

SUMMARY OF SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE DSMA COMMITTEE - 14 MAY 2020

1. In view of the COVID situation prevailing at the time, the Chairs of the DSMA Committee decided to cancel the meeting scheduled for 14 May 2020. No minutes were produced. Instead, the Chairs requested the Secretary produce the usual 6-monthly report which was distributed to Committee members on 14 May.
2. In support of the Committee's aim for maximum disclosure of its activities consistent with the effective conduct of business and the need to ensure it honours any assurance of confidentiality given to the individuals and organizations with which it deals, a summary of this report is attached to this note.

Geoffrey Dodds

GCW Dodds
Brigadier
Secretary
Defence and Security Media Advisory Committee

27 November 2020

**SUMMARY OF THE SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE DSMA
COMMITTEE COVERING ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD
25 OCT 19 – 26 APR 20**

- No formal, supplementary DSMA notices were issued during this period.
- Defence and Security advice was sought on 48 occasions during this reporting period, a figure well below the historical average of 110 for a 6-month period.
- The number of requests for advice on particular topics included:

UK Special Forces	10	DSMA System	4
Intelligence Agencies	5	Historical	9
Nuclear Weapons	2	Members of the Public	14
Counter-Terrorism	2	Miscellaneous	1
Cyber	1		

In addition, the DSMA Committee's secretariat made progress on the following issues:

- In consultation with the National Cyber Security Centre, work was completed to improve the security of the DSMA Committee's data.
- The incorporation of *cyber* into the DSMA standing notices
- Prior to the COVID movement restrictions, the Secretary delivered a smaller than usual number of presentations to increase awareness of the DSMA notice system to the following establishments:

Government Organizations	2
Universities	4
Total	6