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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Patrick,

**Re: 2019 National Security Risk Assessment (NSRA)**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the wider community of Chief Scientific Advisers for your valuable input throughout the production of the NSRA and for taking the time to discuss the methodology in May.

We agree that the two key issues that you highlighted in your letter dated 18 July 2019 – how we define reasonable worst case scenarios and their subsequent effect on likelihood and impact scoring, plus the issue of how we assess interdependent risks – should be our priority focus for the next iteration.

For scenario generation, we will explore methods of providing risk owners with better guidance to foster a common understanding and appreciation of what constitutes a reasonable worst case scenario and what data should underpin the assessment. On interdependency, we will explore how we can conduct and thereafter communicate statistical analysis that reviews how risks are linked. Thank you for the offer of support from GO Science and the wider scientific community, we would very much value this input to ensure that this process is robust and effective.

As ever, we are always searching for opportunities to hold Ministerial discussions on the NSRA, especially as we enter the 'post-publication' phase of the project. Securing a discussion at Cabinet or the National Security Council is likely to prove difficult in the near term, though if such opportunities do arise, we would be delighted to provide the necessary support. Please do get in touch with us should you become aware of any opportunities to engage with Ministers or more widely across Whitehall in parts that we may not have seen.

Once again, thank you for your support throughout this process and we very much look forward to our ongoing engagement with you on the NSRA moving forward.

Yours

Personal Data

Katharine Hammond