

03 MAY 2016



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THE PRIME MINISTER

4 May 2016

Dear Nigel,

Thank you for your letter of 11 April inviting me to provide oral evidence to inform the Committee's current inquiry into the National Security Strategy 2015.

As you say, I am keenly interested in the effectiveness of the National Security Council (NSC) and I was very happy to give evidence on that topic to the Committee in January 2014.

I welcome the Committee's inquiry into last year's National Security Strategy. Unfortunately as you might imagine, the pressures on my diary mean that I will not be able to appear before the Committee before the summer recess. However, I am aware that my National Security Adviser, Sir Mark Lyall Grant, has already given evidence to the Committee in February this year and I understand that Oliver Letwin will give evidence to the Committee on the implementation of the National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) in May.

The 2015 National Security Strategy fully reflects the Government's vision for the strategy and its preparation was closely overseen by the NSC. In preparing the 2015 SDSR we benefited from the suggestions provided by the Joint Committee in the last Parliament.

I look forward to the outcome of the Committee's inquiry, and will of course be happy to respond to any recommendations made.

Yours,

David

The Right Honourable Margaret Beckett DBE MP