

## DEFENCE ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY BOARD

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### GOVERNANCE

1. The DESB is chaired by the Second Permanent Secretary who is responsible to the Permanent Secretary, and is part of the MOD corporate governance structure as set out in the Secretary of State's Policy Statement and JSP 525. It reports to the Defence Board.

#### PURPOSE

2. To support the Second Permanent Secretary in carrying out his responsibilities for safety and sustainable development (SD), including environmental protection, for the Ministry of Defence. This includes providing assurance to the Permanent Secretary that the management of these issues is effective and complies with the Secretary of State's policy.

3. The DESB will:

- Provide strategic direction, set objectives and establish, on behalf of Ministers and the Defence Board, policy, standards and, where appropriate, internal regulations, on all safety and SD matters for the Ministry of Defence, ensuring that the objectives are clearly represented in the Defence Plan and Letters of Delegation.
- Assess and prioritise the Department's safety and SD risks, set objectives and targets to manage those risks, and drive continual improvement in performance.
- Monitor and review the implementation of the Department's safety and SD policy and the achievement of associated standards, objectives and targets.
- Provide assurance to the Secretary of State, through the Defence Audit Committee, the Permanent Secretary and the Defence Board, on the performance of the Department on the basis of reports received from the Functional Safety Boards, the Sustainable Procurement Programme Board, and the findings of the Department's audit programmes.
- Be supported as necessary by a two-star network to meet, when required, as the Policy and Management Committee under the chairmanship of Director of Business Resilience (DBR).

#### MEETINGS

4. As required but not less than twice a year.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Chairman: 2<sup>nd</sup> Permanent Secretary

Members: VCDS  
Top Level Budget Holders or their representatives at 3\*/4\* level  
Chief Executives of Defence Trading Fund Agencies  
Chief of Corporate Services, Chairman of Sustainable  
Procurement Programme Board  
Chairmen of the Functional Safety Boards  
DCDS(EC)  
Defence Commercial Director  
Surgeon General  
S&T Director  
Director of Business Resilience (DBR)  
DGMC  
DBR - Head of Safety, SD and Continuity

External Member

Secretariat: DBR - Safety SD and Continuity Division

To receive papers and attend as necessary:

DCDS(Personnel)  
DG Human Resources and Corporate Services