



Cabinet Office

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Mr Gavin Freeguard
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22/08/2018

Dear Mr Gavin Freeguard

I refer to your requests where you asked for:

- A. A list of all Inter-Ministerial Groups currently in existence, including the dates of their formation
- B. The terms of reference of all Inter-Ministerial Groups currently in existence
- C. The membership of all Inter-Ministerial Groups currently in existence."

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our records, I have established that the information you requested is held by the Cabinet Office.

There are a number of fora within Government which exist to support the policy making process. Cabinet and its sub-Committees are the framework within which ministers consider and make collective decisions on policy issues. Implementation Task Forces are formalised groups that consider the implementation of certain Government priorities. The membership of these groups and their terms of reference are published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-cabinet-committees-system-and-list-of-cabinet-committees>.

In addition there are a number of Inter-Ministerial Groups established with the Prime Minister's agreement, which bring Ministers together in fora which unlike Cabinet or its sub-Committees cannot directly take collectively agreed decisions, but which support the collective policy development process, including feeding into a relevant Cabinet Committee, and support decision-making by Ministers within departments where collective agreement is not required, as set out in the Cabinet Manual.

Outside of these structures, Ministers across Government discuss policy issues as they arise, and ministerial groups may be convened on a short term or on-going basis according to the business need. Where these focus on longer term, complex programmes of work and involve multiple departments, they may be

established into an Inter-Ministerial Group with the agreement of the Prime Minister.

The Cabinet Office holds information on the Inter-Ministerial Groups established with the Prime Minister's agreement. There are currently 15 such Inter-Ministerial Groups, which are listed at Annex A. As their purpose and chairs are approved by the Prime Minister, their dates of formation reflect this. These Groups are designed to serve as flexible fora which can adapt to Ministerial availability and to each issue under discussion, and it is not uncommon for Ministers from departments not listed to be invited to attend. The Annex therefore lists the core set of departments which would be represented at Ministerial level.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the FOI team. Please remember to quote the reference numbers above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Sharon Carter
FOI Team
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

email: foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

Yours sincerely



FOI team
Cabinet Office

Annex A – list of Inter-Ministerial Groups

In alphabetical order

Anti-Corruption

Co-Chairs:

Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Prime Minister's Anti-Corruption Champion

Membership includes Ministers from the following departments:

Attorney General's Office

Cabinet Office

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Department for International Development

Department for International Trade

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

HM Treasury

Home Office

Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Justice

Terms of reference:

The Inter-Ministerial Group on Anti-Corruption oversees the government's work to tackle corruption domestically and internationally.

Date approved by the Prime Minister:

October 2016.

Borders

Chair:

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

Membership includes Ministers from the following departments:

Cabinet Office

HM Treasury

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Department for Exiting the European Union

Department for Transport

Home Office

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Northern Ireland Office

Terms of reference:

To bring together and oversee plans for a smoothly functioning UK border on Day 1 of EU exit, for any scenario.

Date approved by the Prime Minister:

May 2018

Child Sexual Abuse

Chair:

Secretary of State for the Home Department

Membership includes Ministers from the following departments:

Home Office

Department for Education

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Ministry of Justice

Department for Health and Social Care

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Attorney General's office

Terms of reference:

To give Ministerial direction to, and drive the implementation of, cross-Government work on child sexual abuse, including: development and implementation of a dedicated Government strategy on child sexual abuse; developing responses to sexual abuse in institutions, child sexual exploitations by groups and gangs, and online child sexual exploitation; oversight of work with international and industry partners to tackle online CSE.

Date approved by the Prime Minister:

October 2016.

Commonwealth

Co-Chairs:

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Secretary of State for International Development

Membership includes Ministers from the following departments:

Home Office

HM Treasury

Ministry of Defence

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Department for Exiting the European Union

Department for International Trade
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Education
Department for Health and Social Care
Northern Ireland Office
Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales

Terms of reference:

To ensure the whole of government supports the delivery of the ambitious commitments made at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018, and the Prime Minister's vision for a reinvigorated Commonwealth.

Date approved by the Prime Minister:
August 2018.

Disabled People in Society

Chair:

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

Deputy Chair:

Minister for Disabled People

Membership includes Ministers from:

Department for Work and Pensions
Home Office
Department for Health and Social Care
Department for Education
Department for Transport
Department for Business, Economy and Industrial Strategy
Cabinet Office
HM Treasury

Terms of reference:

To drive forward action across government to tackle the barriers disabled people face to realising their full participation in society, including increasing disability employment rates and improving access to sport, culture and transport.

Date approved by the Prime Minister:
April 2018.

Environment and Clean Growth

Chair:

Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Deputy Chair:

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Membership includes Ministers from the following departments:

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Department for Transport

Department for Health and Social Care

HM Treasury

Terms of reference: To provide a forum to help develop Government strategy on Carbon Budgets, air quality and electric vehicles and other areas relating to clean growth as required. Membership is flexible to topics being discussed.

Date approved by the Prime Minister:

October 2016.

EU Exit

Chair:

Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union

Membership includes Ministers from:

DexEU

Cabinet Office

HMT

Terms of reference:

To act as an operational coordination board that will monitor and drive progress on implementation and tackle pressing delivery decisions affecting multiple departments. It will act as a 'clearing house' to resolve operational and policy impediments that require cross-governmental input and consensus especially where these cannot be resolved by consensus with the relevant departmental Minister(s). It will not take collectively binding decisions but will seek to broker consensus between departmental interests.

Date approved by the Prime Minister:

July 2017.

Flooding

Chair:

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Membership includes Ministers from the following departments:

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Cabinet Office

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Department for Transport

HM Treasury

Terms of reference:

To provide a forum for ensuring delivery of the recommendations of the National Flood Resilience Review and help develop Government strategy on flooding.

Date of formation:

October 2016.

Mental Health

Chair:

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Membership includes Ministers from the following departments:

Department of Health and Social Care

Home Office

Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Justice

Department for Education

Department for Work and Pensions

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

HM Treasury

Cabinet Office

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Terms of reference:

To a) support development of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Green paper, building a shared understanding of the problem and policy options for tackling it across government; and b) identify where there is scope for departments to make additional impact on mental health issues, developing and agreeing policy to address them.

Date approved by the Prime Minister:

November 2016

Race Disparity

Chair:

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

Membership includes Ministers from the following departments:

Cabinet Office

Home Office

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Department for Work and Pensions

Department of Health and Social Care

Department for Education

Ministry of Defence

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Ministry of Justice

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Terms of reference:

To oversee the development and launch of policies to tackle injustices, reduce disparities and monitor the progress of Departments, as they meet the PM's commitment to 'explain or change' ethnic disparities highlighted by the Race Disparity Audit.

Date approved by the Prime Minister:

October 2016

Safe and Integrated Communities

Co-Chairs:

Secretary of State for the Home Department and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Membership includes Ministers from the following departments:

Home Office

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Ministry of Justice

Department for Education

Department of Health and Social Care

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Department for International Development

Department for Work and Pensions

Terms of reference:

To ensure that the necessary action is taken to build integrated communities and to counter those who seek to sow discord and disharmony within them.

Date approved by the Prime Minister:
February 2018

Serious and Organised Crime

Chair:
Secretary of State for the Home Department

Membership includes Ministers from the following departments:

Home Office
Ministry of Defence
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Ministry of Justice
Department for Education
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Department for International Development
Department of Health
Department for Work and Pensions
Department for Transport
Department for Communities and Local Government
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Attorney General's Office
HM Treasury

Terms of reference:
To review and take decisions on all Serious and Organised Crime threats in order to deliver a cross-government approach.

Date approved by the Prime Minister:
August 2017.

Serious Violence Strategy

Chair:
Secretary of State for the Home Department

Membership includes Ministers from the following departments:

Attorney General's Office
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Education
Department for Work and Pensions
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Ministry of Justice
Department of Health and Social Care
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales

Terms of reference:

To oversee and drive delivery of the commitments in the Serious Violence Strategy and to focus on addressing challenges with a cross-government effort.

Date approved by the Prime Minister:

April 2018

Social Care

Chair:

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Membership includes Ministers from the following departments:

Department of Health and Social Care

HM Treasury

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Department for Work and Pensions

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Terms of reference:

To a) support the development of an adult social care Green Paper, building a shared understanding of the problem and agreeing the policy options and narrative for the Green Paper; b) agree how any cross-party engagement will be undertaken; c) agree the overall communications approach, including public research and stakeholder engagement; and d) provide oversight of the parallel work on social care for people of working age people, providing assurance that this work progresses in parallel, with links to reform for older people clearly understood.

Date approved by the Prime Minister:

August 2017.

Violence Against Women and Girls

Chair:

Secretary of State for the Home Department

Membership includes Ministers from the following departments:

Attorney General's Office

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Ministry of Justice

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Department for Education

Department for International Development

Department of Health and Social Care
Department for Work and Pensions
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Ministry of Defence
Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland
Office of the Secretary of State for Wales
HM Treasury

Terms of reference:

To discuss Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) issues and drive forward progress to deliver the cross-Government VAWG Strategy.

Date approved by the Prime Minister:

October 2016.