**ANNEX A: RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND AREAS OF INTEREST**

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

We are committed to ensuring that our nuclear deterrent is correctly aligned and configured to deter the most serious threats to the UK now and in the future. We seek research which supports the UK in understanding the long-term context of its nuclear deterrent, including:

1. The origins and nature of strategic competition in the evolving security context, with emphasis on its implications for nuclear deterrence.
2. The changing dynamics of potential 21st century great power conflict and its implications for the theory and practice of UK nuclear deterrence.
3. The implications of the evolving security context for the theory and practice of UK nuclear deterrence and assurance.
4. The requirements of effective UK and Allied deterrence and escalation management against potential adversaries.

AREAS OF INTEREST

Potential areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

1. Understanding our competitors
   1. Understanding Russian and Chinese grand strategies and the role of nuclear weapons in those strategies.
   2. Understanding how Russian and Chinese strategic cultures influence their nuclear policies and postures.
   3. Understanding Russian and Chinese approaches to 21st century conflict and the implications for their nuclear strategies and forces in the coming decades.
   4. Understanding the implications of potential collaboration between two or more nuclear-armed competitors for UK and Allied deterrence and defence in the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific.
   5. Understanding the implications of emerged and emerging nuclear powers for UK and Allied deterrence and defence in the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific.
2. Understanding our Allies and Partners
   1. Understanding the ambitions and security strategies of our Allies and Partners.
   2. Understanding Allied and Partner perspectives of our competitors.
   3. Understanding and defining future Allied deterrence and assurance requirements.
   4. Identifying opportunities to adapt and strengthen regional deterrence architectures and exploring the UK’s potential role in those architectures.
   5. Identifying non-traditional partners to support UK and Allied interests globally.
3. Understanding the deterrence and escalation management toolbox
   1. Understanding Allied and adversary approaches to multi-domain competition and its implications for deterrence, assurance, and strategic stability.
   2. Understanding Allied and adversary capabilities (military and non-military) and their potential role in future competition and conflict.
   3. Understanding the opportunities of emerging and disruptive technologies for deterrence, assurance, and strategic stability.
   4. Identifying the challenges and opportunities to improving integration unilaterally and with Allies.
   5. Identifying ways in which the UK and its Allies and Partners can further develop their knowledge of deterrence and escalation management through applied learning.
4. Updating and refining our conceptual thinking
   1. Identifying the key components of an integrated approach to deterrence.
   2. Understanding competing approaches to the theory and practice of deterrence.
   3. Identifying new approaches, models and tools to better understand our competitors and the evolving strategic environment.
   4. Understanding the psychology of nuclear decision-making.
   5. Developing approaches to escalation management to meet 21st century realities.