



Richard Reeve

By email: richard@rethinkingsecurity.org.uk

FOI Reference: FOI2021/11517

18/06/2021

Dear Richard Reeve

We refer to your request where you asked:

"Dear Richard,

Thank you for your email of XXX which has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You asked:

'I would like to request the following information around the external consultation conducted for the recent Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy:

[1] What mechanisms for external consultation were employed to inform the Integrated Review?

[2] How many organisations outside of UK Government were consulted with in preparation for the Integrated Review?

[3] Which were these organisations?

[4] How were they engaged in consultation?

[5] What process was used for analysing and making use of submissions to the Integrated Review from the open Call for Evidence?

[6] Did the Integrated Review team commission or make use of public opinion surveys?'

For the purposes of this response, your requests have been numbered 1 to 6.

Information within the scope of these requests is held by the Cabinet Office.

We note, and thank you for, your interest in the engagement process for the Integrated Review. The inputs Rethinking Security provided to the Integrated Review Call for Evidence, and regular reports, briefings and analysis the organisation produces, including on past strategic reviews, were very helpful.

1. What mechanisms for external consultation were employed to inform the Integrated Review?

The Government's ambition was to root the Integrated Review in the best available evidence, analysis and expertise, drawing on a diverse range of high-quality sources. To support this ambition, we established a systematic programme of engagement and external consultation, analysis and challenge as outlined in Annex B of the Integrated Review. We sought to explore new techniques as well as traditional approaches to ensure that we reached the following key stakeholders.

- **International partners and stakeholders.** The Cabinet Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and later the FCDO, designed and delivered a virtual international engagement programme to which heads of mission, ministers and senior officials contributed.
- **Public engagement.** Gaining perspectives from the public was vital to informing the Integrated Review, although the process was necessarily restricted due to COVID-19. We conducted a public call for evidence and made use of research into public perceptions (more information provided below).
- **Parliamentary engagement.** We made extensive use of reports by the relevant parliamentary committees as well as providing evidence to these groups
- **Experts and practitioners.** We worked closely with the Open Innovation Team and Wilton Park to develop a series of engagement events to support the IR, including roundtables, workshop discussions, interviews and gathering written submissions.

2. How many organisations outside of UK Government were consulted with in preparation for the Integrated Review?

3. Which were these organisations?

Please find attached a list of external organisations (excluding government and intergovernmental organisations) that were involved in the Cabinet Office's engagement for the Integrated Review. It is important to note that many of the experts from the organisations listed spoke to their own research areas only and did not represent their organisations as a whole.

The information you requested on which organisations were consulted is partially, but not comprehensively, held. Many departments conducted their own engagement in preparation for, and throughout, the Integrated Review.

4. How were they engaged in consultation?

Officials engaged external organisations through workshops, roundtable discussions and interviews. This included five facilitated discussion sessions and three roundtables with senior officials; a virtual tour of established think tanks and new research bodies; and two focused reviews of expert opinion, involving input from academics and practitioners, to gather perspectives on the UK's role in the world over the next ten years, UK capabilities in relevant areas, and the extent to which current systems support their effective use. Government departments and agencies also consulted networks and stakeholder groups across the UK and the world, and we do not hold an exhaustive record of these activities. Some organisations also voluntarily contributed to the Integrated Review call for evidence.

5. What process was used for analysing and making use of submissions to the Integrated Review from the open Call for Evidence?

More than 450 submissions to the call for evidence were received. These submissions were catalogued in a central database, which was made available to IR policy users from across the government.

To ensure that users could better identify submissions for their specific policy work, the catalogue included key metadata, including organisation and contact information. Government analysts assessed each submission and mapped these against IR themes and questions from the call for evidence within the wider catalogue. This further ensured that users could efficiently identify submissions of interest.

In addition to producing an internal catalogue of submissions for policy use, analysts produced syntheses of insights from the call for evidence relating to key IR themes.

6. Did the Integrated Review team commission or make use of public opinion surveys?

The government draws on a range of public perceptions research and analysis to inform policy, communications and engagement. The Integrated Review team did not commission separate public opinion surveys but did make use of existing government data. We are committed to improving the use of evidence, analysis and challenge, including from diverse sources, in developing and delivering national security and international strategy and look forward to building on the Integrated Review.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the FOI Team quoting the reference number above.

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:

Rachel Anderson
Head of Freedom of Information
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. If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Anderson', written over a light grey circular stamp.

FOI Team
Cabinet Office