: Cm 2240

\_ Bolivia 1994 - on mutual legal assistance in relation to illicit drug trafficking  
Not yet in force. Not yet published

\_ Canada 1988 and amended 1992 - on mutual assistance in criminal matters  
[1988] eif: 04/08/1990 Treaty Series 084/1990: Cm 1326  
[1992] eif: 17/09/1993 Treaty Series 074/1993: Cm 2383

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<sup>3</sup> [Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/10/section/1)

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\_ Brazil 2005 - on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters  
eif: 13/04/2011, Treaty Series 019/2011: Cm 8087

\_ Cayman Islands 2009 – Regarding the Sharing of Confiscated Proceeds of Crime  
(MoU) Not yet in Effect Not published

\_ Chile 1995 - concerning MA in relation to illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances  
eif: 01/02/1996 Treaty Series 063/1997: Cm 3775

\_ Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China concerning Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (signed 23/01/1998)  
eif: 09/02/2002, Treaty Series 018/2002, Cm.5502

\_ Treaty between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the People's Republic of China on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (signed 02/12/2013).  
eif: 15/01/2016, Treaty Series 010/2016, Cm.9199

\_ Exchange of Notes between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland extending the Agreement between the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Hong Kong on 23 January 1998, to the Isle of Man (signed 17/08/2004-11/09/2004).  
eif: 01/11/2004, Not Published.

\_ Colombia 1997 - concerning mutual assistance in relation to criminal matters  
eif: 05/12/1999 Treaty Series 040/2002: Cm 4682

\_ Ecuador 1992 - concerning mutual assistance in relation to drug trafficking (treaty series 18 (1993))  
eif:01/03/1993 Treaty Series 018/1993: Cm 2162

\_ Grenada 1995 - concerning mutual assistance in relation to drug trafficking  
eif: 01/10/2001 Treaty Series 032/2003: Cm 5940

\_ Germany 1961 – E o N providing for Reciprocal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Police Authorities of the UK and the FRG  
eif: 02/05/1961 Treaty Series 066/1961: Cmnd 1446

\_ Guyana 1991 - concerning co-operation in the investigation of drug trafficking offences, the forfeiture of instruments used for or in connection with such offences and the deprivation of drug traffickers of financial benefits from their criminal activities  
eif: 24/11/1996 Treaty Series 009/1997: Cm 3523

\_ Hong Kong SAR 1998 - concerning mutual legal assistance in criminal matters  
eif: 09/02/2002 Treaty Series 018/2002: Cm 5502

\_ India 1992 - concerning the investigation and prosecution of crime and the tracing, restraint and confiscation of the proceeds and instruments of crime and terrorist funds  
eif: 01/05/95 Treaty Series 069/1995: Cm 2957

\_ Ireland 1998 - concerning mutual assistance in relation to criminal matters  
eif: 01/06/2004 Treaty Series 027/2005: Cm 6601

\_ Italy 1990 - concerning MA in relation to traffic in narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances and the restraint and confiscation of the proceeds of crime  
eif: 08/05/1994 Treaty Series 033/1995: Cm 2853

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\_ Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (signed 24/03/2013),  
eif: 01/07/2013, Treaty Series 025/2013, Cm.8681

\_ Treaty between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Kazakhstan on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (signed 03/11/2015)  
eif: 04/04/2016, Treaty Series 025/2016, Cm.9256

\_ Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the State of Kuwait (signed 28/01/2018):  
Not yet in Force, not yet published

\_ Libya 2008 – on MA in Criminal Matters  
eif: 29/04/2009 Country Series Libya 002/2009: Cm 7549

\_ Malaysia 1989 - on mutual assistance in relation to drug trafficking  
eif: 01/01/1995 Treaty Series 042/1995: Cm 2883

\_ Malaysia- on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters  
EIF: 16/12/2011, Treaty Series 006/2012 Cm.8266

\_ Mexico 1990 and 1996 - concerning MA in relation to drug trafficking and concerning MA in the investigation restraint and confiscation of the proceeds and instruments of crime other than drug trafficking  
[1990] eif: 01/10/1990 Treaty Series 057/1991: Cm 1638  
[1996] eif: 01/08/1996 Treaty Series 079/1996: Cm 3358

\_ Exchange of Notes between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United Mexican States to extend the Agreement concerning Mutual Assistance in the Investigation, Restraint and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime other than Drug Trafficking signed in Mexico City on 26 February 1996 to the Isle of Man (signed 23/09/2002-14/10/2002).  
eif: 14/10/2002, Treaty Series 015/2003, Cm.5816

\_ Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Kingdom of Morocco (signed 15/04/2013).  
Not yet in Force, Country Series Morocco 002/2013, Cm.8683

\_ The Netherlands 1993 - to supplement and facilitate the operation of the Convention of the Council of Europe on laundering, search, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds from crime  
eif: 02/06/94 Treaty Series 045/1994: Cm 2655

\_ Exchange of Notes extending the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Supplement and Facilitate the Operation of the Convention of the Council of Europe on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime, concluded at Strasbourg on 8 November 1990, signed at London on 15 September 1993 to the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba (signed 12/11/2003-06/07/2006).  
eif: 07/08/2006, Treaty Series 014/2007, Cm.7148

\_ Nigeria 1989 - investigation and prosecution of crime and the confiscation of the proceeds of crime  
eif: 30/10/93 Treaty Series 018/1994: Cm 2497

\_ Panama 1993 - concerning mutual legal assistance relating to drug trafficking  
eif: 01/09/1994 Treaty Series 046/1994: Cm 2660

\_ Paraguay 1994 - concerning mutual assistance in relation to drug trafficking  
eif: 21/06/1998 Treaty Series 045/2001: Cm 5259

\_ Philippines 2009 - concerning mutual assistance in Criminal Matters  
eif: 01/06/2012 Treaty Series 03/2012, Cm.8398

\_ Exchange of Notes between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines to amend the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, done at London on 18 September 2009 (signed 08/01/2014).

eif: 28/01/2014, Treaty Series 016/2014, Cm.8924

\_ Romania 1995 - concerning the restraint and confiscation of the proceeds and instruments of crime

eif: 01/10/2000 Treaty Series 132/2000: Cm 5008

\_ Sweden 1989 - concerning the restraint and confiscation of the proceeds of crime

eif: 01/04/92 Treaty Series 072/1992: Cm 2079

\_ Saudi Arabia 1990 - concerning the investigation of drug trafficking and confiscation of the proceeds of drug trafficking

eif: 20/09/1991 Treaty Series 065/1991: Cm 2047

\_ South Africa 1992 - concerning mutual assistance in relation to drug trafficking

Not yet in Force Not yet published

\_ Spain 1989 - concerning the prevention and suppression of drug trafficking and the misuse of drugs

eif: 15/12/1990 Treaty Series 044/1991: Cm 1614

\_ Exchange of Notes between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Kingdom of Spain extending the Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Kingdom of Spain concerning the Prevention and Suppression of Drug Trafficking and the Misuse of Drugs, signed at Madrid on 26 June 1989, to Gibraltar (signed 03/04/1991).

eif: 11/03/1992, Treaty Series 063/1992, Cm.2046

\_ Thailand 1994 - on mutual assistance in criminal matters

eif: 10/09/1997 Treaty Series 066/1997: Cm 3783

[2001 ext. to Isle of Man]

eif: 30/08/2002 Treaty Series 015/2003: Cm 5816

\_ Trinidad and Tobago 1998 - concerning mutual assistance in relation to crime,

eif: 05/01/1998 Country Series 001/1998: Cm 3900

\_ Ukraine 1996 - concerning the restraint and confiscation of the proceeds and instruments of criminal activity other than Drug Trafficking

eif: 01/04/97 Treaty Series 047/1997: Cm 3731

\_ Exchange of Notes between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Ukraine extending the Agreements concerning the Restraint and Confiscation of the Proceeds and Instruments of Criminal Activity other the Drug Trafficking and concerning Mutual Assistance in Relation to Drug trafficking, both done at Kiev on 18 April 1996, to the Isle of Man (signed 17/08/2001-20/02/2002)

eif: 01/04/2002, Treaty Series 015/2003, Cm.5816

\_ Treaty between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United Arab Emirates on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (signed 06/12/2006)

eif: 02/04/2008, Treaty Series 005/2008, Cm.7383

\_ United States - concerning the Cayman Islands relating to Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

eif: 19/03/1990 Treaty Series 082/1990: Cm 1316

\_ Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America concerning the Investigation of Drug Trafficking Offences and the Seizure and Forfeiture of Proceeds and Instrumentalities of Drug Trafficking (signed 09/02/1988) eif: 11/04/1989, Treaty Series 032/1989, Cm.755.

\_ Exchange of Notes extending the Treaty between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America concerning the Cayman Islands relating to Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters - Grand Cayman 3 July 1986 - to Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands (signed 09/11/1990) eif: 09/11/1990, Treaty Series 049/1991, Cm.1624

\_ Exchange of Notes extending the Treaty between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America concerning the Cayman Islands relating to Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters - Grand Cayman 3 July 1986 - to Montserrat (signed 26/04/1991) eif: 26/04/1991, Not Published by UK.

\_ Exchange of Notes between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America extending the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America concerning the Investigation of Drug Trafficking Offences and the Seizure and Forfeiture of Proceeds and Instrumentalities of Drug Trafficking, signed at London on 9 February 1988, to Gibraltar (signed 30/09/1992). eif: 30/09/1992, Treaty Series 084/1992, Cm.2264

\_ Exchange of Notes between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America extending the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America concerning the Investigation of Drug Trafficking Offences and the Seizure and Forfeiture of Proceeds and Instrumentalities of Drug Trafficking, signed at London on 9 February 1988, to the Isle of Man (signed 30/09/1992). eif: 30/09/1992, Treaty Series 084/1992, Cm.2264

\_ United States 1994 - on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters eif: 02/12/1996, Treaty Series 014/1997, Cm 3546

\_ Exchange of Notes between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America amending the Agreement concerning the Investigation of Drug Trafficking Offences and the Seizure and Forfeiture of Proceeds and Instrumentalities of Drug Trafficking, signed at London on February 9, 1988 (signed 06/01/1994). eif: 06/01/1994, Treaty Series 032/1994, Cm.2613

\_ Exchange of Notes between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America further amending the Agreement concerning the Investigation of Drug Trafficking Offences and the Seizure and Forfeiture of Proceeds and Instrumentalities of Drug Trafficking, Done at London on 9 February 1988, as amended by the Exchange of Notes of 6 January 1994 (signed 19/06/1996-29/07/1996). eif: 29/07/1996, Treaty Series 082/1996, Cm.3380

\_ Exchange of Notes between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America amending the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters done at Washington on 6 January 1994 (signed 30/04/2001). eif: 01/05/2001, Treaty Series 008/2002, Cm.5375

\_ Exchange of Notes between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America to extend the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters signed at Washington on 6 January 1994 to the Isle of Man (signed 02-05/06/2003) eif: 05/06/2003, Treaty Series 014/2009, Cm. 7671

\_ Exchange of Notes to amend the Treaty between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America concerning the Cayman Islands relating to Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminals Matters, signed at Grand Cayman on 03 July 1986 (signed 10/09/2004-09/02/2005)  
eif: 09/02/2005, Treaty Series 021/2010, Cm.7988

\_ United States - with Bermuda - relating to Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters  
[Not yet in Force] Not to be Published (done under Deed of Entrustment)

\_ Uruguay 1992 - in relation to drug trafficking  
eif: 19/01/1994 Treaty Series 004/1994, Cm 2458

\_ Vietnam - Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal matters (Hanoi 13/1/2009)  
eif: 30/09/2009, Treaty Series 088/200, Cm. 7879.

## **1.2 What national legislation has been adopted in your State to implement the above-mentioned agreements and arrangements?**

The UK approach is to ensure that a comprehensive package of counter-terrorism legislation is in place to adhere to agreements and arrangements that it is a signatory to. The UK keeps its counter-terrorism legislation under review and ensures it is updated where necessary to ensure that the police and the security services have the powers and tools to respond to the evolving threats that the UK faces. The Terrorism Act (TACT) 2006 introduced an Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation (IRTL), to scrutinise counter-terrorism legislation and its use in practice, in particular the fairness, effectiveness, and proportionality of these laws. This is a statutory role appointed by the Home Secretary, with full access to sensitive Government information and staff. The Government is required to publish and lay before Parliament the IRTL's annual reports and recommendations, informing the public and political debate on counter-terrorism issues.

### **National Security Act 2023**

#### Amendments to maximum detention periods under the Terrorism Act 2000

The National Security Act 2023 made amendments to the period an individual can be detained following an arrest under section 41 of TACT 2000. For example, the Act made changes to the amount of time an individual could be detained under the TACT 2000 where they had already been detained previously under other powers. This ensures that any time spent in custody under a separate detention power counts towards the overall maximum time an individual can be detained in custody under TACT 2000. The Act made similar amendments to the maximum detention time under TACT 2000 where an individual is in hospital. To prevent losing valuable time to question a suspect detained under section 41, the Act made clear that the detention clock does not start when an individual is arrested in hospital, unless they are being questioned for relevant evidence. These changes apply across the UK.

#### Amendments to Schedule 5 to TACT 2000 – Urgent cases premises search power

Schedule 5 of the Terrorism Act 2000 provides for urgent premises searches authorised by a superintendent. To protect confidential journalistic material, the Act added an additional safeguard requiring the police to obtain a court warrant to retain such material seized during searches. This change applies across the UK.

Paragraph 3 of Schedule 5 to TACT 2000 provides that a police officer of at least the rank of superintendent may authorise a search of premises within an area that has been cordoned for the purposes of a terrorist investigation, including in non-urgent circumstances. In recognition of the potentially intrusive nature of such a search, which can include residential premises, the Act amended paragraph 3 to ensure that this premises search power can only be used by an officer in urgent cases. This change applies only in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

### **Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022**

The PCSC Act 2022 introduced three additional powers for the police to support with the management of Registered Terrorist Offenders who have been released on licence from prison.

The PCSC Act 2022 inserted:

Section 43B TACT 2000 – this provides the power for a constable to arrest without warrant a terrorist (or terrorism-connected) offender who has been released on licence if suspect that that the offender has breached a condition of their licence and believe detention is necessary to protect the public from the risk of terrorism. A terrorist offender who is detained under this section must (unless recalled or otherwise detained under any other power) be released if: (a) a recall decision is made not to

revoke the offender's licence; or (b) no recall decision is made within six hours of arrest (for offenders in England and Wales).

Section 43C – this allows a constable to stop and search a terrorist offender, who has been released on licence (and not recalled) and whose licence includes a search condition requiring them to submit to a personal and/or vehicle search, if the constable is satisfied that it is necessary to do so for purposes connected with protecting members of the public from a risk of terrorism. The licence condition can only be applied to offenders where they have been convicted of a terrorism or terrorism-connected offence and based on the most recent risk assessment, the offender on licence poses a high or very high risk of serious harm to the public.

Section 43D-this permits a senior police officer to apply to a court for a warrant to search the premises of any offender released on licence to assess their terrorism risk. This will include checking whether the offender is complying with the conditions of their licence. The PCSC Act 2022 also made changes to the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). MAPPA are the set of arrangements through which the police, probation and prison services work together with other agencies to manage the risks posed by violent, sexual, and terrorist offenders living in the community in order to protect the public.

Measures in the PCSC Act 2022 ensured that terrorist and terrorist-connected offenders will be automatically managed through MAPPA. Although the vast majority already were, the changes made by the Act ensured that no cases slip through the net by extending criteria for terrorist and terrorist connected offenders to automatically fall under MAPPA. The PCSC Act 2022 also made provision for a new discretionary category for management of non-terrorism offenders posing a terrorism risk. The Act also clarified and extended information-sharing powers under MAPPA, including to agencies which do not have a Duty to Cooperate under MAPPA, and updated MAPPA Statutory Guidance.

### **Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Act 2021**

The measures in the Counterterrorism and Sentencing Act 2021 included introducing a 'Serious Terrorism Sentence' with a 14-year minimum term and up to 25 years on licence, ending early release for serious offenders with Extended Determinate Sentences, and increasing the maximum penalty for three terrorism offences from 10 to 14 years. From commencement of the 2021 Act, the courts are required to consider whether any non-terrorism offence with a penalty of over two years has a terrorism-connection. The 2021 Act also ensured there would be a minimum of 12 months on licence for terrorist offenders. The Act also extended mandatory polygraph testing for adult terrorist offenders and enhanced disruption and risk management tools for Security Services and Counter-Terrorism Policing, including strengthening TPIMs and enabling direct applications from the police for Serious Crime Prevention Orders in terrorism-related cases.

### **The Terrorist Offenders (Restriction of Early Release) Act (TORER) 2020**

In response to the terrorist attacks at Fishmongers' Hall on 29 November 2019 and Streatham on 2 February 2020, the Government passed emergency legislation – the Terrorist Offenders (Restriction of Early Release) Act.

The Act ensures terrorist offenders serve two-thirds of their sentence before they are considered eligible for release. It also brings an end to terrorist offenders being released early automatically and ensures that any such offenders released before the end of their sentence are subject to a risk assessment by the Parole Board.

### **The Counterterrorism and Border Security Act (CTBSA) 2019:**

Following the series of terrorist attacks in the UK in 2017, the Prime Minister commissioned a review of the UK's Counter Terrorism strategy, including legislation and Powers.

This review culminated in a revised counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST 3.0, published in June 2018, and new legislation in the form of the CTBSA which was introduced to Parliament also in June 2018 and was enacted in February 2019.

The CTBSA amended terrorism legislation to update it for the digital age and modern online technology, to reflect contemporary patterns of radicalisation and consider developments in the nature of the terrorist threat. The CTBSA extended the existing offence of collecting or making a record of information likely to be useful to a terrorist, so that it also covers viewing or accessing such material over the internet; it introduced an offence of expressing support for a proscribed terrorist organisation reckless as to whether another person will be encouraged to support it, and publishing images of items such as flags or emblems associated with proscribed organisations, in circumstances giving rise to reasonable suspicion the person is a member or supporter of the organisation. The Act also increased the maximum penalties for certain offences, strengthened powers for managing offenders following their release from custody, and enabled further terrorism offences committed overseas to be prosecuted in UK courts.

### **Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act (SAML) 2018**

SAML was enacted in May 2018 and enables the UK to implement United Nations (UN) sanctions regimes and to use domestic, autonomous UK sanctions to meet national security and foreign policy objectives, including for counter-terrorism purposes. The Act also allows anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing measures to be kept up to date, helping to protect the security and prosperity of the UK and to continue to align the UK with international standards.

### **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (CTSA) 2015**

In response to the Syrian conflict, the CTSA 2015 was introduced to tackle individuals travelling overseas to fight for terrorist organisations or engage in terrorism-related activity and subsequently returning to the UK, and to deal with those already in the UK who pose a risk to the public. The provisions in this Act aim to ensure that law enforcement and intelligence agencies can disrupt the ability of people to travel abroad to fight, such as in Syria and Iraq, and control their return to the UK. It enhances operational capabilities to monitor and control the actions of those in the UK who pose a threat, and help to combat the underlying ideology that supports terrorism.

The CTSA also extended the statutory remit of the Independent Reviewer of terrorism legislation to include further counter-terrorism legislation, and to increase the Reviewer's autonomy to set their own work-programme within that expanded remit. The full list of the Acts which fall within the IRTL's remit are as follows: The Terrorism Act 2000, the Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001, and part 2 of that Act in so far as it relates to terrorism, Part 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006, the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008, the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011, Part 1 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (which covers Temporary Passport Seizure and Temporary Exclusion Orders), and the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018.

### **Serious Crime Act 2015**

The Act amended the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, the Computer Misuse Act 1990, Part 4 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, section 1 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933, the Sexual Offences Act 2003, the Street Offences Act 1959, the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (Scotland) Act 2005, the Prison Act 1952 and the Terrorism Act 2006; to make provision about involvement in organised crime groups and about serious crime prevention orders; to make provision for the seizure and forfeiture of drug-cutting agents; to make it an offence to possess an item that contains advice or guidance about committing sexual offences against children; to create an offence in relation to controlling or coercive behaviour in intimate or family relationships; to make provision for the prevention or restriction of the use of communication devices by persons detained in custodial institutions; to make provision approving for the purposes of section 8 of the European Union Act 2011 certain draft decisions under Article 352 of the Treaty

on the Functioning of the European Union relating to serious crime; to make provision about codes of practice that relate to the exercise and performance, in connection with the prevention or detection of serious crime, of powers and duties in relation to communications; and for connected purposes.

The Act also includes a provision which extended UK territorial jurisdiction over sections 5 and section 6 of the Terrorism Act 2006. This enables the prosecution of those who have prepared or trained for terrorism overseas and came into force in March 2015. The measure aims to tackle UK-linked individuals and those who seek to harm UK interests. Any prosecution under this provision requires the express consent of the Attorney General, in addition to satisfying the Crown Prosecution Service and the police that there is sufficient evidence and a public interest to prosecute. As an additional safeguard, sections 5 and 6 of the Terrorism Act 2006 fall within the remit of the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation.

### **Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011**

The Act allows the Home Secretary to impose a powerful range of disruptive measures on a small number of people who pose a real threat to our security but who cannot be prosecuted or, in the case of foreign nationals, deported. These measures include overnight residence requirements, daily police reporting, a GPS tracking tag, exclusion from specific places, limits on association, limits on the use of financial services and use of telephones and computers, and a ban on holding travel documents. The **Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015** enhanced the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures (TPIM) Act 2011. The amendments include:

- allowing the Secretary of State to require TPIM subjects to reside in a particular location up to 200 miles from their current locality;
- providing for additional measures to restrict a subject's travel outside the area in which their residence is situated;
- including a power to require a TPIM subject to meet with organisations or other persons specified by the Secretary of State;
- creating a new measure prohibiting TPIM subjects from acquiring/holding a firearms licence, offensive weapons or explosives;
- increasing the sentence for breaching a TPIM travel measure from a maximum of five years to a maximum of ten years, where the person travels outside the area in which their residence is situated or where they leave the UK;
- amending the definition of terrorism-related activity in the TPIMs Act to remove conduct which gives 'support or assistance' to individuals who are known or believed by the individuals concerned to be involved in the 'encouragement or facilitation of acts of terrorism'; and
- raising the threshold for imposing a TPIM notice to the Secretary of State being satisfied on the 'balance of probabilities' that the individual has been engaged in terrorism-related activity.

In July 2010, the then Home Secretary announced her intention to review counterterrorism and security powers. The purpose of the review was to look at the issues of security and civil liberties in relation to the most sensitive and controversial counterterrorism and security powers. The aim of the review was to ensure that the powers are necessary, effective and proportionate. The review examined six key counterterrorism and security powers and measures.

The key recommendations resulted in changes to the following areas:

**Pre-charge detention of terrorist suspects.** The review concluded that the maximum period of pre-charge detention in respect of terrorist suspects under the Terrorism Act 2000, should be reduced from 28 days to 14 days. The review found that 28 days were not routinely needed in terrorism investigations, and this should be reflected in legislation by the repeal, through section 57 of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, of the existing 28 day provisions contained in the Terrorism Act 2006. Emergency legislation has been drafted which would temporarily extend the maximum

period of pre-charge detention to 28 days, but this would only be introduced in the most exceptional circumstances.

**Terrorism stop and search powers.** The review concluded that existing powers under sections 44 – 47 of the Terrorism Act 2000 were too broad and noted that the European Court of Human Rights had found them to violate the appellants' Article 8 rights in the case of *Gillan & Quinton vs United Kingdom*. These powers, where authorised, allowed police to stop and search vehicles and individuals without suspicion in potentially a large geographical area and for purposes that did not need to be connected to specific intelligence of a terrorist threat. The powers were repealed and replaced through the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 with section 47A of and Schedule 6B to the Terrorism Act 2000, which provide a more limited power that can only be authorised in relation to the minimum area and duration of time necessary to prevent a specific act of terrorism, and authorisations must be confirmed by the Secretary of State within 48 hours, otherwise they will cease to have effect.

**Deportation with Assurances.** The review recommended a stronger effort to deport foreign nationals involved in terrorist activities in this country, while fully respecting our human rights obligations.

### **Counter Terrorism Act 2008**

The Act confers further powers to gather and share information for counterterrorism and other purposes; to make further provision about the detention and questioning of terrorist suspects and the prosecution and punishment of terrorist offences; to impose notification requirements on persons convicted of such offences; to confer further powers to act against terrorist financing, money laundering and certain other activities; to provide for review of certain Treasury decisions and about evidence in, and other matters connected with, review proceedings; to amend the law relating to inquiries; to amend the definition of "terrorism"; to amend the enactments relating to terrorist offences, control orders and the forfeiture of terrorist cash; to provide for recovering the costs of policing at certain gas facilities; to amend provisions about the appointment of special advocates in Northern Ireland; and for connected purposes.

The Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 includes:

- Post charge questioning for terrorism suspects;
- Power to remove documents for examination;
- Enhanced sentences for those convicted of non-terrorist offences (such as conspiracy to murder) but where the offence is clearly related to terrorism;
- Notification requirements for convicted terrorists which requires them to notify certain personal information such as name, address and travel plans and confirm such details annually;
- Power on the disclosure of information to intelligence services;
- Power to retain and use covertly obtained DNA and fingerprints;
- Ability to ban convicted terrorists from travelling overseas;
- Offence of eliciting information about members of armed forces, intelligence agencies or police;
- Powers for the Treasury to direct financial and credit institutions to take certain action in respect of business with persons in a non-EEA country of money laundering, terrorist financing or proliferation concern;
- Powers allowing the Treasury to base its financial restriction decisions on all available intelligence including closed material (i.e. material the disclosure of which would be contrary to the public interest).

**Investigatory Powers.** The Investigatory Powers Act 2016 is the legislative framework regulating law enforcement and the security and intelligence agencies' powers to obtain communications and

data about communications (including the interception of communications and the retention and acquisition of communications data). It ensures that these powers – and the safeguards that apply to them – are clear and understandable.

The 2016 Act radically overhauled the way these powers are authorised and overseen. It makes clear the specific circumstances in which various investigatory powers may be used and the strict safeguards that apply, ensuring that any interference with privacy is necessary, proportionate, authorised and accountable.

It also introduced a ‘double lock’ for warrants authorising use of more intrusive powers. Except in urgent cases, for example an imminent threat to life, these warrants cannot be issued until they have been approved by an independent judicial commissioner.

The Act also created a powerful new Investigatory Powers Commissioner (IPC) to oversee how the investigatory powers, available to the UK security and intelligence agencies and other public authorities, are used. The Commissioner publishes a report annually, which is available on his office’s website.<sup>4</sup>

The Investigatory Powers (Amendment) Act 2024 updated the legislation to deliver urgent, targeted changes needed to protect the British people from evolving threats. The reforms support the intelligence agencies to keep pace with a range of threats, against a backdrop of accelerating technological change that provides new opportunities for terrorists, hostile state actors, child abusers and criminal gangs.

Updating the 2016 act to reflect the current threat and changing technology landscape ensures that our intelligence agencies can develop the necessary tools and capabilities to rapidly draw insights from vast quantities of data, allowing them to better understand and respond to threats to the UK. The world leading safeguards within the act continue to be maintained and enhanced.

## **Immigration Act 2014**

Prior to the Immigration Act 2014, Section 40 of The British Nationality Act 1981, as amended in 2002 and 2006, allowed the Home Secretary to:

- Deprive any British citizen (British born, registered or naturalised) of their nationality if satisfied that deprivation would be conducive to the public good, provided that it would not make them stateless.
- Deprive a naturalised or registered British citizen of their nationality if satisfied that it was gained by means of fraud, false representation or concealment of material fact.
- The Immigration Act 2014 included a provision to strengthen existing deprivation of citizenship power to enable deprivation of naturalised British citizens (i.e. not British born, or registered British Citizens) on conducive grounds where they have conducted themselves in a manner ‘seriously prejudicial to the vital interests of the UK’ even if this leaves them stateless, in cases where the Home Secretary has reasonable grounds to believe that the person could, under the laws of another country or territory, become a national of that country or territory. “Conduct considered seriously prejudicial” is a higher test and considered to be a distinct sub-set of non-conducive cases involving national security (including espionage and terrorism) and those who take up arms against British or allied forces.

## **UK Borders Act 2007**

The UK Borders Act increased the powers the Home Office has to build stronger borders, tackle organised crime and remove incentives for illegal immigrants wanting to come to Britain.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ipco.org.uk/>

The UK Borders Act:

- introduced powers to require persons subject to immigration control to apply for a biometric immigration document, strengthening and standardising the format of immigration documents confirming a migrant's status and conditions of stay in the UK;
- provided new powers to immigration officers allowing them to detain at ports in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (subsequently amended to include the UK control zones in France and Belgium at international rail stations and the fixed Channel Tunnel link terminal in the UK), individuals who they think may be liable to arrest by a constable or subject to an arrest warrant;
- to arrest those they believe to have fraudulently been acquiring asylum support and to access Her Majesty's Revenue Customs (HMRC) data to track down illegal immigrants;
- extended powers to enable the prosecution of those who facilitate or traffic from abroad, even if their crimes were committed outside of the UK;
- required automatic consideration for deportation of foreign national offenders sentenced to 12 months or more in prison, thus sending out a clear message that those who abuse the hospitality of the UK by committing serious crimes will not be tolerated;
- introduced a Code of Practice to keep Children Safe from Harm which the Home Office will have regard to when dealing with children and;
- established an independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration.

**Criminal Finances Act 2017**

The Criminal Finances Act 2017 provides law enforcement agencies and partners with further capabilities and powers to recover the proceeds of crime, tackle money laundering, tax evasion and corruption, and combat the financing of terrorism.

**Charities Act 2011**

The Charities Act 2011 is the legislation under which charities operate, the Act defines what constitutes a charity and how its funds must be accounted for. Provisions of the Act include an expansion of offences which automatically disqualify an individual from being a charity trustee – these include a range of terrorism offences and individuals subject to an asset freeze, a general power to disqualify individuals from acting as trustees and amending existing law to enable the commission to consider past conduct, in another charity, against a trustee.

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW NATIONAL ACTION PLANS OR STRATEGIES RELATING TO TERRORISM

The UK has had a comprehensive strategy in place to counter the threat to the UK and to UK interests overseas from terrorism since 2003. This is known as CONTEST, and its aim is to reduce the risk to the UK and its citizens and interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. The strategy is structured in terms of four work strands: Prevent; Pursue; Protect and Prepare.

- Prevent safeguards people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism;
- Pursue aims to stop terrorist attacks;
- Protect strengthens our protection against a terrorist attack and reduces our vulnerabilities;
- Prepare mitigates the impact of a terrorist incident and ensures recovery as quickly as possible.

Together, these work strands reduce the threat from terrorism, reduce the UK's vulnerability to terrorist attacks, and increase our resilience, and so reduce the overall risk from terrorism to the UK and our interests overseas.

Since 2018, when the previous version of CONTEST was published, concerted counter-terrorism efforts by the UK and key allies have been successful in suppressing the most serious terrorist threats. A significant majority of people feel safe from terrorism and are confident in the government's ability to protect the UK from terrorism. But now we face a terrorist threat which is less predictable and harder to detect and investigate. Critically, these trends will continue in the coming years and government will adapt our response to reduce the risk.

CONTEST 2023 highlights the key challenges of the current and future terrorist threat:

1. A domestic terrorist threat which is less predictable and harder to detect and investigate;
2. A persistent and evolving threat from Islamist terrorist groups overseas;
3. An operating environment where technology provides both opportunity and risk to our counter-terrorism efforts.

Our counter-terrorism response is designed to be agile in the face of an evolving threat, integrated so that we can bring the right interventions to bear at the right time to reduce risk and aligned with our international allies to ensure that we continue to deliver together against a common threat.

### **1.3 What are the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces and the police in preventing and combating terrorism in your State?**

In England and Wales, the police service, working with the Security Service, is responsible for disrupting or responding to terrorist incidents in the UK. The police play a vital role in each of the four strands of CONTEST (the UK counter terrorism strategy). Around the country there are eleven regional counter terrorism units (CTU) and intelligence units (CTIU), which bring together intelligence, operations and investigation functions, engaging with a range of partners to prevent terrorist activity. The regional Counter Terrorism Units gather intelligence and evidence to help prevent, disrupt and prosecute terrorists and terrorist activities. Each CTU provides coordination and specialist support and has a wide range of expertise including skilled detectives, financial investigators, analysts, forensic specialists and high-tech Investigators.

Counter terrorism throughout the UK is the responsibility of the UK Government, but policing and justice are devolved in Scotland and Northern Ireland; Police Scotland and the Police Service of Northern Ireland have their own units with similar capabilities. For the UK, countering terrorism within the boundaries of the UK is primarily the concern of the civil security authorities. Nevertheless, it is recognised that terrorist threats to the UK emerge in other States and that is where military capabilities might be employed to counter the threat. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has a part to play alongside other Departments like the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), and this 'integrated approach' is at the heart of the UK's considerations when tackling the threat of terrorism overseas.

The employment of lethal force is at one end of the spectrum of military activities and is a last resort. Military skills are used widely throughout the world to enable security and contribute to the UK's significant commitment to aid and development overseas. The Joint Counter-Terrorist Training & Advisory Team continues to provide military counter-terrorism capacity building support to countries in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa that have asked for UK military counter-terrorism assistance. The MOD's International Policy & Planning (IPP) branch also sponsors the provision of Short-Term Training Team (STTT) assistance in a similar context, but normally in lower threat areas and generally in a broader context than just counterterrorism.

Defence has a part to play on all four CONTEST strands using military capability. The military supports 'Pursue' through primarily counter-terrorism capacity building for partner nations and also supports 'Protect' by encouraging improved domestic security and cooperation between the Armed Forces and the UK civilian Emergency Services. In the event of a terrorist attack that exceeds the capability or immediate capacity of the UK civilian response, the military can provide support to 'Prepare' through Military Aid to the Civil Authorities.

In November 2020, the Chancellor committed funding for a Counter-Terrorism Operations Centre (CTOC), which will transform our ability to fight terrorism and help keep the public safer. This centre will create a single integrated CT system. For the first time, it will co-locate all the existing London-based key actors including: government departments; the security and intelligence agencies; law enforcement and operational partners; and elements of the judicial system. This will make it easier to share expertise, monitor threats, spot connections, and take action.

#### **1.4 Provide any additional relevant information on national efforts to prevent and combat terrorism, e.g., those pertaining inter alia to:**

##### **Financing of terrorism**

To combat the international financing of terrorism, the UK works closely with other Governments and international organisations such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), to develop and enforce international standards and share best practice, to ensure all countries have robust systems in place for countering the financing of terrorism. In December 2018, FATF published the UK's Mutual Evaluation Report where the UK achieved the highest score for our counter-terrorism finance efforts. The FATF will re-evaluate the UK in 2027, with the results expected to be published in the UK's next Mutual Evaluation Report in 2028.

The UK's legislative framework provides for various terrorism offences under the Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism Acts of 2000, 2006, 2008 and 2015, Criminal Finances Act 2017 (CFA), Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, Crime and Courts Act 2013, Charities Act 2011, the Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds Regulations 2017 and the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018 (which replaced the Terrorist Asset Freezing Act 2010 following the UK's exit from the EU). Financial tools are designed and used to disrupt terrorists and their supporters. The Government established OFSI (the Office for Financial Sanctions Implementation) in March 2016 to lead implementation of financial sanctions, including terrorist asset freezing, in the UK.

The UK's Counter-Terrorism Finance strategy 2020, which is an internal document, focused on reducing fundraising, reducing the movement of terrorist finance and reducing access to terrorist finance. This strategy will be refreshed in 2025. Action against terrorist finance includes safeguards to prevent terrorists using common methods to raise funds, move or use finances. Financial intelligence and financial investigation tools are used to support all counter-terrorist investigations; and asset freezing can be used to disrupt the activity of terrorists and their supporters.

In July 2019, the UK public-private sector published a joint Economic Crime Plan which represented a step-change in our response to economic crime out to 2022, building on commitments made in the UK's 2016 Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Action Plan. In March 2023, the UK published the Economic Crime Plan 2, to further commit our response out to 2026.

The UK regulates and supervises businesses most at risk of facilitating and enabling money laundering and terrorist financing, informed by the National Risk Assessment which was last published in 2020. An updated National Risk Assessment will be published in 2025. The Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds Regulations 2017 (the "MLRs") create a robust preventative framework in which regulated enterprises, including financial institutions and Money Service Businesses (MSBs), must understand their risks and obligations and apply effective due diligence and compliance measures. These sectors are obliged by law to provide the National Crime Agency (NCA) with Suspicious Activity Reports on any financial activity they know, or suspect may be related to terrorism.

Recent amendments to the MLRs expanded the regulated sector to include cryptoasset exchanges, custodian wallet providers, letting agency businesses and art market participants. As part of the Economic Crime Plan 2 commitments, in 2024 the UK Government consulted on further potential measures to improve the effectiveness of the MLRs. The Government also consulted in 2023 on options to improve the supervision regime which enforces compliance with the MLRs. Responses to both consultations are currently being analysed and next steps will be set out in due course.

The Charity Commission plays an important role in preventing the abuse of charitable organisations to raise or move funds for terrorists. The Charity Commission remains uniquely placed to intervene in cases where prosecutions are not possible to tackle abuse, and potential abuse, of the charitable sector for terrorist purposes.

Terrorists have long used kidnap for ransom to raise money to increase their capability. The UK has been clear that money or property to a terrorist group in response to a ransom demand only fuels further terrorist activity and encourages kidnaps. The UK introduced legislation to strengthen its position on payments made in relation to terrorist demands. The Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 included a measure which explicitly prohibits the reimbursement of a payment where an insurer knows or has reasonable cause to suspect has been made in response to a terrorist demand.

## **Border Control**

In February 2015, the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 entered into force. This legislation was adopted in the context of a heightened threat to UK national security from radicalised individuals travelling to and returning from Syria and Iraq. The legislation makes provision to stop people travelling overseas to fight for terrorist organisations or engage in terrorism-related activity and subsequently returning to the UK, and to deal with those already in the UK who pose a risk to the public. The provisions in the Act ensure that the law enforcement and intelligence agencies can disrupt the ability of people to travel abroad to fight, such as in Syria and Iraq, and control their return to the UK.

The Act strengthens powers to place temporary restrictions on travel where a person is suspected of involvement in terrorism. It enhances existing Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures to monitor and control the actions of individuals in the UK who pose a threat, including restrictions on their travel. It implements a number of measures on border and international transport security. These include providing for authority-to-carry (“no fly”) schemes to refuse carriers to carry specified classes of individual to and from the UK; allowing the Secretary of State to make regulations in relation to passenger, crew and service information which support the operation of the UK’s Border System (including the authority to carry arrangements); and to give directions in relation to security measures to aviation, shipping or rail transport operating to the UK. The Act also introduces powers to make regulations which impose penalties for failure to comply with requirements to provide passenger, crew and service information; an authority-to-carry scheme; or, in the case of aircraft, screening requirements. The latest authority to carry scheme, the Authority to Carry Scheme 2023 entered into operation in April 2023.

Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000 is a port and border power which enables a counter-terrorism police officer to stop, question, detain and search individuals and goods travelling through a UK port or the border area to determine whether that person is or has been involved in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism. Schedule 7 is a vital power allowing the police to detect, deter and disrupt terrorism. Schedule 3 to the Counterterrorism and Border Security Act 2019 provides similar police powers to counter hostile state activity. It allows a ports police officer to stop, question, search and detain a person at a UK port or the border area for the purpose of determining whether the person is or has been engaged in hostile state activity. This power was introduced as part of a package of measures to harden the UK’s defences against hostile state activity following the Salisbury poisonings in 2018. Both powers are subject to strong safeguards set out in their respective Codes of Practice, including accreditation and training for officers in the use of the power and restrictions and judicial oversight on access to certain types of material as part of port examinations.

## **Access Passholder Information Distribution System (APHIDS)**

The Access Pass-Holder Information Distribution System (APHIDS) is a joint Home Office (HO) and Department for Transport (DfT) project which improves how information about those with privileged access in airports is shared between industry, law enforcement, and security partners across all major airports and air carriers that falls within National Aviation Security Plan (NASP) within the UK.

Since its roll out in the aviation sector APHIDS has yielded numerous security and policing benefits, including supporting CT investigations, improving the UK's ability to mitigate the risk of insider threat at the border.

APHIDS is now being expanded to include international rail, air cargo, and maritime sectors. The international rail sector is now completely onboarded to APHIDS, with all operators uploading live data. The air cargo sector and maritime sectors are undergoing operational pilots to test the APHIDS solution before looking to onboard each mode. The inclusion of these transport modes in the APHIDS system will improve law enforcement's ability to conduct investigations at the UK border to mitigate the risk of criminality and terrorism.

### **Container and supply chain security**

The UK complies with the industry standard practice for securing ISO containers in accordance with the International Maritime Organisation's International Ship and Port Facilities Security (ISPS) Code. Wider supply chain security is achieved through adherence to specific government departmental publications which outline the appropriate procedures to be followed.

The UK adheres to the World Customs Organisation's SAFE framework of standards for security-related customs data required for goods crossing the border. As part of fulfilling our commitment to the standards, Safety & Security requirements have been in place since 2011 for goods imported from the Rest of the World to Great Britain. This pre-arrival, security-focussed declaration gives risking information pre-arrival which can be used to identify national security threats before they arrive at our border so they can be proactively stopped before entering free circulation. Those requirements are shortly to be extended to all imports from the EU, from October 2024, under the Border Target Operating Model as the UK has left the EU's Safety & Security zone.

### **Security of Radioactive Source**

The UK Government's aim is to deny terrorist access to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, improvised explosive (CBRNE) materials, whether produced and stored in the UK legally or imported (legally or illegally), and to screen for CBRNE materials entering protected areas, for example at airports. Work with European and other partners is particularly important. Tighter controls on the movement of CBRNE materials in Europe and beyond reduce their availability to terrorists, directly increasing UK security. European standards are being developed for explosives screening in commercial aviation, building on the measures initiated by the UK and put in place for liquids in August 2006, which seek both to improve explosive detection capability and to reduce disruption and inconvenience to the travelling public.

The multilateral Global Threat Reduction Programme (GTRP) plays an important role in denying terrorists access to CBRNE materials. The aim of the GTRP is to improve the security of fissile materials held around the world; reduce the number of sites containing nuclear and radiological material; contribute to the destruction of chemical weapons stocks; and provide sustainable employment for former weapon scientists whose expertise could otherwise be acquired by terrorist organisations. It is the UK's largest cooperative counter proliferation assistance programme and is coordinated with other key donors. The UK is a leading participant in international multilateral regimes and instruments designed to combat not only the illicit transfer of CBRNE material, but also their means of delivery; these include the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, the Missile Technology Control Regime and the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

The Cyclamen Programme was established in 2003 as a joint programme between the Home Office and the former HM Customs & Excise to deter or detect the illicit importation of radiological materials into the UK that could be used for terrorist purposes. Cyclamen involves the development and roll-out of a suite of radiological detection systems at ports of entry to the UK, now operated by Border Force.

Substances with legitimate industrial or domestic uses can be exploited by terrorist groups for the purposes of creating a CBRNE or improvised explosive device. Much work has already been undertaken to minimise the opportunities to do so. The UK provides specialist advice to industry on the security of hazardous substances and the sites which handle them. The 'Know Your Customer' campaigns raise awareness about the 'dual use' nature of certain products and encourage suppliers to be more enquiring of new customers and to report suspicious enquiries to the police.

The Government is delivering a programme to enhance the protective security controls of CBRNE materials. This includes work to reduce accessibility to hazardous substances posing the highest risk, based on their threat, vulnerability and impact across their life cycle (from their precursors through to their disposal). The Government works with its international partners to improve the security of hazardous substances and potential radioactive sources and to ensure that the UK's measures are not taken in isolation. Awareness-raising measures for specific sectors, such as the academic community, are being delivered and a new regulatory regime, the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010, has been introduced to license the use of high activity, sealed radioactive sources. The UK provides specialist advice to industry on the security of hazardous substances and the sites which handle them and how to identify and report suspicious incidents.

### **Use of the Internet and other information networks for terrorist purposes**

The UK approach is based on recognising that the rights and obligations that we value offline must similarly be protected online. We seek to act proportionately, with due process and democratic oversight. We employ an approach of seeking to prevent the exploitation of online platforms and the spread of terrorist content.

#### Restricting access

As part of our 'Prevent' strategy, the UK Government and law enforcement work with industry to encourage the proactive removal of illegal terrorist content from the internet. There is a clear role for the internet industry and responsible Communications Services Providers (CSPs) to ensure their platforms and users are not exploited by terrorists. We continue to press CSP's to implement best practice and to work together in tackling terrorists' use of their platforms, including through the industry-led Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism, and our participation in the Christchurch Foundation.

The UK police Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU) identifies, assesses and refers online content that is in breach of UK terrorism legislation to CSPs for removal, in accordance with platforms' terms of service. The CSP's then voluntarily remove this content if it breaches their terms and conditions. CTIRU have developed positive relationships with CSPs, earning a 'trusted flagger status' with the major ones. This ensures their CTIRU referrals are prioritised for moderation, leading to quicker removal of terrorist content.

A CSP can choose not to remove content that CTIRU refers to them if it does not think the content breaches terms of service. In this case, such content is stored on the CTIRU filtering list, which is provided to filtering companies or directly to institutions such as universities in order to block content as part of their filtering solutions.

Members of the public can anonymously report online terrorist content to the police (CTIRU) via the UK government website.

The Online Safety Act received Royal Assent in October 2023. This much needed legislation will usher in a new age of accountability for tech to protect children, restore trust in the industry and protect free speech. This framework will be overseen by an independent regulator, Ofcom, who has been given a range of powers to help them hold these companies to account.

The first iteration of Ofcom's illegal content safety codes came into effect on 17th March 2025. These codes outline the measures that in-scope companies can take to mitigate and manage the risks from terrorism as identified in their illegal content risk assessments. Companies are now required to implement the measures in Ofcom's codes of practice or if not, establish equally effective ones.

### **Legal co-operation including extradition**

Terrorist activity has often been conducted by foreign nationals who have come to live in the UK. Following prosecution, or where prosecution is not possible, the deportation of foreign nationals to their country of origin may be an effective means of disrupting terrorism-related activities. Where there are concerns for an individual's safety on return, government to government assurances may be used to achieve deportation in accordance with the UK's human rights obligations.

Deportations with Assurances (DWA) enables the UK to reduce the threat from terrorism by deporting foreign nationals who pose a risk to our national security, while still meeting our domestic and international human rights obligations. This includes Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which is an absolute right that prohibits torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Assurances in individual cases are the result of careful and detailed discussions, endorsed at a very high level of government, with countries with which we have working bilateral relationships. We may also put in place arrangements – often including monitoring by a local human rights body – to ensure that the assurances can be independently verified. The use of DWA has been upheld by the courts.

In January 2011, the UK Government announced the outcome of its Review of Counterterrorism and Security Powers, which included a commitment to expand the policy of deporting foreign nationals engaged in terrorism. As part of this the UK is seeking to agree deportation arrangements with a number of other countries, enhancing how we defend deportation decisions in the courts, and seeking to engage more widely on the policy with other Governments and NGOs.

The UK will consider any extradition request for a person accused or convicted of terrorist offences in accordance with the provisions of its extradition law.

### **Safe havens and shelter to terrorists**

Following prosecution, or where prosecution is not possible, the deportation of foreign nationals to their country of origin may be an effective means of disrupting terrorism-related activities. Where there are concerns for an individual's safety on return, government to government assurances may be used to achieve deportation in accordance with the UK's human rights obligations. Please refer to the previous section for further information.

### **Prevention of violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism**

The UK firmly believes that we must tackle the causes of terrorism as well as its symptoms. That is why there is a preventative strand of CONTEST, the UK's counter-terrorism strategy. Prevent works to (a) challenge terrorist ideology and undermine terrorist ideologues, (b) support those institutions where radicalisation may occur and (c) protect those individuals who may be vulnerable to the influence of terrorism.

### **Critical energy infrastructure protection from terrorist attack**

As part of the UK's counter terrorism strategy CONTEST, UK officials and experts work with owners and operators of infrastructure that is considered critical to the UK (including some energy assets) located in the UK and overseas, in order to provide advice on proportionate security mitigations.

## Public-private partnerships (PPPs) in countering terrorism

The UK works very closely with the private sector to exchange and analyse information and intelligence which enables an effective counter terrorist finance response and helps elevate understanding. The Joint Money Laundering Intelligence Taskforce (JMLIT) builds on existing bilateral information sharing relationships between HMG and operational partners and the private sector. Within the JMLIT, the Terrorist Finance Public-Private Threat Group (TF PPTG) which meets quarterly, brings together senior representation from c.20 financial institutions, regulators, HMG and law enforcement partners to facilitate the exchange of terrorist finance information and develop thematic pieces of work to better understand the typologies and methodologies that support the financing of terrorism. This in turn helps better detect and disrupt the TF threat. Law enforcement can also request information through JMLIT provided the request is justified, proportionate and necessary. Similarly, LEAs may make use of the NCA's information gateway.

The UK depends on strong PPPs to help deliver its strategic objectives for protective security. As part of the UK government approach to protecting Venues and Public Spaces, we work closely with businesses, the police and National Protective Security Authority (NPSA) to provide those responsible for VaPS (including owners, operators and public authorities) with high quality advice and guidance. This advice enables owners and operators to understand the terrorist threat; prepare for all types of terrorist attacks; and ensure appropriate measures may be taken to reduce their vulnerability.

As part of this approach, the UK works with trusted industry partners to share mutually beneficial information regarding terrorist threats, vulnerabilities, mitigations and security improvements across leading crowded places associations and organisations, and with strategic leaders from relevant business sectors. We also work closely with the insurance sector to reduce risk and have partnered with Pool Reinsurance to develop a new interactive online platform that will help better engage public and private sector organisations and promote CT content.

Throughout the development of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, also known as "Martyn's Law", we have worked closely with businesses, Police and NPSA to ensure the legislation is appropriate and proportionate, whilst delivering our key aim of improving protective security and organisational preparedness across the UK.

More broadly, the [Joint Security & Resilience Centre](#) (JSaRC) plays a vital role at the heart of government, using its influence to foster collaboration between academia, industry, and the security sector to address the UK's most pressing security challenges. As experts in government and security, JSaRC leverages its unique position to break down silos, bringing together the private and public sectors to unlock industry knowledge and showcase innovative solutions. For example, JSaRC's delivery of the annual Home Office [Security & Policing](#) show, offers a world-class opportunity to meet and discuss the latest advances in delivering national security and resilience with leading UK suppliers, UK and overseas Government officials and senior decision makers, across the law enforcement and security sectors. JSaRC not only enables collaboration but also champions skills development, facilitates the creation of robust security solutions, and supports international exports. By identifying cutting-edge solutions for issues such as border security, JSaRC contributes directly to keeping the country and its citizens safe.

## **2. Stationing of Armed Forces on Foreign Territory**

### **2.1 Provide information on stationing of your States armed forces on the territory of other participating States in accordance with freely negotiated agreements as well as in accordance with international law**

The UK has ratified the Agreement between the States Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty regarding the Status of their Forces, completed at Brussels on 19 June 1951.

The UK has ratified the Agreement among the States Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty and the Other States participating in the Partnership for Peace regarding the Status of their Forces, completed at Brussels on 19 June 1995.

UK military forces were deployed in over 35 locations around the world, undertaking a number of standing military tasks and providing assistance to a number of Governments in support of UK commitments and interests. More specifically, in relation to UK armed forces stationed on the territory of other participating States we have the following: Canada (permanent staff for Army Training Exercises and RAF training detachments); Cyprus (UK contribution to UN peacekeeping and UK personnel in Sovereign Base Areas); Germany (permanent training staff); Kosovo (UK contribution to operations in support of NATO and EU); Bosnia and Herzegovina (within NATO HQ); and Estonia and Poland (NATO Forward Land Forces). The UK also contributes personnel to the NATO HQs in Belgium and Italy.

The UK will seek to put Status of Forces arrangements in place for their overseas deployments. These arrangements may be in the form of multi-lateral or bi-lateral treaties or via diplomatic commitments, depending on the circumstances of the relationship and the activities concerned.

### **Concurrent Jurisdiction**

The UK has concurrent jurisdiction in 82 Countries which includes 31 NATO members, 17 Partnership for Peace members (excluding Malta) (with Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus (Suspended), Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russia (Suspended), Serbia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan). 34 Bilateral Agreements (with Algeria, Australia, Bahrain, Bermuda, Botswana, Brunei, Cameroon, Cyprus, Egypt, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guyana, Jamaica, Jordan, Japan, Kenya, Kosovo, KSA, Malawi, Malaysia, Morocco, Mozambique New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, UAE, and Zambia)

### **Exclusive Jurisdiction**

The UK has exclusive jurisdiction in 20 countries and territories (Afghanistan, Bahamas, Belize, Chad, Ethiopia, Gambia, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon<sup>5</sup>, Lesotho, Liberia, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somaliland<sup>6</sup>, Sudan, and Uganda).

<sup>5</sup> The UK is currently in negotiations with Lebanon about renewal of a bilateral agreement.

<sup>6</sup> Somaliland is a non-UN member state and not recognised by any state.

### **3. Implementation of other international commitments related to the Code of Conduct**

#### **3.1 Provide information on how your State ensures that commitments in the field of arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building as an element of indivisible security is implemented in good faith.**

The UK is active across a broad range of multilateral organisations aimed at strengthening global security, including NATO, the EU, OSCE, and the UN.

Under the previous Government, the UK's Integrated Review of 2021 and its Refresh in 2023 identified bilateral and multilateral security co-operation and Soft Power as central to the UK's approach to defence and security. They gave particular consideration to influence operations, humanitarian assistance, counter-proliferation, stabilisation, counter-narcotics, counter-piracy, and counterterrorism. The influence that is generated through Soft Power directly supports current operations, builds and develops burden-sharing alliances and prepares the ground for contingent operations.

The Strategic Defence Review will be published in the first half of 2025 and will update the conclusions of the Integrated Review.

On 7 December 2023, in response to Russia's withdrawal, the UK suspended implementation of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty. The legal basis for suspension of the Treaty is fundamental change of circumstances, as reflected in Article 62 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT). This is a well-established basis for suspension of a treaty in both customary international law and the VCLT. Suspending participation but remaining a signatory is the best available option to preserve both the spirit and the content of the CFE Treaty and allows us to resume implementation should future conditions allow. To this end, we have already begun discussions on voluntary stabilising measures to replicate as many elements of the CFE Treaty as possible, to be implemented when conditions allow.

#### **3.2 Provide information on how your State pursues arms control, disarmament and confidence and security-building measures with a view to enhancing security and stability in the OSCE area.**

The UK is a participant in, partner state, or supportive of all treaties and agreements promoting arms control, disarmament, and confidence and security building applicable to the OSCE area. We are proactively engaging in processes to update elements of our security architecture, such as continued modernisation of the Vienna Document CSBMs, and will continue to explore ways to develop new Euro-Atlantic Arms Control Treaties where there is adequate reciprocity, strong verification and clear consequences for non-compliance.

The UK is strongly committed to its obligations and actively promotes the respective instruments. In order to facilitate implementation and verification of the relevant treaties and agreements the UK has an established verification agency in the Joint Arms Control Implementation Group (JACIG), based at RAF Henlow. On a voluntary basis, the UK has been engaged in bilateral and multilateral activities to support other nations in improving their individual skills and collective arms control, disarmament and confidence and security building capabilities.

Since its formation in 1990, JACIG has conducted over 2000 outbound and over 300 inbound CFE, Vienna Document, and Open Skies arms control missions. Despite recent developments, arms control activity continues. The Vienna Document still remains a valid a useful tool for confidence and security building and it can play a significant role in post-conflict stabilisation in Ukraine. In 2024, JACIG deployed in excess of 30 times to 23 different countries to either lead an arms control mission, provide a guest inspector under another nation's lead, or to conduct bi-lateral training. JACIG will also be recommencing Small Arms and Light Weapons activity this year.

## Section II: Intra-State Elements

### 1. National Planning and Decision-Making Process

#### 1.1 What is the national planning and decision-making process in determining / approving military posture and defence expenditures in your State?

##### Military Planning and Decision Making

The UK **Ministry of Defence (MOD)** comprises the Royal Navy, the British Army, the Royal Air Force and United Kingdom Strategic Command (the four Military Commands), the Defence Nuclear Organisation (DNO), the twelve Enabling Organisations providing a range of supporting services, and the Head Office providing strategic direction and leadership.

At the **official level**, leadership of defence during 2024-25 is split between the **Permanent Secretary**, the Secretary of State's principal policy adviser and the principal departmental Accounting Officer; the **Second Permanent Secretary**, overseeing Defence transformation, resilience and strategy; the **Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS)**, the professional head of the Armed Forces and the Secretary of State's principal military adviser; and the **Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (VCDS)**, running the UK Armed Forces aspects of defence business, the **Permanent Secretary**, the Secretary of State's principal policy adviser and the principal departmental Accounting Officer, and the **Second Permanent Secretary**, overseeing Defence transformation, resilience and strategy. The four Military Commands are each led by a Chief who is the Top-Level Budget (TLB) holder responsible for the performance and output of their organisation and, for the three single Service Commands, the head of the Service. The Defence Operating Model sets out how all the parts of MOD work together to deliver Defence outputs and describes the key roles, responsibilities, authorities and accountabilities for all the activities and decision-making processes. The Chief Operating Officer is the Design Authority for the Defence Operating Model in overseeing its application across Defence and its future development; including governing and cohering departmental wide change.

A significant part of the Defence Operating Model is **Functional Leadership**, which ensures important cross-cutting activities are delivered across all areas of Defence effectively, efficiently, and in line with wider Government policy. In MOD's current Operating Model, tasks and resource are delegated to Commands and Enabling Organisations. This drives coherence, improvement and transformation on crosscutting business processes such as Digital, People, Finance, Commercial, Security, and Logistics Support. Functional Leadership does this by making clear the rules, standards, and business activities that must be adhered to across all areas of Defence and driving improvement of skills and systems. Operating Model development is a continuous process. Using the overall Defence Operating Model as our framework, we have added greater clarity around the relative interfaces of the individual organisations and Functions within MOD through the development of Command, Enabling Organisation, and Functional Sub-Operating Models in 2022.

In October 2024, the Defence Secretary launched major reforms to match increasing threats, tackle waste, and strengthen UK Defence. Set as the biggest reform of the MOD in over 50 years, Defence Reform is helping to secure better value for money, better outcomes for our Armed Forces, and better implement the Strategic Defence Review that will be published in the first half of 2025. Changes to the Defence Operating Model beginning in early 2025 will cohere all Defence activities through four key areas – a Department of State, a Military Strategic Headquarters, the Defence Nuclear Enterprise, and a new National Armaments Director Group. Further information will be provided on the new Operating Model in future returns.

Overall, **the Secretary of State for Defence is appointed by the Prime Minister** and accountable to Parliament for the activities of the MOD and UK Armed Forces. The Secretary of State is a member of the National Security Council and has overall responsibility for the business of the department including strategic operations and operational strategy, defence planning, programme and resource

allocation, nuclear operations, policy and organisations and strategic communications. Their powers to act come from Parliamentary legislation (for example the Armed Forces Acts) and common law, as well as from the Royal prerogative, both as a senior member of the Government and as the Chair of the Defence Council. The Defence Secretary is one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State and a member of the Cabinet. These are executive roles as part of the government of the day. The Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, is the ultimate decision-making body of government and ministers are bound by the collective decisions of Cabinet.

The Secretary of State is supported by a team of **Defence Ministers**, whose roles and incumbents may change at the discretion of the Prime Minister. The Secretary of State sets the specific responsibilities of each minister and directs the Defence ministerial team.

- a. The **Minister of State in the House of Lords** is the Spokesperson in the House of Lords on all Defence matters, and particularly responsible for international relations and defence diplomacy, professional military education, international arms control and counter-proliferation, security, heritage and medical services.
- b. The **Minister of State for the Armed Forces** is responsible for armed forces activity including operations, operational legal matters, recruitment and readiness, force generation, posture and deployment, crisis response, national resilience, and support to Ukraine;
- c. The **Minister of State for Defence Procurement** is responsible for defence procurement and defence industrial strategy, economic growth and economic partnerships, acquisition reform, Defence Infrastructure, Defence Digital, exports, science and technology, research and development, and multi-lateral capability programmes and organisations.
- d. The **Minister for Defence People and Families** is responsible for armed forces, veterans and civilian people policy, including families, the covenant, resettlement, incentivisation, reserves and cadets, equality, diversity and inclusion, pensions and compensation, service charities, and service justice.

The **Defence Council** has formal powers of command and administration over our Armed Forces, on behalf of His Majesty the King, who is their Commander-in-Chief. The Defence Council is not involved in the day-to-day running of MOD and the Armed Forces. The strategic direction and oversight of Defence is provided by the Defence Board, chaired by the Defence Secretary, supported by the MOD Executive Committee, chaired by the Permanent Secretary. In addition, the three Service boards (the Admiralty Board, the Army Board and the Air Force Board), which are sub-committees of the Defence Council, meet annually for each Service Chief to report to the Secretary of State on the health of their respective Service. The Defence Board is chaired by the Secretary of State and comprises all Defence Ministers, the Permanent Secretary, the Chief of the Defence Staff, the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, Director General Finance and up to four non-executive directors (including a lead). It is the main Departmental Board in MOD and is responsible for the top-level leadership and management of Defence; its main focus is the strategy and plans for generating military capability. It also ensures alignment of resources and objectives and reviews performance and risk.

## Defence Expenditure

Through His Majesty's Treasury, the Government carries out a Spending Review every two-to-three years to allocate Departmental Budgets. Spending Reviews set fixed Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL) typically for a three-year period. The Spending Review currently underway will set Resource DEL for three years and Capital DEL for four years, starting from 2026/27. The defence budget is allocated by the Ministry of Defence to its quad of Department of State, Military Strategic Headquarters, National Armaments Director Group, and the Defence Nuclear Enterprise, who are responsible for the delivery of defence outputs.

The UK is currently in the second phase of its Spending Review, which will report on 11 June 2025. The first phase culminated in the Autumn Budget in 2024, which allocated budgets for financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26, including a £2.9 billion uplift in the MOD budget in 2025/26. In March 2025, the Government set out the pathway to spending 2.5% of GDP on defence in 2027/28, which will mean the UK is increasing defence investment by £11.8 billion between now and 2027. On top of the uplift for 2025/26 announced at the Autumn Budget 2024, the Spring Statement 2025 announced a further £2.2 billion for defence, bringing the total uplift to more than £5 billion. Furthermore, UK defence spending will rise to 3% in the next Parliament, subject to economic and fiscal conditions. The Prime Minister has been clear that the Strategic Defence Review will set out areas of focus for the bolstered defence budget. The Review will place take a “NATO first” approach, strengthening alliances and partnerships, while making defence central both to the security, and to the economic growth and prosperity, of the UK.

**1.2 How does your State ensure that its military capabilities take into account the legitimate security concerns of other States as well as the need to contribute to international security and stability?**

The UK is active across a broad range of multilateral organisations aimed at strengthening global security, including NATO, EU, OSCE and UN. In the vast majority of cases, the UK will be working with partner nations, and through NATO, OSCE and UN and, in some cases, informal coalitions. Overall, the UK Force Generation process is sufficiently flexible, agile and balanced and includes diplomatic, international and military engagement at the strategic level to inform military planning.

## 2. Existing Structures and Processes

### 2.1 What are the constitutionally established procedures for ensuring democratic political control of military, paramilitary and internal security forces, intelligence services and the police?

The Secretary of State for Defence is an elected member of the British Government and is accountable to Parliament for all Defence matters. They are responsible for the formulation of British defence policy and ultimately for the conduct of all military operations. Defence Ministers account to Parliament for all Defence issues and will appear, when requested, before both Houses and before relevant Parliamentary committees.

The legal basis for Defence comes from two sources: the Crown's constitutional responsibilities and responsibilities imposed by Parliament. Parliament also has an important role in Defence. The Crown's Prerogative powers in relation to Defence are in some cases subject to requirements for Parliamentary approval or are limited by Parliamentary legislation.

Expenditure on Defence is subject to the normal requirements of Parliamentary approval through annual Appropriation Acts. By this mechanism Parliament controls both Defence expenditure and the size of the Armed Forces (the expenditure is voted by Parliament by reference to specified numbers in the Armed Forces).

Under the Bill of Rights 1688 the raising of a standing army within the UK in time of peace is unlawful unless Parliament consents. The constitutional practice adopted on the basis of this requirement is that the consent of both Houses of Parliament is required each year to the continuation in force of legislation under which the Armed Forces are recruited and discipline is maintained. In addition, an Armed Forces Act is required every five years in order to continue in force the legislation that governs Service discipline and the military justice system. The main legislation is now the Armed Forces Act 2006. This was approved by Parliament and came into force in October 2009. In accordance with the requirement for renewal of the Armed Forces legislation, the 2006 Act was renewed, with amendments, by the Armed Forces Act 2016 and more recently by the Armed Forces Act 2021. The 2006 Act provides, among other things, for a system of justice which is compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights and under which criminal conduct by members of the Armed Forces (wherever it occurs) is judged in accordance with what amounts to criminal conduct under the law of England and Wales.

The circumstances in which the Armed Forces may be deployed within the UK in time of peace is governed by: a. the Royal Prerogative (for military tasks where support is supplied in addition to civil authorities' capabilities); b. Defence Council Orders under section 2 of the Emergency Powers Act 1964 (for civilian tasks where support is supplied instead of civil authorities' capabilities), and c. Emergency regulations, such as regulations made under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (to deal with events or situations which threaten serious damage to human welfare, the environment and/or the security of the UK); it is a constitutional principle that only by legislation can members of the Armed Forces be given powers beyond those of other citizens; there are additional responsibilities under legislation as to the way the Armed Forces are run; for example to provide for the terms of service of members of the Armed forces and for a system by which they can seek redress of individual grievances.

The Armed Forces Act 2006 replaced the single Service Discipline Acts (the Naval Discipline Act 1957, the Army Act 1955 and the Air Force Act 1955) with a single system of service law that applies to the personnel of all three services. Although a more modern piece of legislation, the Act, and the subsequent 2016 Act, did not set out to make radical changes for the sake of it. The main intention behind the 2006 Act is to support operational effectiveness by the creation of a single system of Service law. This covers the full range of disciplinary work from the internal disciplinary process, which is normally the responsibility of unit commanding officers, right through to the Court Martial.

The Act covers some other important areas such as the right of personnel to make a service complaint; Service Inquiries; and a range of miscellaneous matters such as recruitment, enlistment and terms and conditions of service.

The UK does not have paramilitary or internal security forces.

**2.2 How is the fulfilment of these procedures ensured, and which constitutionally established authorities/institutions are responsible for exercising these procedures?**

As explained above, the ultimate constitutional authority for control of the Armed Forces is Parliament.

**2.3 What are the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces, and how does your State control that such forces act solely within the constitutional framework?**

The UK does not have paramilitary or internal security forces. The overall purpose of UK Defence is to defend the UK so that we can live in peace, by providing credible military options to Government in support of UK national interests, alongside other levers of national power and combined with allies and partners. The Strategic Defence Review was launched by Prime Minister Keir Starmer to make sure that we can continue to be secure at home and strong abroad for decades to come. The review will put personnel at the heart of our future defence, strengthen our homeland security, and ensure the UK continues to lead in NATO. The review has drawn on views from experts including military personnel, industry, and academics. The external reviewers have concluded their work, and the Review is now being prepared for consideration by the Prime Minister. As with Defence Reform, further information on the SDR will be provided in future returns.

### **3. Procedures related to different forces personnel**

#### **3.1 What kind of procedures for recruitment and call-up of personnel for service in your military, paramilitary and internal security forces does your State have?**

The UK does not have military conscription and has no plans to do so; an act of Parliament would be required to re-introduce it. The UK has an all-volunteer regular and reserve armed force. Selection procedures differ slightly for each Service and between officers and other ranks. Applicants are required to meet specified eligibility requirements for their chosen trade and be medically and physically fit. The call out and recall of Reservists is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Forces Act 1996.

#### **3.2 What kind of exemptions or alternatives to military service does your State have?**

The UK does not have compulsory military service. The call out and recall of Reservists is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Forces Act 1996. Reservists, or their employers, may apply for exemption or deferral from call out or recall under the provisions of Part VIII of the Reserve Forces Act 1996.

#### **3.3 What are the legal and administrative procedures to protect the rights of all forces personnel as well as conscripts?**

Civil remedies (including cases referable to courts of law and tribunals) are available to UK Service personnel, apart from those which are specifically excluded by legislation. Additionally, there is a statutory redress of individual grievance procedure for all ranks.

The post of Service Complaints Commissioner (SCC) was created by the Armed Forces Act 2006, an Act that also introduced a number of significant changes to the Service complaints system to make it more independent and more transparent. As well as the Service Complaints Commissioner, these included the use of Service complaint panels, with in some cases an independent member to consider some complaints on behalf of the Defence Council. The Commissioner's role was to provide a rigorous and independent oversight of how the complaints system was working and to report to Ministers and to Parliament. The Commissioner also provided an alternative point of contact for Service personnel, or someone acting on their behalf, such as a member of their family, a friend or MP to raise concerns. Because of concerns that UK Service men and women should be treated properly, the Commissioner had special powers where a complaint is about unacceptable behaviour such as: bullying, harassment, discrimination, victimisation, dishonest or improper behaviour. In these cases, by law, the Commissioner had to be kept informed about the handling of an allegation referred by her to the chain of command and of the outcome.

The Armed Forces (Service Complaints and Financial Assistance) Act 2015 amended the relevant provisions for the complaints process and SCC in the Armed Forces Act 2006. A reformed Service complaints system was introduced on 1 January 2016 to make the process shorter and to promote greater confidence in the system through more open communication. The 2015 Act also replaced the SCC with a new Service Complaints Ombudsman (which also came in to force in January 2016).

The current Ombudsman has significant powers, whilst maintaining the right balance between the authority of the military chain of command – which must be responsible for looking after its own people – and strong, independent oversight through the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman has increased powers:

- to overturn a decision by the chain of command to exclude a complaint, for example for being out of time;
- to investigate an allegation of undue delay in the handling of a service complaint that has been made but has not yet been finally determined under the internal complaints process and so is still active;

- to review the handling of a complaint if the complainant is not satisfied once it has completed the internal process;
- to investigate the substance of a complaint once it has completed the internal process; and
- to recommend action to put matters right.

Like the Commissioner before, the Ombudsman is required to produce an annual report on the fairness, effectiveness and efficiency of the system in the preceding calendar year. The MOD will consider the findings and any recommendations made in the report before responding formally to the Ombudsman. In 2024 MOD committed to stand up a new Armed Forces Commissioner.

Defence is committed to transform support for Armed Forces personnel and their families. In 2024 MOD committed to stand up a new Armed Forces Commissioner. The Government introduced the Armed Forces Commissioner Bill to Parliament on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The Bill will see the appointment of a new and independent Armed Forces Commissioner who has powers to visit Defence sites, observe Defence welfare activity, request information from the MOD, speak to personnel and families, and investigate a variety of issues to report back to Parliament. It is expected that the Bill will complete its journey through Parliament in 2025.

#### 4. Implementation of other political norms, principles, decisions and international humanitarian law

##### 4.1 How does your State ensure that International Humanitarian Law and Law of War are made widely available, e.g., through military training programmes and regulations?

The UK armed forces provide Law of Armed Conflict (**LOAC**) training to all Service personnel. This includes instruction during initial basic training phases, mandatory core training, instruction at staff and promotion courses, and mission specific pre-deployment training for operations. Service personnel receive LOAC training at a level and frequency that is appropriate to their rank, responsibility, force readiness status and Service.

All UK armed forces personnel undertake mandatory core LOAC training. Navy Personnel undertake Naval Core Training (NCT) 7, Army personnel undertake the Individual Training Requirement ('ITR') in Operational Law, part of the ITR 'Core Education' module, and RAF personnel undertake Module 1, Individual Readiness Training (MOD 1). Armed forces personnel also receive training in relevant operational law prior to operational deployments. The single Service legal branches are involved in training those delivering LOAC training or delivering such training themselves and deliver pre-deployment operational law training. They also ensure that service lawyers deploying on operations are suitably trained in operational law. The single Service legal branches are part of the Operational Law Training Customer Executive Board which oversees, co-ordinates and reports on the operational law training delivered to each of the single Services and at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom.

Armed Forces personnel have access to all Joint Service Publications, Joint Doctrine Publications and NATO Doctrine Publications. These include, for example, Joint Service Publication 381 (JSP 381), Aide Memoire on LOAC and Joint Doctrine Publication (JDP 3-46) 'Legal Support to Joint Operations' (Third Edition) which was published in June 2018. This explains to the operational commander how their legal adviser can support them, and to the lawyer what the commander expects of them. It contains an introduction to legal issues associated with military operations, the ways the legal adviser participates in the planning and execution of operations, and the working relationship between the commander and the lawyer. The Joint Service Manual of the Law of Armed Conflict (JSP 383) is published in the public domain through Oxford University Press. It is regarded as an essential reference and source for members of the Armed Forces, commanders and military staff requiring an understanding of the legal framework of military operations, service lawyers who advise the chain of command, legal scholars working in this field and officials working in foreign and defence ministries around the globe. Last published in 2004 with numerous amendments, the Manual is currently being updated and a new edition planned for publication in 2026.

Other relevant publications include (i) the fourth edition of Joint Doctrine Publication 1-10, Captured Persons<sup>7</sup> (published in September 2020) - this gives detailed directions and guidance to members of the UK armed forces who are involved in planning, training for or conducting activities concerning captured persons; (ii) Joint Service Publication (JSP 985)<sup>8</sup> on 'Human Security in Defence' (published in December 2021) which provides direction for the incorporation of a Human Security approach into military operations. JSP 985 is an update to the previously numbered JSP 1325 (titled Human Security in Military Operations, published in January 2019) and provides advice and direction as to how UK Defence can integrate seven human security cross-cutting themes into operational work, including children in armed conflict; and iii) the second edition of the UK Voluntary Report on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law at the Domestic Level (first published in 2019), published jointly by FCDO, MOD and BRC in 2024. This Voluntary Report includes new topics such as the protection of civilians in armed conflict, mutual legal assistance, human security in military operations, media professionals in armed conflict, public curiosity, cyber warfare, outer space and autonomous weapons systems.

<sup>7</sup> Captured Persons (JDP 1-10) - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

<sup>8</sup> Human security in Defence (JSP 985) - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

Armed Forces' training includes instruction on the protection of cultural property in times of armed conflict. In 2017, the UK enacted the Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Act, which provides for the ratification and accession of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols. The Act established the cultural emblem, and a system to authorise, use, prevent and repress misuse of that distinctive (protective) emblem. It also established a new offence of dealing in unlawfully exported cultural property from occupied territory. In November 2017, two guidance documents were published by the government to support the effective implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two protocols and the 2017 Act. A Cross-Government Cultural Protection Working Group has also been established. It includes experts from external organisations and among other objectives, aims to ensure that the UK implements effectively the 2017 Act and related international obligations. As part of the UK's ratification of the 1954 Hague Convention, the Ministry of Defence has established a military cultural property protection unit.

The UK National Committee on International Humanitarian Law<sup>9</sup> also encourages the dissemination and training of international humanitarian law to the armed forces, police, civil servants (practitioner level training courses by the FCDO), teachers, the judiciary, the medical profession, journalists and others as necessary. International humanitarian law is also included as a statutory subject in schools in England in the formal Key Stage 4 (ages 14 - 16) curriculum documentation for citizenship.

#### **4.2 What has been done to ensure that armed forces personnel are aware of being individually accountable under national and international law for their actions?**

The UK ensures that all Armed Forces personnel are aware of their individual accountability under the criminal law of England and Wales and under international humanitarian law, which may be enforced as part of Service law under military jurisdiction, or in other proceedings under national domestic jurisdiction. As outlined above, the UK armed forces provide LOAC training to all Service personnel. This includes instruction during initial basic training phases, mandatory core training, instruction at staff and promotion courses, and mission specific pre-deployment training for operations. Service personnel receive LOAC training at a level and frequency that is appropriate to their rank, responsibility, force readiness status and Service.

#### **4.3 How does your State ensure that armed forces are not used to limit the peaceful and lawful exercise of human and civil rights by persons as individuals or as representatives of groups nor to deprive them of national, religious, cultural, linguistic or ethnic identity?**

The main way that the UK ensures that our Armed Forces are not used for this sort of purpose is through the decisions taken by HMG, Cabinet Office, Ministers, the Department, and military staffs at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels. Any operational activity involving the deployment of our Armed Forces requires clear political direction, the setting of operational objectives and policy direction, operational planning, and advice, underpinned by doctrine, policy, legal considerations, standard operating procedures, orders, training, and rules of engagement. This framework operates with relevant authorities, permissions, freedoms, and constraints, all of which depend on the nature of the operation. This is a complex framework, operating from the Department of State down, and involves command decision making and direction throughout the chain of command; it includes the roles of the Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ), UK Strategic Command (UK StratCom), the single Service Headquarters of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force, and the operational commands which are deploying military forces. Together, this framework of direction, orders, and controls combine to give effect to the purpose and objectives governing the use of military forces and how they operate.

With regards to cultural training, there are programmes of training and education based on The UK Defence Language and Cultural Awareness Training Policy, May 2008. Cultural awareness is on a spectrum of education and training aimed at modifying behaviour and creating understanding,

<sup>9</sup> [UK National Committee on International Humanitarian Law: terms of reference - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-national-committee-on-international-humanitarian-law)

ranging from 'Standards and Values', 'Ethos and Heritage', 'Equality and Diversity' training on the non-operational side to 'Combatant Cultural Awareness' on the operational side. Cultural awareness concerns aspects of foreign cultures and has a predominantly operational focus. The components of UK cultural awareness training are as follows:

**Defence Centre for Languages and Culture (DCLC).** The DCLC is the UK focus for ensuring the delivery of coherent and cost-effective MOD language training, wherever delivered. Consequently, although it has no budgetary influence over training delivery, and whilst individual language training (foreign and English) organisations are responsible for their own rigorous quality assurance measures in accordance with DSAT (JSP 822), the DCLC is responsible for taking the lead in the development of good practice in the delivery of language training and in assisting other MOD schools in the development of relevant processes.

#### **4.4 What has been done to provide for the individual service member's exercise of his or her civil rights and how does your State ensure that the country's armed forces are politically neutral?**

##### **Civil Rights**

The military justice system supports operational effectiveness and safeguards individual service members' civil rights. It has to be fair and be seen to be fair. It provides a single coherent source of authority which applies at home and abroad, ensuring that justice is not delayed and is fully compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Armed Forces are an equal opportunities employer and are committed to ensuring a working environment free from harassment, intimidation and unlawful discrimination, in which each individual is not only valued and respected – but encouraged to realise their full potential.

Armed Forces personnel may join trade and professional associations, as well as organisations representing their interests; they are not prohibited from joining any lawful organisation, including political ones, providing they do not participate in industrial action or in any form of political activity organised by such an organisation.

##### **Political Neutrality**

The UK Armed Forces remain impartial and politically neutral. King's Regulations ensure that Regular Service personnel are not to take any active part in the affairs of any political organisation, party or movement. Neither are they to participate in political marches or demonstrations, although no restriction is placed upon their attendance at political meetings of such personnel provided that uniform is not worn, Service duties are not impeded, and no action is taken which would bring the Service into disrepute.

##### **Political Accountability**

The UK Armed Forces' existence in peacetime is by the consent of Parliament, and both the strength of the Armed Forces and the Defence budget have to be approved by Parliament each year. The consent of Parliament is also required each year to continue in force the legislation that governs the Armed Forces - currently the Armed Forces Act 2021 - and for this legislation to be renewed by an Act of Parliament every five years.

##### **Ministerial Accountability**

The Secretary of State for Defence (**SofS**) is accountable to Parliament for all the policies, decisions and actions of Defence that has the most day-to-day impact on people working in Defence. One of the principles of Ministerial conduct is that: "it is of paramount importance that Ministers give accurate and truthful information to Parliament, correcting any inadvertent error at the earliest opportunity.

Ministers who knowingly mislead Parliament are expected to offer their resignation to the Prime Minister". In practice, SofS is held to account by Parliament in five main ways:

- **Parliamentary Questions (PQs).** Members of Parliament (MPs) and Peers may raise PQs to seek information or to press for action. They may require either an oral or written answer;
- **Parliamentary Debates.** These may include debates on legislation, general topics of interest or issues selected by the major parties. There are typically five set piece debates on Defence in every session in the House of Commons: Defence in the UK, Defence in the world, procurement, Armed Forces personnel and Defence policy. There are also regular adjournment debates in Westminster Hall and in the Commons. The Lords may also hold debates on defence issues;
- **Select Committees.** Select Committee's roles include examining the expenditure, administration, and policy of the principal Government departments;
- **House of Commons Defence Committee (HCDC).**<sup>10</sup> The HCDC looks specifically at Defence and may decide to have an inquiry on any Defence issue. It takes oral and written evidence from Defence Ministers, Service personnel, Defence officials and other interested parties outside Government, before producing a report to which the Secretary of State will then respond. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC), further details of which are given below, and other select committees also obtain evidence, both written and oral, from Defence;
- **Ministerial Correspondence.** MPs may write directly to Ministers about the concerns of their constituents or on a topic in which they have an interest; Peers also write to Ministers and will receive a Ministerial reply.

The SofS is also required to produce an annual report to Parliament on financial and non-financial performance. The Annual Report and Accounts provides a comprehensive overview of Defence and how it has used the resources authorised by Parliament. The National Audit Office (NAO) under the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) certifies the Accounts and reports to Parliament on any qualification of the audit certificate.

- **Permanent Under Secretary of State (PUS).** PUS is the Departmental Accounting Officer and as such is personally accountable to Parliament for the economic, efficient and effective use of Defence resources, prudent administration and the regularity and propriety of Defence expenditure. Chief Executives of Trading Funds have similar accountabilities in respect of their Agencies.
- **The Public Accounts Committee (PAC).** PAC is a select committee of the House of Commons, established to help give Parliament better control of the expenditure of public funds. The role of the PAC is to satisfy itself as to the accounting for, and the regularity and propriety of, expenditure; and also to explore the economy, efficiency and effectiveness issues set out in NAO value for money reports.

#### **4.5 How does your State ensure that its defence policy and doctrine are consistent with international law?**

The MOD is responsible for leading the defence contribution to the development of the UK Government's foreign and security policy and wider government objectives, and for translating those objectives into departmental policy. Within MOD Head Office, MOD Legal Advisers provide legal advice and input into the development of all MOD policy.

The Doctrine team in the Integrated Warfare Centre ('IWC') at Shrivenham provide authoritative threat-informed NATO and UK strategic and operational level doctrine to inform Professional Military Education and guide operations. Wherever possible Allied Joint Publications are adopted as UK national doctrine but may also contain national elements to highlight specific differences in the UK approach, based on UK policy. National elements are usually used on UK operations only.

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/defence-committee/>

Separately, Defence Futures consists of the Concepts and Strategic Foresight teams who, in accordance with Defence priorities, develop and assure threat-informed concepts to inform and influence the evolution of policy, force design, capability development, and produce the long-term global strategic context for policy, strategy and capability development. This work is underpinned by thorough research and advice from subject matter experts.

Defence Futures legal branch consists of three Service lawyers who provide legal advice to the doctrine team in the IWC, and to Defence Futures in the development of concepts and futures work.

## Section III: Public access and contact information

### 1. Public access

#### 1.1 How is the public informed about the provisions of the Code of Conduct?

Members of the public may request information through the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

#### 1.2 What additional information related to the Code of Conduct, e.g., replies to the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct, is made publicly available in your State?

Information related to the Code of Conduct may be requested through the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

#### 1.3 How does your State ensure public access to information related to your State's armed forces?

The MOD places great importance on informing and educating the public about the role and activities of the Armed Forces, and on opening up the MOD to the public. To that end, it puts considerable effort into identifying opportunities to publicise and promote the work of the Armed Forces, and into increasing the means by which such information can be provided to the public.

Press notices are issued and briefings given on all significant decisions and events, for example, decisions on the procurement of equipment, the deployment of forces on operations and major exercises and decisions on policy matters.

The MOD website <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence> is updated on a regular basis, and provides links to other associated sites, including those maintained by each of the single Services. These sites provide a considerable amount of information about the Armed Forces.

Members of the public can also request information about the UK Armed Forces through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), subject to certain exemptions within the Act, and under the Environmental Information Regulations. A FOIA Publication Scheme is maintained on the MOD website, where information of public interest is proactively published:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence/about/publication-scheme>

MOD also proactively publishes datasets under the government's Transparency Framework. These are made available to the public through the MOD website and signposted on the [www.data.gov.uk](http://www.data.gov.uk) site.

There are a number of other ways for the public to access information on the UK military, including through Parliamentary Questions and Ministerial Correspondence posed through their respective Members of Parliament.

The MOD Annual Report and Accounts is a comprehensive overview of UK Defence and how the MOD has used the resources authorised by Parliament. It has two volumes: the first is MOD's Annual Performance Report for the year, including our contribution to Public Service Agreements and performance against our Departmental Strategic Objective targets. The second comprises the MOD Resource Accounts for the financial year.

Finally, regular links are maintained with the academic community, and conferences and seminars are held at which information is exchanged in an open atmosphere. The services have designated presentation teams that travel the country delivering and staging productions to inform the public about today's defence services. Influential opinion formers from local communities are invited to Core Events, while Special Events are less formal and are usually held in response to an invitation from

an interest group; these events provide an excellent opportunity for the general public to hear more about the work of the armed forces. Community engagement is also actively encouraged at lower levels to promote and maintain a positive relationship between the military and its local community.

## **Section IV: Information on democratic political control of Private Military Security Companies and Women, Peace and Security**

### **1. Democratic political control of private military and security companies (PMSCs)**

The UK Government is leading efforts with other states, industry and civil society organisations, at both a national and international level, to raise standards across private military and security companies (PMSCs) globally.

Firstly, the UK has led on putting in place a system to independently monitor PMSC adherence to the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Providers (ICoC). The ICoC sets out principles for PMSCs working in complex environments, and mandates the creation of standards, based on the ICoC principles, to which PMSCs can be certified and subsequently monitored. The ICoC was drawn up by a group comprising representatives of governments, industry and civil society.

The International Code of Conduct Association (ICoCA) launched in September 2013 and is charged with oversight and governance of the ICoC. ICoCA independently monitors member PSCs, including in the field, to ensure they are adhering to the ICoC's principles and provisions. The ICoCA comprises governments, industry and civil society organisations. The UK has a representative on the government pillar of the ICoCA Board, and we will continue to work closely with the ICoCA as an ICoCA member as it develops its procedures and processes.

The UK has closely supported the introduction of professional standards for PMSCs working on land or at sea in fragile environments, against which PMSCs can be certified by independent third-party auditors. The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) accredits independent certification bodies that will certify PMSCs to the professional standards ISO 18788 for land-based PSCs, and ISO 28007 for maritime PMSCs. PMSCs can gain accredited certification from these certification bodies to demonstrate they are meeting the standards.

In 2023-24, the UK participated actively at an Intersessional consultation at the UN Human Rights Council, to discuss the third draft instrument on an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring of and oversight over the activities of PMSCs. The UK will collaborate closely with participants to seek a framework that raises international standards, oversight, and accountability of PMSCs; encourages States to establish domestic laws to regulate and monitor PMSCs; and complements, as well as building on existing instruments relating to the regulation of PMSCs (such as the Montreux Document and International Code of Conduct).

All contracts with PMSCs to provide security services to the UK Government's platform overseas include the requirement for services to be delivered in accordance with the Code; the Montreux Document; and standards flowing from them (such as ISO 18788 & ISO 28007). The UK Government does not contract PMSCs in a combat or offensive role. They are contracted to provide protection to government staff and property in complex environments.

### **2. Women, Peace and Security (WPS)**

The UK is the penholder and one of the principal supporters of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the follow-on Women, Peace and Security Resolutions. In 2006, the UK was one of the first nations to devise a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). This provides the framework for integrating the aims of UNSCR 1325, and subsequent WPS resolutions, into a range of UK diplomacy, defence, security and development policies. The current UK NAP is the fifth iteration and covers the period 2023 through to 2027 and is subject to annual reports to parliament and civil society scrutiny to ensure accountability and oversight for delivery.

The WPS National Action Plan (NAP) refines our approach to WPS, responding to the changing nature of conflict and provides the strategic direction for the UK's global diplomatic, development

and defence efforts., Within the NAP, the UK has five strategic objectives: 1) Increasing women's equal, safe and meaningful participation in decision making; 2) Eliminating Gender Based Violences, including Conflict Related Sexual Violence and supporting survivors to cope, recover and seek justice; 3) Responding to the needs of women and girls in crisis; 4) Increasing the accountability of security and justice actors to women and girls and ensuring they are responsive to their rights and needs; 5) Ensuring we respond to the needs of women and girls as part of our approach to transnational threats. In the first year of the NAP's publication, 75% of the 117 commitments are in progress.

The UK's fifth NAP reflects the global context, adding Ukraine, Ethiopia, Colombia and Yemen to our list of focus countries and retaining Afghanistan as a priority. The WPS NAP sits alongside the FCDO's International Women and Girls Strategy, addressing the gendered impacts of conflict on women and girls. In the first year of the NAP, we have also implemented our Focus Country Model, supporting UK Missions to achieve their Year 1 ambitions, as set out in the NAP. As such, all focus countries now have a dedicated WPS Focal Point at Post and all have completed, or are in the process of developing, a gender strategy at Post and an up-to-date GESI conflict analysis.

The UK engages bilaterally at all levels of the UN including the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly and remains the penholder for WPS issues at the Security Council.

The UK continues to support the inclusion of UNSCR 1325 as standard in UN mandates for peacekeeping missions, and continues to support all related resolutions including 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122, 2242, 2647 and 2943 through which the Security Council seeks a genuine step change in global WPS implementation.

In December 2021, the Ministry of Defence published Joint Service Publication (JSP) 985 on Human Security in Defence - this policy was then refreshed in June 2024. Women Peace and Security is included as a cross-cutting theme of Human Security. JSP 985 reiterates the need for gender analysis and sensitivity to ensure the differential experiences of women, men, boys and girls are recognised, understood and responded to appropriately. The JSP sets the direction for the integration of WPS, into relevant policy and military doctrine and the standardisation of WPS and Human Security training across Defence. This ensures that, when deployed, the UK Armed Forces operate in a way which takes into account the specific needs of women and girls in conflict and women's contribution to conflict resolution.

## **2.2 Prevention**

Within the MOD, WPS is taught through a Human Security approach. In 2023, the MOD undertook a Training Needs Analysis (TNA) which assessed how Human Security and WPS is being incorporated into training across Defence. This includes ensuring that training and education is targeted at the right level for the right audience. A dedicated post has been established who is overseeing the implementation of the TNA findings.

For those who are deploying, the level and amount taught on Human Security and WPS is moderated towards the deployment, mission and/or professional course individuals will undertake. Pre-deployment training is delivered to all UK troops which raises awareness of all Human Security elements, including WPS. This training includes several cross-cutting themes that relate to mandates or missions on the protection of civilians. It drives the importance of understanding the population through gender and includes the impact of gender on conflict and crisis. For major deployments, including in 2022 as part of the UK's deployment to the UN Peacekeeping mission in Mali, there are practical serials, simulating scenarios troops might encounter in the field.–The significant impact towards the population of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) is also taught and reinforced through annual behaviour and moral ethics tests for all service personnel regardless of rank.

The MOD has NATO trained Gender Advisors and Defence Human Security Advisers who lead on incorporating Human Security into military plans and operations. They can advise at command and

unit level on integrating gender perspectives into how the UK MOD understands, plans, operates and assesses with the aim to increase situational awareness, understand the population and better plan to protect and prevent harm to the population.

Military Gender Advisors have attended a variety of courses including those offered by the UK Defence Academy, the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military operations, the UN Protection of Civilians Course through NORDEFECO and other Allied Command Operations online training serials. The UK also contributes directing staff (DS) on some of these courses.

The UK continues to deploy a military Gender and Child Protection Advisor to MONUSCO, the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The UK recognises Women's Rights Organisations are vital in sustaining conflict prevention and resolution efforts. We have worked with our delivery partner such as WRO's and women led organisations to protect and support women and girls during crisis, including GBV prevention efforts and service provision, sexual reproductive health's and rights and supporting gender-responsive social protection. Additionally, as part of the UK's International Women and Girls strategy, we have launched £38 million programme to support grassroot women's rights organisation around the world.

### 2.3 Participation

As of 1 October 2024, there are 4,120 female Officers (14.8%) and 23,660 male Officers (85.2%) and 12,180 (11.2%) female Other Ranks and 96,900 (88.8%) male Other Ranks in the UK Regular Forces.

As of 1 October 2024, there are 5,110 female Officers (15.9%) and 27,020 male Officers (84.1%) in the Future Reserves 2020 Forces.

On 8 July 2016, the then Prime Minister, David Cameron, announced that he had accepted the recommendations offered to him by Service Chiefs to lift the exclusion on women serving in Ground Close Combat (GCC) roles. Whilst implementation is being delivered individually by each Service, a common approach has been adopted and implementation will occur in a deliberate and methodical manner. The Royal Armoured Corps was opened first in November 2016 with the Infantry, Royal Marines and RAF Regiment opened in December 2018. The maintenance of existing standards is a pre-requisite to the delivery of this policy change. There will be no lowering of entry or performance standards and no quotas for the inclusion of women in the GCC environment.

Development of initiatives to address the gender gap is focussed on the challenges of occupational segregation, whereby in UK society as a whole, women are under-represented in the Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) related occupations. The majority of the RAF's workforce is employed in STEM related roles (i.e. within technical trades and engineering and flying branches), hence the efforts being made to address this challenge as a matter of priority. RAF Service personnel are encouraged to participate and many are engaged as STEMNet and 'Inspiring the Future' ambassadors, volunteering to support school road shows and outreach to engage support recruiting activities.

UK MOD have since made a commitment to achieve a 30% level of ambition for inflow of women into the Armed Forces by 2030.

In 2022, a number of new policies were introduced that support women's' participation and women's inclusion and protections within the armed forces. These include the following:

- JSP 769: Zero tolerance to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (published Jul 22 - new policy);
- JSP 887: The Public Sector Equality Duty in Defence (published Dec 22 - revision and update);
- JSP 913: Whole Force Policy on Domestic Abuse (Sep 22);

- Zero Tolerance to Sexual Offences and Sexual Relationships between Instructors and Trainees policy (Mar 22);
- Zero Tolerance to Unacceptable Sexual Behaviour: A Victim Survivor Focussed Approach (Nov 22)
- Armed Forces Menopause policy (Sep 22); and
- Defence Breastfeeding Policy (Sep 22).

In 2023, the UK continued its focus on promoting women's full, equal meaningful and safe participation. In the first year of the NAP, the UK has supported countries through the Conflict Stability and Security Fund (CSSF). In Afghanistan for example the UK are supporting women-led organisations to implement community- level initiatives focused on protection and conflict migration and providing capacity building to young human rights activist. Also through the CSSF Resourcing Change programme, the UK is providing £5.8m (202-2025) to core flexible funding to 27 WRO in our NAP focus countries (Nigeria, Yemen and South Sudan) to enable them to respond to community needs and priorities.

The UK has also supported Women Mediators across the Commonwealth, working to increase women's participation in mediation in Sierra Leone, Cyprus, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Niger, and Cameroon. In addition to this, in September 2023, the then Foreign Secretary met with Sudanese women peacebuilders to identify opportunities to engage women in the conflict and peace process. The UK provided technical expertise on gender inclusion to the main civilian political coalition as part of our support to Sudanese civil society.

Furthermore, to support the equal, safe and meaningful participation of women's rights organisations and peacebuilders and to improve the sustainability of the peace and security process, the UK is providing £750,000 of funding to the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN). The programme will focus on Iraq, Myanmar, South Sudan and Syria which are focus countries within the UK WPS NAP.

To strengthen our partnership on both WPS and PSVI HRH and Lord Ahmad visited Colombia where the UK have proudly supported the participation of over 1500 women in the development of Colombia's first ever WPS NAP, providing funding of £270,000.

### **Number and percentage of discrimination and sexual harassment complaints that are referred, investigated and acted upon**

The Ministry of Defence is committed to tackling all types of harassment, including sexual harassment and is determined to create an inclusive working environment that delivers opportunity for all, recognises and values difference, and eradicates bullying, harassment and discrimination. The Ministry of Defence has developed policies to ensure that individuals are treated fairly, and with respect.

Annual reports published by the Service Complaints Ombudsman show the total number of complaints about sexual harassment. The Ombudsman's reports are available at: [www.scoaf.org.uk](http://www.scoaf.org.uk). The findings of the Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Surveys also report on the number of personnel who believe they have been subject to discrimination, harassment or bullying. The latest Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey is available at: [Armed forces continuous attitude survey: 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://Armed%20forces%20continuous%20attitude%20survey%3A%202021%20-%20GOV.UK%20(www.gov.uk))

In March 2025 the Ministry of Defence announced its intention to create a new specialist Tri-Service Complaints team, outside of the single Service chains of command, to handle the most serious complaints, such as bullying, harassment and discrimination.

## **2.4 Protection**

## Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict initiative (PSVI)

The UK has committed £60m since PSVI's launch in 2012. This includes committing up to £7.85m to the Global Survivors Fund since its inception in 2019, supporting over 90 deployments of the UK Team of Experts, and supporting the development of key international guidance, such as the Murad Code and the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict.

In 2022, the FCDO announced the UK's new PSVI Strategy to drive a step change in the global response to and prevention of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). The strategy sets out our ambition to prevent CRSV, deliver a strengthened global response, to promote justice and accountability, and to support survivors and children affected by CRSV.

We are **strengthening global response** through establishing the [PSVI International Alliance](#) and supporting the draft Crimes Against Humanity Convention being considered at the UN, aiming to strengthen legal architecture on CRSV and other atrocity crimes. The inaugural High-Level Meeting of the Alliance took place in October 2023 in New York and was chaired by Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, the Prime Minister's Special Representative on PSVI. The Alliance now has 25 members including governments, multilaterals, and civil society, and continues to grow. Collaborative action by the Alliance includes joint statements calling for the end of CRSV in Sudan and expressing solidarity with survivors. The UK passed Chairmanship of the Alliance to Colombia in January 2024 but will continue to actively support the important work of the Alliance in our role as Vice Chair this year.

To **strengthen justice and hold perpetrators to account**, the ACT for Survivors initiative has supported capacity building through the UN Team of Experts and UN Women to enhance capacity to effectively prosecute CRSV, including in Ethiopia, Ukraine, and Colombia. In 2023, the UK and the International Criminal Court (ICC) Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) worked together to create a ground-breaking Virtual Reality (VR) app to support survivors in engaging with the ICC, showing them what testifying looks like. In June 2023, the UK-funded Mukwege Foundation "Guidebook on State Obligations on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence" was launched to improve states' understanding of their obligations to comply with international law on CRSV.

With regards to **preventing CRSV, including by addressing root causes**, we have implemented capacity building in Sudan to break the cycle of stigma, enhanced access to justice for survivors of CRSV such as in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo and the groundbreaking initiative 'What Works to Prevent Violence' launched a grant supporting projects tackling prevention and social norms around sexual violence in Somalia. The UK sanctioned seven perpetrators for CRSV crimes in 2023.

To **support survivors and children affected by CRSV**, including tackling stigma, we are setting a gold standard internationally through our approach to ensuring they are able to shape the decisions that affect them. Our Survivor Advisory Group remains integral to our policy and programme development. In March 2023, we hosted a Survivor Retreat to consider how to strengthen survivor input into policymaking at national and international levels. Five survivors presented their key recommendations for action at the PSVI International Alliance meeting in October 2023, putting our commitment to meaningful survivor engagement into action. In November, HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh and Lord Ahmad visited Colombia, one of seven PSVI focus countries, and heard about the terrible impact of the conflict from survivors and the work of civil society and government to provide support. Since 2023, PSVI funding has enhanced access to holistic redress for over 7000 survivors, including in DRC, Guinea, Iraq and South Sudan.

## International Engagement

The UK is a vocal advocate on a range of WPS issues in peacekeeping fora – from increasing the participation of women in peace operations to preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and CRSV (Conflict related sexual violence).

Ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacekeeping remains a priority for the UK, given the key role women peacekeepers play in the prevention of CRSV and the delivery of peacekeeping mandates. The UK provided £1 million in FY 23/24 to the Elsie Initiative Fund to understand and remove the barriers faced by women in peacekeeping. In FY 24/25 the UK provided an additional £500k to the Elsie Initiative Fund and is also currently acting as the co-chair for the Elsie Initiative Fund, showcasing our commitment to the participation of women.

The UK hopes to increase the number of UK women peacekeepers in line with the UN Secretary-General's Gender Parity Strategy which sets targets that increase by 1% each year until 2028. The Ministry of Defence is currently undertaking a gender barrier study and Force Generation and Preparedness study to understand the specific barriers to women's participation in peacekeeping operations.

In September 2016, the UK hosted the UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial in London, at which WPS was a major agenda item. 63 member states, including the UK, signed the resulting Communiqué, making firm commitments to increase the numbers of women in UN peacekeeping contingents and the number of gender advisors at headquarter and unit levels, and to develop gender sensitive training. Progress by the UN since 2016 on these issues has been made, including better access to training materials on CRSV/PSVI/PSEA.

In 2019 the UK Chief of Defence hosted the first WPS Chiefs of Defence Network meeting in UN HQ, New York. This saw 40 Chiefs of Defence represented and provided a platform for a free and frank discussion on the challenges and best practices for a military to implement the WPS agenda. The UK continues to support the WPS Chiefs of Defence Staff Network.

In 2023 - 24, the UK supported the development of NATO's new WPS policy. In 2024 – 25, Defence also supported training and policy development on WPS/HS to Georgia, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vietnam, Nigeria, Somalia, Indonesia and Kazakhstan. The UK also hosted a side event at the UK Mission to the United Nations on 'Gender perspectives in Military Institutions' at the Commission on the Status of Women at UN WPS Week in New York in October 2024. The UK has called for the UN to take stronger action against SEA by UN staff, while maintaining high standards of training and reporting for UK peacekeepers.

The UK deployed a gratis OF4 officer to the UN Office of the Special Representative to the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. The OF4 is an expert in security sector reform (SSR) and is working on a theory of change and framework for engagement with militaries to look at upstream prevention of conflict related sexual violence, looking at issues of training, discipline and military ethics. In 2023, the British Peace Support Team in Africa provided pre-deployment training to 2,157 African troops and police for UN missions and a further 727 for African Union missions, supporting the important work to improve peacekeeping standards.

WPS, which includes the prevention of sexual violence in conflict, is included in ongoing training provided by UK Armed Forces to a range of international partners. For example, the British Peace Support Team (Eastern Africa) provides training to over 7000 African peacekeeping personnel every year. This includes the prevention of and protection from conflict related sexual violence training to those deploying from Kenya and Uganda to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, on behalf of the MOD, also deliver a Human Security course to senior security officials across the armed forces and security ministries of other nations.

## OFFICIAL

### WPS OSCE Questionnaire

#### 3.1 PREVENTION

A. Checklist of key commitments taken by participating States

#### LIST OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS

Please indicate if your State is party to the following universal and regional legal instruments relevant to protecting women, peace and security. If your State is not a party to a treaty, but considers becoming a party, kindly indicate at which stage is such consideration (e.g., undergoing inter-ministerial co-ordination, approved by government and sent to parliament, approved by parliament and awaiting enactment by president, etc.)

| Name of the Treaty                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Party by: ratification P(R), accession P(a), succession P(s), acceptance P(A), approval P(AA), or Not party                                              | Law and date of ratification, accession, succession, acceptance, or approval |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Protocol Supplementary to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000)                                                                                                    | P(R)                                                                                                                                                     | UK signed on 14 Dec 2000 and ratified on 9 February 2006                     |
| 2. United Nations Convention on All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | P(R)                                                                                                                                                     | UK signed on 22 Jul 1981, and ratified on 7 Apr 1986                         |
| <b>The Council of Europe legal instruments</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                              |
| 3. European Convention Against Trafficking in Human Beings (2005) CETS No: 197                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | P(R)                                                                                                                                                     | UK signed on 23 Mar 2007, and ratified on 17 Dec 2008                        |
| 4. European Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (2011) CETS No: 210                                                                                                                                                                             | P(R)                                                                                                                                                     | UK signed on 8 Jun 2012 and ratified on 21 Jul 2022.                         |
| <b>Other arrangements</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Yes</b>                                                                                                                                               | <b>No</b>                                                                    |
| 5. National Action Plan on Women, Peace & Security                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes, 2023-2027                                                                                                                                           |                                                                              |
| 6. National legislation to implement the UN CEDAW convention (if a party), with particular reference to combating discrimination in employment, education, access to health services and participation in institutions ensuring democratic oversight and public scrutiny of the security sector. | Yes, however the position is nuanced, as set out in box 7.                                                                                               |                                                                              |
| 7. Other related information, clarification or details to share:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Like other UN human rights treaties, CEDAW has not been incorporated directly into UK domestic law, and States Parties are not required to do so. The UK |                                                                              |

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|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>ensures compliance with CEDAW through a combination of policies and legislation to give effect to its treaty obligations.</p> <p>The UK Government's view is that the substantive provisions of CEDAW are reflected in existing domestic legislation across the UK, such as the Human Rights Act 1998, the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and the Equality Acts 2006 and 2010. The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination, harassment and victimisation in respect of nine protected characteristics: sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, marriage and civil partnership in areas such as the provision of goods, facilities and services, employment and education. The UK Government is committed to using existing state infrastructure to deliver rights for women. Equality legislation across the UK provides a strong legal architecture to ensure robust protections and to uphold our commitment to human rights.</p> <p>In addition, the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) in GB (and similar duties in Northern Ireland) mainstream equalities by placing legislative duties on public authorities, including government departments, for considering protected characteristics in the development and implementation of their policies.</p> <p>Please also note the <a href="#">UK's Eighth Periodic Report 2011-2017</a> (see attached), particularly p. 8-11 which covers the legislative approach.</p> |
|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**B. Checklist of key measures taken by participating States Please indicate if your State has the following preventative measures in place. More detailed information of the preventative measures can be included in Part B below.**

|    | Type of measure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Yes      | No |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----|
| 1. | Mechanism to assess risk of abuse of small arms to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence and violence against women and children                                                                                                           | <b>X</b> |    |
| 2. | Inclusion of women's organisations and women in religious, ethnic minority or community groups in measures - to counter and prevent terrorism and violent extremism - to raise awareness of the potential risks of exploitation and radicalization <sup>1</sup> | <b>X</b> |    |
| 3. | Inclusion of gender perspective and special needs of women and girls in a national counter-terrorism strategy <sup>2</sup>                                                                                                                                      | <b>X</b> |    |
| 4. | Inclusion of specific matters related to the protection of women's and girls' rights in the basic education of armed forces.                                                                                                                                    | <b>X</b> |    |
| 5. | Availability of specialised in-service training for armed forces personnel on the protection of women's and girls' rights.                                                                                                                                      | <b>X</b> |    |
| 6. | Inclusion of specific matters related to the protection of women's and girls' rights in the pre-deployment training for international peacekeeping missions.                                                                                                    | <b>X</b> |    |
| 7. | Plans to address and gather information from local women's populations in areas at risk of conflicts.                                                                                                                                                           | <b>X</b> |    |

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|     |                                                                                                                                                                                   |   |  |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--|
| 8.  | Mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the implementation of gender mainstreaming into operations                                                                                     | X |  |
| 9.  | Feedback mechanisms: - from operations to chiefs of defence or military planners - between forces leading multi-national missions and forces providing personnel to such missions | X |  |
| 10. | Membership of a regional network or leadership network such as the WPS Chiefs of Defence Network                                                                                  | X |  |
| 11. | Other related information, clarification or details to share:                                                                                                                     |   |  |

1 See also similar question 3a in form to input to UN SG UNSCR 1325 report.

2 See also similar question 3a in form to input to UN SG UNSCR 1325 report.

### **C. More detailed information for sharing good practice between participating States**

#### **1. National Action Plan on Women, Peace & Security**

**1.1 In case you have a National Action Plan on WPS, how is your NAP developed, implemented and its impact assessed, including involvement of women's organisations and other civil society organisations and co-ordination across government?**

The fifth UK WPS NAP was developed between the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD), with input from other government departments. The NAP was developed in consultation with civil society and external academics and experts. The UK funded an external evaluation of the last NAP to inform the NAP for 2023 – 2027. The NAP is focused on five strategic objectives and two implementation objectives (UK capability and strategic partnerships).

The UK utilises a focus country model to prioritise efforts and ensure we can triage support to where it is most needed. The current NAP has 13 focus countries, adding Ukraine, Ethiopia, Yemen and Colombia, and retaining Afghanistan as a priority. This model is agile to ensure that when crises emerge, we can respond quickly to new areas of concern, as it has been the case for Gaza and Sudan.

There is a delivery plan with specific commitments in the NAP is used to measure success. The UK Government will provide a written report to Parliament every other year, which is supplemented by a verbal update in the intervening years. We have established a quarterly meeting with cross-Government WPS policy leads, civil society and academics, for regular external scrutiny. In the NAP, we committed to monitor and evaluate progress on a two-yearly basis across Government departments in reports to parliament and through independent external assessments, starting with a baseline study in Year 1 and then mid-point and final evaluations. Following the General Election in July 2024 and a review of the commitments in the NAP, the decision was taken that the NAP's year one baseline study should remain an internal document, given it pertains to former government policies. The baseline has been completed and, where appropriate, will be used to demonstrate progress against the NAP's commitments in future.

**1.2 In case you have a National Action Plan on WPS, who takes the lead and owns the budget? What contribution is made by your defence ministry and security forces?**

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the Ministry of Defence are co-owners of the NAP. In 2024-25, The FCDO continued its partnership with the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) to support women's rights organisations and women peacebuilders, and we work across HMG through the Integrated Security Fund Gender Peace and Security Portfolio to support delivery of the WPS NAP. There is no dedicated budget for Women, Peace and Security. The Ministry of Defence takes a leading role on Women, Peace and Security implementation oversight

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within the Ministry of Defence but also cross-government, as it shares responsibility for governance and monitoring and evaluation with the FCDO.

### **1.3 In case you have a National Action Plan on WPS, how does the NAP support enhancement of institutional capacity in defence and security?**

The NAP outlines commitments that the Ministry of Defence has made related to Women, Peace and Security. There are also indicators to measure whether these commitments are being worked on. The NAP has a section on UK Capabilities which provides specific commitments related to integrating Women, Peace and Security (and Human Security) into Defence operations. In addition, there is a commitment to supporting the military in other countries in enhancing women's full, equal, meaningful and safe participation.

### **1.4 In case you have a National Action Plan on WPS, how do you publicise progress on implementation of your NAP?**

The UK Government provides a written report to Parliament every other year, and an oral update in the intervening years. We will provide a written update to Parliament on activity between February 2024-2025 in due course, following an oral update in the first year of the NAP. The report details the activity undertaken on Women Peace and Security in the previous year.

## **2. Measures to prevent sexual and gender-based harm**

### **2.1 Horizon scanning, intelligence and risk?**

**- How do you include systematic gender analysis of areas at risk of conflict, including gender disaggregated socio-economic indicators, power over resources and decision-making, increases in sexual and gender-based violence, on-line and other threats of violence against women in public life, journalists and those providing humanitarian assistance?**

Government departments, including the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and Cabinet Office, gather data which informs indicators and warnings for areas at risk of conflict. Ministry of Defence policy, through its strategic planning function, may request specific intelligence products that relate to a topic; but it is not systematic. Many of the topics included in the question sit outside military mission mandates however, Ministry of Defence Human Security policy team are working with Defence Intelligence analysts to develop appropriate conflict analysis tools and associated training. The Joint Analysis of Conflict and Stability (JACS) process has undergone a review and has been updated to ensure JACS processes are gender sensitive.

**- How do you incorporate a gender perspective into actions preventing and combatting the tensions, which lead to conflict, such as increases in sexual and gender-based violence, terrorism, violent extremism and human trafficking?**

Empowering women and girls and preventing the conflicts that disproportionately impact them is a key priority for the UK. The UK's strategic approach to preventing conflict-related sexual violence includes working closely with international partners and women's rights organisations to promote gender equality, strengthen the international response and deter perpetrators. We are addressing the root causes of conflict-related sexual violence such as harmful gender norms through the FCDO's pioneering "What Works to Prevent Violence" programme. Phase 1 of the programme resulted in reductions in violence of around 50%, proving that violence is preventable. Joint Service Publication ("JSP") 985 provides direction for the incorporation of a Human Security approach into military operations and has a focus on prevention methods. Gender perspectives and analysis of the different experiences of men and women is critical to the success of this approach and directs UK defence to understand the human environment through a gender lens and analyse a range of Human Security considerations (factors of human insecurity and cross-cutting themes). This analysis is then integrated into military planning under a wider Human Security approach.

**- What is the role of your military, police and other security personnel in such activities?**

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Members of the UK Armed Forces are taught the topic of Human Security prior to deploying in order that they be given the necessary tools to recognise, respond and refer to situations on that ground relating to our Human Security framework. Service police may, in extremis, have to respond and support the investigation of situations relating again to Human Security cross-cutting themes.

### 2.2 Planning

#### **- How do you incorporate a gender perspective into operational planning?**

UK Defence continues to seek to incorporate gender analysis into the planning process. Human Security considerations have been added as a key element into existing planning tool frameworks. Planners seek to weave in a comprehensive understanding of the environment, population, and gender considerations into their approach.

#### **- How do you plan to address and gather information from local women's populations in areas at risk of conflict?**

This is primarily conducted through government departments other than the Ministry of Defence. The Ministry of Defence has access to this information, upon request, in conflict spaces when needed. Cross-UK government conflict assessment and analysis tools, including the Joint Analysis of Conflict and Stability (JACS), are committed to ensuring that gendered causes and drivers of conflict are properly considered; this includes specific needs, capabilities and experiences of local women's populations. JACS processes follow the policy commitments in the NAP.

### 2.3 Awareness and understanding of WPS at all levels and types of security personnel

#### **- What training do you give on incorporating a gender perspective and protecting the rights of women and girls to security personnel at basic education, officer training and specialised in-service training?**

The UK has directed a through-career Human Security education and training pathway. Individual and collective training is mandated with a responsibility for command, leadership and management to drive forward integration. The Ministry of Defence conducted a Training Needs Analysis on existing and recommended training. This was structured such that all personnel have the appropriate level of awareness, that those putting it into practice can do so and that there are experts available to support specific operations and plans. As a baseline, all service personnel must receive Human Security awareness training which should include understanding of Human Security considerations and actions on preventing, recognising, responding, and referring. Human Security is presently taught in all Officer Phase 1 training and on command and leadership courses.

#### **- How do you train security personnel to protect women and girls, men and boys from sexual and gender-based violence?**

Human Security awareness and advisers courses are available for armed forces personnel and civilians in the Ministry of Defence to develop their understanding of a gender perspective and Women, Peace and Security issues.

The UK Armed Forces are provided with information on dealing with conflict related sexual violence in broader Human Security training packages. In addition, they are made aware of the zero tolerance policies related to sexual exploitation and abuse.

### 2.4 Vetting of security personnel, especially pre-deployment

#### **- What measures do you take to vet and prevent the recruitment, retention, promotion and deployment of security personnel with a record of sexual or gender-based violence or other violations of human rights?**

## OFFICIAL

For UK Ministry of Defence we use the terminology 'screening' to avoid confusion with security vetting procedures. Joint Service Publication 769: Zero Tolerance to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse directs the following:

Screening will take place for the following:

- (1) For Defence service and civilian personnel who are on the Violent and Sex Offenders Register.
- (2) Ongoing investigations into sexual offences / inappropriate sexual behaviour.

Exemptions from screening:

- (1) Contractors are currently exempt from screening.

Implications of screening. If relevant information comes to light, an individual risk assessment must be undertaken (a template is provided in the Joint Service Publication). The risk assessment must be provided to the Force Generating Authority approving the activity which may issue a waiver if it believes the risk to be sufficiently low and the operational requirement to be high. Where doubt exists, advice should be taken from Safeguarding leads.

### **2.5 Other preventative measures**

**What other preventative measures do you have, for example to prevent sexual abuse or sexual exploitation on deployments and other forms of engagement of security forces abroad?**

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) is unacceptable. Ministry of Defence considers this to be grounds for termination of employment and/ or the discharge from the Armed Forces. The Ministry of Defence is committed to upholding standards of behaviour that are lawful, appropriate and professional. SEA runs contrary to the values and standards of Defence and can undermine its credibility and operational effectiveness. Complementary to the Defence Zero-Tolerance on Sexual Offending policy, the Ministry of Defence takes a zero-tolerance approach to SEA. In practice, this means that SEA is prohibited and that every alleged transgression will be acted upon through prompt and efficient investigation. It may result in administrative, disciplinary or criminal action, as appropriate.

### **3. Leadership, accountability and assurance**

**3.1 Integrating WPS into the command climate - How do you integrate a gender perspective and WPS into your policy and operational framework, including military manuals, national security policy frameworks, codes of conduct, protocols, standard operating procedures and command directives?**

Joint Service Publication ("JSP") 985 provides direction for the incorporation of a Human Security approach into military operations. Gender and Women, Peace and Security is systematically woven through all relevant UK and Allied doctrine revisions. Within the MOD there is a Land Doctrine note and standing operating procedures held at operational joint planning headquarters.

**3.2 Accountability and Performance assessment - What measures, systems or procedures do you have on individual and collective accountability for acting in accordance with such policies or directives?**

While JSP 985 provides direction for the incorporation of a Human Security approach into military operations, there are no formal accountability mechanisms associated.

**3.3 Assurance - How do you provide specialist advice to operational commanders on WPS? - What systems or measures do you use to co-ordinate specialist advice on WPS throughout your security forces and to provide democratic oversight?**

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The UK trains up to 80 personnel per annum as Human Security Advisers who will support operational commanders and planning staff. For specific missions there may be the additional contracted role of a conflict adviser or Gender adviser.

### **4. Sharing of good practice**

#### **4.1 How do you share good practice and learn from others?**

The policy officials responsible for WPS have engaged with other WPS leads in Defence Ministries in other countries to share best practice and learn from others. The UK is also represented at the NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives to ensure we are sharing best practice and learning from others. The UK is also part of the WPS Chief of Defence Staff Network and has offered its support to the current chair, Jamaica. In October 2024, UK Defence also hosted a side event at the WPS week, hosted at the UK Mission. This event focused on practical ways of integrating gender perspectives into military institutions and brought together military advisers, NGO's, CSO's and UN representatives. This event was co-hosted with Japan and USA. More recently UK has shared gender initiatives and policies as well as a translated Health Handbook (aimed at military women and commanders of women) with the Ukrainian Armed Forces to promote the development of inclusive leadership and gender understanding.

### **3.2 PARTICIPATION**

#### **A. Checklist of key measures taken by participating States**

Please indicate if your State has the following measures in place to increase women's participation in security forces and decision making, including at all stages of any peace-making process. More detailed information of such measures can be included in Part B below.

|   | Type of measure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Yes | No |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|
| 1 | Collection and monitoring of sex disaggregated statistics on applicants to armed forces                                                                                                                                                          | X   |    |
| 2 | Policies to attract female candidates (targeted campaigns, review of accession tests etc.)                                                                                                                                                       | X   |    |
| 3 | Policies to promote equal opportunities for women and men across the security sector                                                                                                                                                             | X   |    |
| 4 | Collection and monitoring of sex disaggregated statistics of armed forces personnel:<br>- By rank<br>- By promotion<br>- By retention                                                                                                            | X   |    |
| 5 | Collection and monitoring of sex disaggregated statistics of complaints by armed forces personnel of:<br>- Discrimination<br>- sexual harassment<br>- gender based harassment<br>- sexual violence<br>- gender-based violence                    | X   |    |
| 6 | Collection and monitoring of sex disaggregated statistics of complaints by civilian personnel in the security sector of:<br>- discrimination<br>- sexual harassment<br>- gender based harassment<br>- sexual violence<br>- gender-based violence | X   |    |

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|    |                                                                                                                                                 |          |  |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--|
| 7  | Anonymous staff surveys/climate assessment surveys or similar (monitoring incidences of behaviour contrary to military standards of conduct)    | <b>X</b> |  |
| 8  | Collection and monitoring of sex-disaggregated statistics of:<br>- personnel deployed on operations and peace-keeping missions<br>- and by rank | <b>X</b> |  |
| 9  | Collection and monitoring of sex-disaggregated statistics of decision makers in the security sector                                             | <b>X</b> |  |
| 10 | Other related information, clarification or details to share:                                                                                   |          |  |

### **B. More detailed information for sharing good practice on participative measures between participating States**

#### **1. Measures to increase the number of women in general and in decision-making positions in the armed forces and the ministry of defence (and other security forces- optional).**

##### **1.1 What are the numbers and percentages of women and men applying for and recruited to your military forces?**

In the 12 months to 30 October 2024, 1,370 Female personnel (11.0%) and 11,085 Male personnel (89.0%) joined the UK Regular Forces.

##### **1.2 What are the numbers and percentages of women and men in your military forces, disaggregated by rank?**

As of 1 October 2024, there are 4,120 female Officers (14.8%) and 23,660 male Officers (85.2%) and 12,180 (11.2%) female Other Ranks and 96,900 (88.8%) male Other Ranks in the UK Regular Forces.

##### **1.3 If you regularly analyse retention and promotion statistics disaggregated by gender and rank, what are the trends and what action, if any, are you taking as a result?**

The UK Military forces monitor voluntary outflow and reasons for leaving and they are broadly similar between men and women. We continue to develop policies that will encourage retention such as flexibility of service, family-friendly policies, regular pay reviews and a recent major review of incentivisation and reward.

##### **1.4 What are the numbers and percentages of complaints raised by women and men about discrimination, harassment, sexual or gender-based violence?**

Around 302 Service Complaints were raised by women in 2024 out of a total of 1302 complaints, of these 69 came under the category of Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination (BHD) and 12 related to sexual harassment. BHD Complaints of a sexual nature are investigated and decided outside of the chain of command. **All sexual offences are dealt with by a specialist Service Police crime unit (the Defence Serious Crime Command (DSCC)).**

There is also a Victim and Witness Care Unit established within the DSCC. We collect data on all sexual offences and complaints and have a Zero tolerance policy where a perpetrator of sexual offences can expect to be discharged from military service; the same is true in cases where a complaint of a sexual nature is upheld.

##### **1.5 How do you monitor outcomes?**

We record all complaints, and these are monitored by an external body which reports annually on the Armed Forces complaints system - The Service Complaints Ombudsman <https://www.scoaf.org.uk/annual-reports>.

**1.6 How is a gender-perspective integrated into a 'climate assessment' or similar anonymous staff survey, if used?**

We have three key surveys: a climate assessment, a continuous attitude survey and a sexual harassment survey, the data from all of these can be broken down by gender and categories of sexual harassment. The climate assessments operate gender specific focus groups.

**2. Measures to increase the numbers of women and specialist WPS advisers in peacekeeping forces.**

Ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peacekeeping remains a priority for the UK, given the key role women peacekeepers play in the prevention of CRSV and the delivery of peacekeeping mandates. In 2023, the UK contributed an additional £1 million to the Elsie Initiative Fund to promote an understanding and removal of the barriers faced by women in peacekeeping. We have also contributed to the Senior Women's Talent Pipeline, an initiative aimed at increasing the share of senior civilian women in UN Peace Operations.

The UK hopes to increase the number of UK women peacekeepers in line with the UN Secretary-General's Gender Parity Strategy which sets targets that increase by 1% each year until 2028. The Ministry of Defence is currently undertaking a gender barrier study and Force Generation and Preparedness study to understand the specific barriers to women's participation in peacekeeping operations.

**2.1 What are the numbers and percentages of women and men in peacekeeping forces, disaggregated by rank?**

As of January 2024, there are 248 troops deployed on UN Missions and 28 of these are women (11%) and 220 (89%) are men.

**2.2 What are the numbers and percentages of international missions to which you appointed Gender Advisers, Gender Focal Points or Women Protection Advisers?**

The Ministry of Defence appoints Human Security Advisers (within which gender advisory capabilities sit) rather than gender advisers. One gender adviser and child protection officer has been appointed to the Democratic Republic of Congo and but only Human Security advisers have been officially appointed to the UN Peacekeeping missions. The FCDO does not appoint Gender Advisors to Peacekeeping operations – although several Gender Advisors are deployed in a bilateral context.

**3. Democratic oversight of Security Forces and WPS**

**3.1 How do your security forces publicise, report on and account for their actions on policies and plans related to WPS?**

The UK has a Human Security governance structure that includes an implementation working group, a steering board to monitor progress on integrating WPS and Human Security into the way the Ministry of Defence operates. This includes across Army, Navy, Air and Permanent Joint Headquarters. Progress is monitored and evaluated against implementation and annual plans.

**3.2 What is the representation of women in decision-making positions in institutions ensuring democratic oversight and public scrutiny?**

Information not known.

**3.3 PROTECTION**

**A. Checklist of measures taken by participating States**

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Please indicate if your State has the following protective measures in place. More detailed information of the protective measures can be included in Part B below.

|   | Type of measure                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Yes | No |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|
| 1 | Specialist Advisers on WPS:<br>- Gender Advisers<br>- Gender Focal Points<br>- Women Protection Advisers                                                                                                            | X   |    |
| 2 | Policies to protect women and others in conflict and post-conflict areas from sexual abuse and exploitation by your State's security personnel <sup>7</sup>                                                         | X   |    |
| 3 | Policies, which set out the duties of commanders and other superiors to prevent abuse or exploitation by their subordinates.                                                                                        | X   |    |
| 4 | Collection and monitoring of reported cases of exploitation and abuse allegedly perpetrated by military, paramilitary and security forces:<br>-referred<br>-investigated<br>- acted upon                            | X   |    |
| 5 | Measures to increase your State's capacity to investigate alleged violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in areas of conflict or post-conflict including sexual and gender-based violence <sup>8</sup> | X   |    |
| 6 | National legislation conferring powers to prosecute alleged extra-terrestrial violations of human rights                                                                                                            | X   |    |
| 7 | Other related information, clarification or details to share:                                                                                                                                                       |     |    |

<sup>7</sup> See also similar question B2 in form to input to UN SG UNSCR 1325 report as well as question 3a in NATO Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Implementation Progress Report.

<sup>8</sup> See also similar question 4a in similar question in NATO Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Implementation Progress Report.

### **B. More detailed information for sharing good practice on protective measures between participating States**

#### **1. Measures to embed protection of women and girls in operations and international missions**

**1.1 How do you define conflict-related violence in your policies, manuals, standard operating procedures and training material? - Does it include sexual and gender-based violence, forced sterilisations and abductions, also of men and boys, and forced pregnancy and forced abortions? - Does it include victims of terrorism or other armed groups?**

Definitions of conflict-related sexual violence in UK policies, manuals, standard operating procedures and training materials adopt a broad definition, incorporating all of the groups. CRSV is defined in Joint Service Publication 985, under the Women, Peace and Security cross cutting theme. Joint Service Publication 985 uses the NATO definition of CRSV.

- 1) CRSV is rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, forced sterilization, forced marriage and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated against women, men, girls or boys that is directly or indirectly linked to a conflict.
- 2) CRSV is frequently, deliberately, and strategically used to target civilians. It inflicts long-term trauma on individuals and families, destroys the social fabric of communities, triggers displacement, fuels armed actors' activities and fosters prolonged conflict and instability. When used or commissioned as a deliberate tactic of war, or as a part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilian populations, CRSV can significantly exacerbate situations of instability, crisis, or armed conflict, and may impede the restoration of peace and security.

## **1.2 Number and percentage of participating State's international missions that address specific issues affecting women and girls in their terms of reference and the mission reports**

The Ministry of Defence is committed to tackling all types of harassment, including sexual harassment and is determined to create an inclusive working environment that delivers opportunity for all, recognises and values difference, and eradicates bullying, harassment and discrimination. The Ministry of Defence has developed policies to ensure that individuals are treated fairly, and with respect.

Annual reports published by the Service Complaints Ombudsman show the total number of complaints about sexual harassment. The findings of the Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Surveys also report on the number of personnel who believe they have been subject to discrimination, harassment or bullying. The latest Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey is available at: Annual reports | Service Complaints Ombudsman for the Armed Forces ([scoaf.org.uk](https://scoaf.org.uk)).

The three Services take seriously all allegations of bullying, harassment and discrimination and have all taken action to tackle the causes of complaints. For example, the Army has established a Bullying, Harassment and Diversity team to reduce incidences of this nature.

## **1.3 How are military, paramilitary and security forces trained to respond to sexual violence and gender-based harm?**

Military personnel receive basic awareness training which includes WPS and CRSV where they are taught the 4 R's; Recognise, Respond, Refer and Report. Pre-deployment / Reception, Staging and Onward Integration to include theatre specific Human Security issues; alongside briefs for those service personnel deploying on Military Aid to Civilian Authorities (MACA) and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) where relevant. The UK is currently undertaking a project to review how the Murad Code applies in Defence to improve training on responding to CRSV.

## **2. Investigating alleged violations**

### **2.1 How do you identify, record, investigate and prosecute any alleged violations, cases of exploitation and abuse perpetrated by military, paramilitary and security forces? What experience do you have of such investigations and prosecutions?**

Reporting mechanisms should be safe, confidential, accessible and widely communicated. Where possible local communities should be consulted on their preferred options to report, and an analysis undertaken as to what means would be effective for that population including for children. These mechanisms must consider the vulnerability of victims and how intimidating it may appear to them to report directly to forces personnel.

Where a crime has been committed it may be reported to civilian police. Reporting may otherwise take place through the Code of Conduct, Service Police or through the Confidential Hotline for whistleblowing and raising a concern.

Where there is a credible report of SEA, there should be a presumption that the subject of the complaint must be immediately removed from the location in which the reported prohibited activity occurred to protect all parties involved. An accusation of SEA is likely to be distressing to that subject to complaint, to those who report it and to those who may have witnessed it. The Chain of Command (CoC) or Line Manager (LM) for civilian employees must put in place mechanisms for the safeguarding and support of all parties.

Investigations will take place in the service justice system. Refer to JSP 769 Chapter 2.

### **2.2 What are the number and percentage of reported cases of exploitation and abuse allegedly perpetrated by military, paramilitary and security forces that are referred, investigated and acted upon?**

## OFFICIAL

We publish the Murder, Manslaughter and Sexual Offences in the Service Justice System annually (end of March) and this is broken down by type of offence, we do not publish external statistics on sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated outside the UK. We have had a zero-tolerance policy on SEA since 2022. This policy is applicable to all Defence people who are overseas working or carrying out any other activity on behalf of Defence: this includes members of the regular forces, reserve forces and civilians who are employed by Defence.

Further general information pertaining to sexual offences reported to the Service Police between 2015 and 2024 can be found here: [Murder, Manslaughter and Sexual offences in the Service Justice System: index - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/murder-manslaughter-and-sexual-offences-in-the-service-justice-system).

### **2.3 How do you ensure access to justice for victims of conflict related violence including cases of exploitation and abuse by military, para-military and security forces?**

The Ministry of Defence recognises the importance of providing expeditious support for, and the protection of, the rights of victims of SEA. This includes ensuring that victims of SEA are made aware of available assistance and support which may be locally provided. Details on Victims Services may be found in Joint Service Publication 839 - Code of Practice on Services to be provided by the Armed Forces to the Victims of Crime. Victims' Rights are drawn from the UK Ministry of Justice Code of Practice for Victims of Crime in England and Wales.

## **3. Other measures to protect women and girls**

### **3.1 What lessons could you share in relation to protective measures?**

A key lesson is the importance of a survivor-centred approach in protective measures. While this will mean different things depending on the context, broadly it involves ensuring that survivors are involved in decisions that affect them and are able to input and shape relevant policies and programmes. There is emerging evidence that approaches to addressing conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) are more likely to be successful if they are designed with the input of CRSV survivors. The UK took a survivor-centred approach to its Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative International Conference in November 2022, and the involvement of survivors in shaping and designing the conference was key to the event's success.

## **3.4 SUSTAINING PEACE**

### **A. Checklist of key measures taken by participating States**

Please indicate if your State has the following measures in place to sustain peace, especially with regard to relief and recovery and to post-conflict situations. More detailed information of such measures can be included in Part B below.

|   | Type of measure                                                                                                                                                                                                | Yes | No |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|
| 1 | Measures to ensure the involvement of women from the outset in seeking a peaceful settlement of potential or actual conflicts.                                                                                 | X   |    |
| 2 | Measures to support those who have experienced sexual or gender-based violence during or post-conflict to support their recovery from trauma                                                                   | X   |    |
| 3 | Measures to support the role of women as agents of change and transformation in areas emerging from conflict                                                                                                   | X   |    |
| 4 | Measures to support capacity building in the security and other sectors of fragile states or post-conflict situations to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially relating to women and girls | X   |    |
| 5 | Other related information, clarification or details to share:                                                                                                                                                  |     |    |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|--|--|

## **B. More detailed information for sharing good practice between participating States**

### **1.1 How do security personnel support and seek to embed the involvement of women in peacekeeping and throughout the peace building and post -conflict process?**

We are aiming to meet the UN Gender Parity targets and actively contribute to the Elsie Initiative to support women in peacekeeping through funding and as members of the steering and technical working groups. If troops are deployed, we undertake civilian-military engagement with wider stakeholders, who can support the safe passage of, and support to, women in peace building and post-conflict processes, including Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR).

### **1.2 What training are your security personnel given as regards survivor focus?**

The UK Armed Forces are trained on responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, as part of its wider Human Security approach, and are trained on how to effectively Recognise, Respond, Refer and Report this. The current project on the application of the Murad Code in Defence should further improve and ensure that the military are working in survivor centred ways, in regard to responding to CRSV.

### **1.3 What roles do your security personnel or other personnel play in support of demobilisation, access to humanitarian assistance or to facilitate re-integration post-conflict?**

The UK Armed Forces support the delivery of humanitarian aid and humanitarian assistance when directed.

### **1.4 What lessons could you share in relation to recovery and relief issues in the WPS agenda?**

We do not currently have lessons to share.

## **ANNEX III – VOLUNTARY INFORMATION ON CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT**

### **A. International legal framework and commitments**

**1. Please indicate if your State is a party to or has endorsed the following international legal instruments or voluntary commitments. Please also kindly elaborate in case of any reservations or interpretative statements.**

|                                                                                                                                  | Yes | No | Reservations |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|--------------|
| Convention on the Rights of the Child                                                                                            | X   |    |              |
| Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography | X   |    |              |
| Optional Protocol to the Convention on the rights of the child on the involvement of children in armed conflict                  | X   |    |              |
| Optional Protocol to the Convention on the rights of the child on a communication procedure                                      |     | X  |              |
| ILO Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labour                                                                            | X   |    |              |
| Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction  | X   |    |              |
| Safe Schools Declaration                                                                                                         | X   |    |              |
| Paris Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups                                         | X   |    |              |
| Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers                             | X   |    |              |
| Political Declaration on EWIPA (Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas)                                                            | X   |    |              |

### **B. National measures to end and prevent CAAC violations**

**1. What is the minimum legal age for recruitment (including voluntary recruitment) for service in military, paramilitary and security forces in your State?**

16.

**2. If the legal age for recruitment is set below 18 years, what measures are taken to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, with regard to the obligation that children do not directly participate in hostilities and are not subject to mandatory recruitment?**

Our recruitment and use of under 18s complies with our obligations under the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. The UK takes all feasible measures to ensure that members of its Armed Forces who are younger than 18 years do not take part in hostilities.

**3. Please indicate if your State has any national reference document (for example in the form of laws, regulations, policies or action plans) on issues related to the protection of children in armed conflicts.**

The UK recognises that protecting children from the effects of armed conflict is a moral, legal and strategic imperative, and an essential element to break the cycle of violence in conflict settings.

In December 2021, we articulated our commitment to integrating Human Security, including protections for Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC), across Defence through the Joint Service Publication on Human Security in Defence (JSP 985). July 2024 saw a refreshed

version of the policy published which reiterates the importance of children and the CAAC agenda as critical to human security and military navigation of the civilian environment.

**4. Do the military doctrine and guidance of your State include issues related to children and armed conflict, with regard to the six grave violations identified by the UN Security Council: recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, abduction, rape and other forms of sexual violence against children, attacks on schools and hospitals and military use of schools and hospitals, denial of humanitarian access to children?**

As per UK Defence policy, JSP 985, to protect children and youth UK Defence will:

- i. incorporate understanding of those elements affecting children and youth, particularly the Six Grave Violations, in all planning levels and implementation of UK military operations;
- ii. continue to take action to prevent and respond to CAAC and proactively prevent incidents, deter perpetrators and prevent re-recruitment. This includes reporting any violations of the protected status of children in armed conflict as well as the wider impact of operations on children and refer any victims;
- iii. take all reasonable steps to ensure we do not undertake operations, training or partnering with units employing children in active combat roles or those that detain children solely for membership, perceived or actual, of armed groups;
- iv. continue to monitor the conduct of partner forces to ensure their compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law, to assess potential risks to children and to respond to reports of any grave violations against children;
- v. whilst on deployments, unless unavoidable, not use functioning schools, universities or places of learning for any purpose or carry out any security tasks in close proximity to their buildings or grounds, and not use evacuated or abandoned schools, universities or places of learning except in extenuating circumstances with no viable alternatives, in line with the 'Safe Schools Declaration';
- vi. ensure all options available have been explored when a school is being used by an adversary, making it a military objective, before attacking it.
- vii. where requested to deliver training of partner nations, ensure any action undertaken is underpinned by CAAC objectives.
- viii. work on geospatial information to identify regions of concern regarding CAAC and, where practical, draw on the expertise of IOs and NGOs involved with the protection of children before, during and after military operations.

**5. How is the protection of children – especially regarding the above-mentioned six grave violations - included in military planning and other operational considerations, including rules of engagement as relevant? Are there mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the implementation of such specific child protection procedures into operations?**

The UK contributes to the protection of civilians by integrating related measures in the planning and conduct of its operations and missions. Protection of civilians includes all efforts taken to avoid, minimise and mitigate negative effects that might arise from conditions of insecurity, as well as the United Kingdom's own military operations and uphold international laws.

|                                              |     |    |
|----------------------------------------------|-----|----|
| <i>If relevant, please also indicate if:</i> | YES | NO |
|----------------------------------------------|-----|----|

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| reporting mechanisms specifically related to incidents involving children from operations to chiefs of defence or military planners and between forces leading multi-national missions and forces providing personnel to such missions. |  |  |
| mechanisms to collect and monitor reported cases of exploitation and abuse allegedly perpetrated by military, paramilitary and security forces.                                                                                         |  |  |
| mechanism to assess risk of abuse of small arms to commit or facilitate serious acts against children.                                                                                                                                  |  |  |
| mechanisms to collect within military operations, humanitarian activities or development cooperation projects disaggregated information per sex, age, religion, and ethnicity of children affected by armed conflicts.                  |  |  |
| mechanisms to protect the anonymity and personal data of children affected by armed conflicts collected during military operations, humanitarian activities or development cooperation projects                                         |  |  |

**If yes, please add any relevant information or comments with the view of sharing/identifying best practices.**

Training delivered can contribute to the following best practices:

- Recognition of issues related to CAAC and the identification of appropriate response options, together with reporting mechanisms and referral processes are encouraged through the integration and understanding of Human Security (JSP 985 and subordinate doctrine). This is considered in military planning processes and incorporated into mission specific training prior to certain operational deployments.
- Engagement with appropriate actors (IOs, NGOs and Civil Society Organisations) is encouraged when considering CAAC matters, the inclusion of which on pre-deployment exercises and training is best practice.
- When deployed in UN missions, the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms (MRM) are adhered to in accordance with the mission mandate.
- Deployment of Human Security Advisors on operations, who can provide advice to commanders and engage with suitable actors.
- Deployment of suitably trained child protection officers is considered.

**6. How does the protection of schools in situations of armed conflicts feature in the military planning and other operational considerations of your State, including rules of engagement as relevant?**

The Safe Schools Declaration is an international political commitment made by countries to do more to protect schools during military operations and armed conflict. By signing the declaration in 2018, the UK became the 74th country to endorse the declaration.

The Safe Schools Declaration is a pledge; an assurance from governments to take all feasible measures to protect schools during armed conflict. The provision of education in conflict zones and humanitarian situations puts affected populations back on track, establishes routine and purpose, shapes belief in the future, and supports the process of reconstruction.

Military action is conducted in full accordance with UK and international law. The UK has robust targeting policies, practices and processes which are consistent with the United Kingdom's obligations under IHL. Schools are protected as part of a No Strike List (NSL) of protected entities in the UK's targeting processes.

**C. Education and training activities for troops on CAAC issues**

**1. Do your armed forces receive dedicated training on issues related to children and armed conflict?**

| <i>If relevant, please also indicate if:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                         | YES | NO |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|
| Specific matters related to children and armed conflict/child protection are included in the basic education of armed forces                                                                                                         |     | X  |
| Specialised in-service and/or pre-deployment trainings on children and armed conflict/child protection are available                                                                                                                 | X   |    |
| Dedicated modules on children and armed conflict/child protection are included in the pre-deployment training for deployment of national contingents or individuals to international peacekeeping missions and military deployments. | X   |    |
| First aid courses and other medical trainings of armed forces to prevent and respond to child casualties are available                                                                                                               |     | X  |
| Adequate mental health support is provided pre, during and post-deployment for military encountering children during military operations                                                                                             |     | X  |

**If yes, please add any relevant information or comments with the view of sharing/identifying best practices.**

UK Defence published its first policy on Human Security in Military Operation in 2019, with the JSP 985 Human Security in Defence, published in 2021. The policy directs the military to factor in issues of human security, inclusive of Children and Armed Conflict into its military planning and as a strategic, policy and operational consideration across Defence. To action the policy, UK Defence is establishing training serials on Human Security, inclusive of Children and Armed Conflict to be delivered as standard across Defence. This has been underpinned by a comprehensive training needs analysis and the establishment of dedicated personnel to deliver on the recommendations. A Human Security in Military Operational Planning course runs twice a year and enables military planners to factor in various human considerations and factors, inclusive of CAAC, into its operational planning. A growing network of Human Security Advisers is being established across UK Defence to help inform strategy, policy and operations on human security and CAAC concerns.

In addition, mission specific training is conducted for certain operational environments; this includes CAAC matters through the delivery of Human Security training.

**2. Does your State ban military training involving the use of firearms for children under the age of 18 years?**

We are unaware of any regulations pertaining to this, however regardless of training, our recruitment and use of under 18s complies with our obligations under the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. The minimum age for enlisting in the UK armed forces is 16. The UK takes all feasible measures to ensure that members of its Armed Forces who are younger than 18 years do not take part in hostilities.

**D. International partnerships**

**1. In case of collaboration and training programmes of your State with other States, to what extent are issues related to children and armed conflict addressed and included in such programmes, for those countries that are mentioned in the UN Secretary General annual report on children and armed conflict?**

The approach that the UK takes to collaboration and training with other states is determined on a case-by-case basis.

The UK's Overseas Security and Justice Assistance (OSJA) guidance is a practical tool to ensure that training and assistance given by the UK to other States defends and promotes

human rights. It is intended to assess a State's human rights record, mitigate the risk of human rights abuses being committed because of the UK's assistance, and strengthen the State's security, justice and human rights. The violations of the rights of children, including recruitment or use of child soldiers, are specifically considered within the OSJA framework.

2. **Does your State support capacity-building initiatives in the security and other sectors of other States, particularly those in conflict or post-conflict situations, which include the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and respect of international humanitarian law? If yes, to what extent are issues related to children and armed conflict addressed in these initiatives?**

We aim to strengthen compliance with human rights and international humanitarian law through our engagement with countries and partner forces. JSP 985 outlines our commitment to take all reasonable steps to ensure we do not undertake training or partnering with units employing children in active combat roles or those that detain children solely for membership of armed groups.

In conducting activity with partner forces, the delivery of Human Security awareness addresses CAAC matters. Where appropriate and through practical and theoretical training, the Six GVs are considered.

3. **Please add any relevant information or comments with the view of sharing/identifying best practices.**