

Briefing for James Driver

Subject title: Name introduction
Classification points: OFFSEN
Date/time: 1100-1200, Tuesday 13 April 2021
Location/Virtual: Microsoft Teams meeting Click here to join the meeting PD 213 PD 230#
Attendees: Name, new COO Border Force Petra Wilkinson
Purpose/ aim: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Name has taken over from Name and has requested this meeting to familiarise himself with the DfT/BF relationship
Background/context: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Name was previously Senior Director, Border Readiness Directorate, Border Force
Key information: <p>Small boats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Home Office is the lead department for small boats response and has been working to develop 'returns at sea' policy options to address the increasing numbers of "small boat" migrant crossings in the English Channel. 'Returns at sea' includes: 1) forcibly rescuing migrant vessels and taking them back to France; and 2) implementing a 'turnaround tactic' in the UK territorial sea to redirect migrant vessels back to France.DfT, as the lead department for coordinating maritime security interests across Whitehall, has supported and worked closely with Home Office in all stages of small boats policy development, providing regular and rapid feedback and comments on LPP and ministerial submissions.DfT has worked closely with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), LPP, LPP and FCDO on small boats issues, and raised a number of safety, LPP and diplomatic concerns with Home Office on their proposals.Crucially, DfT has ensured that the interests of MCA are fully represented, due to MCA's primacy for Search and Rescue (SAR) in the UK SAR Region. The fundamental role of HM Coastguard (HMCG), the section of MCA responsible for SAR, is to prevent loss of life at sea. <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px dashed black; padding: 20px;"><h1>LPP</h1></div>

LPP

JMSC

- Background:
 - JMSC was formed in 2019, through shared ownership of the NMIC and JMOCC by a single SCS1. Dan O'Mahoney left this role in late 2020, to be replaced by Chris Chant. The Director JMSC is employed by Border Force and Name predecessor initially provided interim oversight while the Director role was vacant.
 - It is responsible for monitoring UK waters, disseminating information products, funding and developing monitoring technology, providing a forum for multi-agency discussions, and coordinating multi-agency incident responses.
 - JMSC receives the majority of its funding from DfT and Home Office Home Office and DfT submitted a joint SR bid for a multi-year funding package but received a one year allocation. The lack of consistent funding is a major barrier to JMSC fully establishing themselves in their role, primarily affecting recruitment of permanent roles. MOD provide buildings and infrastructure.
 - JMSC are accountable through the Joint Governance Board, chaired by DfT. This is a quarterly meeting of approx. 20 key stakeholders chaired by DfT.
- Recent performance:
 - JMSC have grown into their role over Winter, providing key support to the XWH end of Transition Period preparations. In particular, they led a complex maritime domain awareness procurement programme to completion, that has negated the data lost as a result of Brexit. They continue to work closely with operational partners (MOD, RN, BF, MCA, MMO, etc.) to maintain overall situation awareness of UK waters.
 - This positive performance has been recognised by stakeholders, and JMSC are held in high regard when it comes to their operational outputs.
 - In particular, their role as a coordination authority in a maritime incident has been developed, refined, and thoroughly exercised.

Points to raise:

Small Boats

DfT and the MCA are both committed to supporting work on small boats

Cabinet Collective Responsibility

- The MCA are in close contact with Dan O'Mahoney, Clandestine Channel Threats Commander, and have been scoping possible options that could support Home Office/Border Force activity but not jeopardise SAR principles.
- The MCA are also supporting Border Force procurement of new cutters, and will continue

to support in any way they can.

JMSC

It's essential to establish a lead government department for JMSC

- JMSC require the close support of BF, DfT, and others to succeed.
 - We would like to see JMSC's business practices improve, such as their reporting, accounting, and management of stakeholders. [They are staffed by mostly operational personnel].
 - The GIAA report was critical of their financial controls, which they model on BF practices.
 - It is crucial for JMSC to achieve a sustainable funding model, which is a xHMG effort.
- DfT, HO, and JMSC are working through the options to formally determine Ministerial accountabilities for JMSC.
 - [Note that **Name** has yet to speak to HO Director to establish HO preference]
 - JMSC's background is in Home Office and Border Force, the former is the natural candidate for departmental ownership. We have yet to test this approach with DfT Ministers.

Questions for **Name** to ask:

Small boats

- What are **N**'s thoughts on future options regarding small boats tactics?

JMSC

- Has **N** seen the JMSC GIAA report? If not, we can pass across.
- Does **N** have views on JMSC ownership?
- We understand that while Home Office is pursuing the RDEL funding, Border Force have committed to fund JMSC, is this the case and does **N** have view son the longer term role of BF involvement in JMSC funding?

Briefing lead:

Name 09 April