



BRITISH COUNCIL APPG INQUIRY: OPPORTUNITIES FOR BRITAIN'S GLOBAL VISION – INFLUENCE AND THE INTEGRATED REVIEW

HMG are undertaking a comprehensive *Integrated Defence, Security and Foreign Policy Review* (IR), which is expected to be undertaken over the Summer of 2020. The review comes at a moment of significant opportunity for the UK, as the world looks to move past the Covid-19 pandemic and as the international landscape begins to reflect new geopolitical realities. In all of this, building on the UK's assets in cultural diplomacy will be a vital element of securing influence and connections in the national interest.

The British Council APPG are therefore undertaking an inquiry which will seek to identify opportunities for a newly global UK, establish the role that our power of attraction and influence should play to support that vision and what that means for the Integrated Review.

We would welcome your input for this review and would therefore ask that you submit evidence to the inquiry by answering as many of the questions outlined below in this document. Your response may be in bullet point form if preferred, and you do not need to address all of the questions.

1. What are the principal opportunities for a global UK post-Covid and following the UK's departure from the European Union?
2. What are the principle challenges for a global UK post-Covid and following the UK's departure from the European Union?
3. What is the role of "soft power" in realising these opportunities and mitigating against these challenges?
4. What do you see as the upcoming strategic defence and security threats and opportunities for the UK in the coming decade; and what role do you see UK assets of influence and attraction playing in addressing these?
5. What are the key assets of UK soft power and how effectively do they deliver against stated UK foreign policy objectives?
6. How has the British Council performed as an asset of influence and attraction for the UK over recent decades?
7. What action could HM Government take to supercharge UK influence and attraction in order to help realise the opportunities and mitigate against the challenges of the current and future geopolitical context?
8. How could HMG best coordinate its assets and resources of influence and attraction and ensure a strategic approach (across Departments, non-Departmental Public Bodies, partner agencies and so on); and what lessons could be learnt from other countries in this regard?



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CONTACT INFORMATION AND TERMS OF USE

Name:

Organisation:

Contact Information (e-mail):

Please confirm that you are happy for this evidence to be quoted in full or in part in the subsequent APPG report (please delete as appropriate):

Please confirm if you are happy for this evidence to be published on the British Council APPG website (please delete as appropriate):



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QUESTION 1: What are the principal opportunities for a global UK post-Covid and following the UK's departure from the European Union?



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QUESTION 2: What are the principle challenges for a global UK post-Covid and following the UK's departure from the European Union?



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QUESTION 3: What is the role of "soft power" in realising these opportunities and mitigating against these challenges?



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QUESTION 4: What are the key assets of UK soft power and how effectively do they deliver against stated UK foreign policy objectives?



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QUESTION 5: How has the British Council performed as an asset of influence and attraction for the UK over recent decades?



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QUESTION 6: What action could HM Government take to supercharge UK influence and attraction in order to help realise the opportunities and mitigate against the challenges of the current and future geopolitical context?



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QUESTION 7: What do you see as the upcoming strategic defence and security threats and opportunities for the UK in the coming decade; and what role do you see UK assets of influence and attraction playing in addressing these?



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QUESTION 8: How could HMG best coordinate its assets and resources of influence and attraction and ensure a strategic approach (across Departments, non-Departmental Public Bodies, partner agencies and so on); and what lessons could be learnt from other countries in this regard?