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[To supply] proposed in new Politeia pamphlet:

Politeia's next pamphlet, *Clear and Accountable? Institutions for Defence and Security*, [SL TO SPUPPLY].

The authors,* suggest

This paper forms part of the work of the Defence and Security Group¹. It focuses on the United Kingdom's institutional arrangements for developing defence and security strategy. These arrangements should be clear and simple, and should provide for proper accountability of Government to Parliament rather than tending vainly towards technocracy. Why has the Prime Minister's proposed Joint Committee to scrutinise the National Security Strategy not been set up, almost a year after first being proposed?

A mapping of current Whitehall arrangements for defence and security, in particular relating to the Ministerial Committee on National Security, International Relations & Development (NSID), reveals those arrangements to be both over-complicated and opaque. We cannot believe that they are efficient.

The Government's counter-terrorism strategy CONTEST is typical in that it lacks focus. The introduction of the Public Service Agreement (PSA) process into the CONTEST arrangements, reading across to the recent National Audit Office *Assessment of the Cabinet Office Capability Review programme*, is an example of how the Government's assessment and management processes obscure more than they reveal, with no evidence that they work. Defence procurement too is in a mess; the Defence Committee has pointed this out; does the PSA system actually contribute anything to identifying or solving the problem

We make three recommendations:

- The proposed Joint Committee should be set up without further delay.
- A simplified Committee structure within the Cabinet Office should be established along lines we describe.
- Government should focus on its executive functions more directly, pruning its management processes ruthlessly, and leave to Parliament the task of scrutiny and assessment.

Work should also be begun at once, by bi-partisan agreement, on the Defence Review that is urgently needed, granted the changed economic circumstances of recent months and patent problems of recent years.

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