
Central Council

Framework for Method Ringing

Version 1.95

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1: Introduction

This document provides a descriptive framework to enable ringers to communicate about all forms of method ringing. It defines many key terms in method ringing, and also sets out standards and requirements for methods and method naming, performances and performance reporting, record lengths, method classification and method extension.

This document is intended to be read in conjunction with a website that provides further explanations and examples. This website is located at https://ccabr.github.io/method_ringing_framework.

2: Amendments to Previous Version

This section will be used in future versions of this document to describe the amendments that the new version is making. Since this is the first published version of the document, there are no amendments to list.

3: Fundamentals of Method Ringing

A	Stages	
1	Stage	A property of several method ringing terms that indicates the number of bells participating.
2	Stage Name	Names that are given to the different Stages.

B	Rows	
1	Row	A sequence of numbered bells in which no bell appears more than once.
2	Rounds	A Row in which the bells are ordered from the lowest number to the highest number.
3	Place	The position of a bell within a Row.

C	Changes	
1	Change	A transposition of bells from an existing Row to a new Row, where both Rows have the same Stage.
2	Identity Change	A Change that transposes each bell to the same Place in a new Row.

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3	Adjacent Change	A Change that transposes each bell to either the same Place or an adjacent Place in a new Row, but which is not an Identity Change.
4	Jump Change	A Change that transposes at least one bell to a different and non-adjacent Place in a new Row.

D	Blocks	
1	Block	A sequence of Changes, all with the same Stage, and the Rows produced by applying these Changes, starting from an initial Row.
2	Round Block	A Block whose final Row is the same as its initial Row.

E	Methods	
1	Method	A sequence of Changes all of the same Stage, or a process to generate such a sequence.
2	Static Method	A Method whose sequence of Changes is fixed and finite.
3	Dynamic Method	A Method whose sequence of Changes is not fixed or is not finite.
4	Plain Lead	A Block that is produced by applying a Static Method's sequence of Changes once.
5	Plain Course	A Block that is produced by applying a Static Method's sequence of Changes repeatedly, until a Round Block is obtained.

F	Calls	
1	Call	An instruction to replace Change(s) from a Method with different Change(s), change the current Method to a different one, or affect Cover Bell(s).
2	Calls Library	Commonly used Calls are recorded in the Central Council Calls Library. This Library also includes Calls that are used to define Variations (see Section 5.D).

G	Compositions	
1	Composition	An arrangement of Method(s) and Call(s) that produces a sequence of Changes, all with the same Stage.

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H	Cover Bells	
1	Cover Bell	A bell that occupies a Place in a Row that is not one of the Places operated on by the Method(s) of a Composition.

I	Touches	
1	Touch	A Block that is produced by applying a Composition's sequence of Changes.
2	Length	The number of Changes in a Touch.
3	Short Touch	A Touch with a Length of 1 to 1249 Changes.
4	Quarter Peal	A Touch with a Length of 1250 to 2499 Changes.
5	Half Peal	A Touch with a Length of 2500 to 4999 Changes.
6	Peal	A Touch with a Length of 5000 or more Changes.
7	Long Length	A Touch with a Length of 10000 or more Changes.
8	Date Touch	A Touch with a Length that corresponds to a year being commemorated.

J	Truth	
1	Extent	The complete set of distinct Rows possible for a given set of bells.
2	Fixed Place	A given Place that, in every Row of a Touch, is occupied by the same bell.
3	Effective Stage	The Stage of a Touch after any Fixed Places are excluded.
4	True	A Touch is True if it contains zero or more Extents at the Touch's Effective Stage, and any further Rows are distinct. If a Touch is a Round Block, the final Row is excluded when determining whether the Touch is True.
5	Accepted Truth	A Touch has Accepted Truth if: a) It is rung on n bells; b) It comprises (x) Round Block(s) with an Effective Stage of n and (y) Round Block(s) with an Effective Stage of n-1 and with nth's Place a Fixed Place; c) The Rows in (x) and (y) are True when considered independently using the definition of True in Section 3.J.4; and d) The Rows in (x) contain at least one Extent at Stage n.

K	Performances	
1	Performance	The successful ringing of a Touch where the band strives to maintain a high standard of ringing, and errors in ringing or calling are corrected quickly.
2	Performance Report	A report of a Performance that includes the contents specified in Section 6.
3	Record Length	A Performance of a Long Length that is the longest Length yet rung in a single Method or the same set of Methods.

4: Method Classification

A	Definitions	
1	Method Class	A group of Methods that contain the same, defined features.
2	Hunt Bell	A bell that ends a Plain Lead in the same Place as it started.
3	Working Bell	A bell that ends a Plain Lead in a different Place from where it started.
4	Stationary Bell	A Hunt Bell that occupies the same Place in every Row of a Plain Lead.
5	Path	The sequence of Places that a given bell occupies as it progresses through the Rows of a Block.
6	Little Path	A Path which does not involve occupying all the Places of a Block's Stage.
7	Hunting	A Path that is formed by progressing from an earlier Place to a later Place, or vice versa (but not a combination of both), at the rate of one Place per Row. (Alternative form: a bell Hunts.)
8	Dodging	Moving one Place in the opposite direction in an otherwise Hunting Path. (Alternative form: a bell Dodges.)
9	Leadend Change	The last Change in a Method's sequence of Changes.
10	Halflead Change	The Change that occurs at the halfway point in a Method's sequence of Changes.
11	Leadend	When applying a Method's sequence of Changes to produce a Plain Lead, the Row that is obtained prior to applying the Leadend Change is the Leadend.
12	Leadhead	When applying a Method's sequence of Changes to produce a Plain Lead, the Row that is obtained after applying the Leadend Change is the Leadhead.

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13	Making one or more Places	Making a Place is occupying the same Place for two consecutive Rows. (Alternative form: a bell Makes a Place.) Making one or more Places is occupying the same Place for two or more consecutive Rows.
14	Making an Internal Place	Making a Place that is neither the first Place nor the last Place of the Block in question. (Alternative form: a bell Makes an Internal Place.)
15	Dodging Places	Successive pairs of adjacent Places of the Path of the Hunt Bell in question.
16	Cross Section	A Change at which the Hunt Bell in question crosses from one pair of Dodging Places to the next.
B	Method Symmetry	
1	Palindromic Symmetry	A Method has Palindromic Symmetry if it is the same Method when rung backwards, that is, when the order of the Changes is inverted.
2	Double Symmetry	A Method has Double Symmetry if it is the same Method when reversed, that is, when the Places within each Change are inverted.
3	Rotational Symmetry	A Method has Rotational Symmetry if it is the same Method when reversed and rung backwards.

C	Method Classes: Top Level	
1	Hunter	A Static Method that has one or more Hunt Bells.
2	Principle	A Static Method that has no Hunt Bells, and in which all the bells first return to their starting Places after the same number of Plain Leads as the Stage of the Method.
3	Differential	A Static Method in which the Working Bells do not all first return to their starting Places after the same number of Plain Leads.
4	Jump Method	A Method that uses one or more Jump Changes.

D	Method Classes: Hunters	
1	Hunters are sub-classified as below, based primarily on the Path of the bell in 1st's Place at the initial Row of a Plain Lead. Methods are normally rung starting from Rounds, so the bell in 1st's Place is the treble. The definitions below therefore use 'treble' as shorthand for 'the bell in 1st's Place'. In addition to the criteria below, Methods that belong to the sub-classes of Hunters do not use Jump Changes, and the treble is a Hunt Bell but not a Stationary Bell.	

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2	Plain Method	A Hunter in which the Path of the treble is: Hunt up to nth's Place; Make nth's Place; Hunt down to 1st's Place; Make 1st's Place, where n is a number between 2 and the Stage of the Method, inclusive.
3	Treble Dodging Method	A Hunter in which the Path of the treble is: Dodge once in all Dodging Places on the way up; Make nth's Place; Dodge once in all Dodging Places on the way down; Make 1st's Place, where n is an even number between 2 and the Stage of the Method, inclusive.
4	Treble Place Method	A Hunter in which: a) The treble rings exactly four times in each Place of the Path during a Plain Lead; b) The treble Makes a Place more than twice during a Plain Lead; and c) The Path of the treble is symmetrical about the Halflead Change and the Leadend Change, and there are no other points of symmetry.
5	Alliance Method	A Hunter in which: a) The treble rings twice, four times or six times, and does not ring the same number of times, in each Place of the Path during a Plain Lead; and b) The treble Makes a Place exactly twice during a Plain Lead, once at the Halflead Change and once at the Leadend Change.
6	Little Method	A Plain, Treble Dodging, Treble Place or Alliance Method in which the treble has a Little Path.

E	Method Classes: Plain Methods	
1	Plain Methods are further sub-classified as below.	
2	Place Method	A Plain Method in which the Paths of all the bells consist only of Hunting and Making Places, and in which a change in the direction of Hunting is separated by Making one or more Places.
3	Bob Method	A Plain Method that is not a Place Method.

F	Method Classes: Treble Dodging Methods	
1	Treble Dodging Methods are further sub-classified as below.	
2	Treble Bob Method	A Treble Dodging Method in which no bell Makes an Internal Place at any Cross Section, or which does not have any Cross Sections.
3	Surprise Method	A Treble Dodging Method in which one or more bells Make an Internal Place at every Cross Section.
4	Delight Method	A Treble Dodging Method that is neither a Treble Bob Method nor a Surprise Method.

5: Method Naming

A	General	
1	Methods Library	The full title is the Central Council Methods Library. This is the definitive record of Methods that have been named under this framework or under earlier Central Council Decisions.
2	Method Name	The name given to a Method as recorded in the Methods Library.
3	Method Title	Methods recorded in the Methods Library have a unique tripartite Method Title consisting of: Method Name, Class Descriptor, Stage Name.
4	Rotation	A Static Method whose Changes are the same as another Static Method, except that the Changes, when considered as a cycle, start at a different point in the cycle.
5	Methods recorded in the Methods Library may not have Names that conflict with the constraints described in Section 5.C.	
6	Methods recorded in the Methods Library that have in the past been known by a different Name and/or Title will have this recorded, where details are known.	

B	Class Descriptors	
1	Class Descriptor	<p>The Class Descriptor is formed by concatenating applicable terms as follows, and in the order shown:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Add 'Differential' if the Method has a Class of Differential or Differential Hunter; Add 'Little' if the Method has this Class; Add one of the following if the Method has this Class: 'Place', 'Bob', 'Treble Bob', 'Surprise', 'Delight', 'Treble Place', 'Alliance'; Add 'Jump' if the Method has this Class; Otherwise leave blank.

C	Naming Constraints	
1	The following constraints apply to a new Method to be added to the Methods Library.	
2	A Method Name should follow the Central Council's requirements on character usage, and should not exceed the maximum number of characters set by the Council.	
3	A new Method may not use the same Name as a Method recorded in the Methods Library, or a Variation recorded in the Variations Library (see Section 5.D below), if that would result in its Method Title being the same.	

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4	The Name given to a new Method that is recorded in the Methods Library may not include Class Descriptor term(s) such that the resulting Method Title is ambiguous as to the Class of the Method.
5	Rotations of an existing Static Method are not normally separately named in the Methods Library. However, this is not mandated as there are a few cases where it is beneficial to record a separate Name for a Rotation.
6	A Static Method normally has a sequence of Changes that is not divisible into two or more equal parts. However this is not mandated as there may be cases where it is beneficial for a Method to have a repeated sequence to give it a different classification. Furthermore, a Method is not normally separately recorded in the Methods Library if its sequence of Changes is a multiple of another Method's sequence of Changes (or a fraction of another Method's sequence of Changes if that other Method has a repeated sequence).
7	Method names should not contain words that mislead as to the construction of the Method.
8	A Method should only be given the same Name as another Method in the Methods Library that has a different Stage if the requirements for Method Extension are met.

D	Variations
1	A Variation is a named combination of a Method and a Call or Calls.
2	Variations are recorded in the Central Council Variations Library, which cross-references each Variation to the related entries in the Methods Library and Calls Library.
3	The Central Council's Variations Library only records Doubles Variations.
4	Each Variation recorded in the Central Council's Variations Library: a) Is capable of producing a single Round Block Extent (where the Stage of the Extent is the same as the Stage of the Variation); b) Has the same Class as the underlying Method on which it is based; c) Has a Name that is unique across both Methods and Variations with the same Class Descriptor (including a null Class Descriptor); and d) Satisfies the same naming constraints as the underlying Method (see Section 5.C).
5	Variations are incorporated into Compositions in the same way as Methods.

E	Right to Name
1	An unnamed Method may be named by the band that first rings it in a Performance that is reported by the Ringing World, providing: a) The Performance either comprises at least 1250 Changes, or contains an Extent of the Method (where the Stage of the Extent is the same as the Stage of the Method); b) The Performance is a True Round Block, or a Round Block with Accepted Truth; and

	c) The Name does not conflict with any of the requirements of this Section (5. Method Naming) or Section 8 (Method Extension).
2	An unnamed Variation may be named by the band that first rings it in a Performance that is reported by the Ringing World, providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Performance contains an Extent of the Variation (where the Stage of the Extent is the same as the Stage of the Variation); b) The Performance is a True Round Block, or a Round Block with Accepted Truth; and c) The Name does not conflict with any of the requirements of this Section (5. Method Naming) or Section 8 (Method Extension).
3	The Central Council reserves the right to change the Name proposed for a new Method or Variation, or to leave it unnamed, if it considers this necessary.

F	Exceptions
1	By convention the Class Descriptor is omitted from the Method Title of the following Methods, although they are classified as Bob Methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Grandsire, Double Grandsire, Reverse Grandsire, Little Grandsire; b) Union, Double Union, Reverse Union, Little Union; c) New Grandsire, Double New Grandsire, Reverse New Grandsire, Little New Grandsire; and d) New Union, Double New Union, Reverse New Union, Little New Union
2	The above Method Names may not be reused for either new Bob Methods or new Methods with no Class Descriptor.
3	The Method known as Little Bob has no Method Name since Little Bob is its Class Descriptor. It will continue to be known as Little Bob.
4	The Method Name 'Plain', which is the most likely name for Little Bob if it had one, may not be used for any new Little Bob Method.

6: Performance Reporting

A	Definitions		
1	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Performance Title</td><td>A Performance Title contains the headline information about a Performance, including the number of Changes rung, the Stage(s) involved, and, for some Performances, the name of the Method and the Class(es) involved.</td></tr> </table>	Performance Title	A Performance Title contains the headline information about a Performance, including the number of Changes rung, the Stage(s) involved, and, for some Performances, the name of the Method and the Class(es) involved.
Performance Title	A Performance Title contains the headline information about a Performance, including the number of Changes rung, the Stage(s) involved, and, for some Performances, the name of the Method and the Class(es) involved.		
2	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Performance Detail</td><td>The Performance Detail contains information on each Method rung in the Performance, as well as certain other additional information.</td></tr> </table>	Performance Detail	The Performance Detail contains information on each Method rung in the Performance, as well as certain other additional information.
Performance Detail	The Performance Detail contains information on each Method rung in the Performance, as well as certain other additional information.		

B	Content
1	<p>A Performance Report should include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Location where the Performance was rung; b) The date on which the Performance was rung; c) The Performance Title; d) The Performance Detail; e) Whether the Performance was on handbells or bells rung full-circle style; f) The names of the ringers in the Performance and the number(s) of the bell(s) each rang; and g) The names of any umpire(s) present.
2	<p>A Performance Report may also include additional information such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The society for which the Performance was rung; b) Details of the Composition used in the Performance, or a reference to it; c) The name(s) of the composer(s); d) The time the Performance took to ring; e) The weight of the tenor for full-circle style ringing, or the size of the tenor for handbell ringing; and/or f) Dedications and other footnotes.
3	<p>A Performance involving more than one Method is described as Spliced if change(s) of Method occur during the Performance at a Row that is not the same as the initial Row of the Performance.</p>
4	<p>The Performance Report of a Performance including one or more Methods that are not in the Methods Library should include the specification(s) and proposed name(s) of those Method(s).</p>
5	<p>The report of a Performance that used simulated sound must state that it did.</p>

C	Performance Norms
1	<p>A Performance Report should state any aspect of the Performance that does not comply with the following norms, which will be assumed unless otherwise stated.</p>
2	<p>The following are considered Norms for all reported Performances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Performance was a Round Block that started and ended in Rounds; b) The Performance was a True Touch, or a Touch with Accepted Truth (as defined in Section 3.J); c) The Performance was rung without interval; d) On handbells the bells were retained in hand throughout the Performance; e) The same person or persons rang each bell or bells continuously throughout the Performance; f) Neither ringers nor conductor(s) used any physical aids to memory during the Performance; g) No person not ringing provided any assistance in the execution of the ringing during the Performance, e.g. making calls, detecting or correcting errors; h) Tower bells (or simulations thereof) were rung full-circle style; i) Handbells (or simulations thereof) were rung in alternating up-strokes and down-strokes; j) If Cover Bell(s) were used, these were in the highest Place(s) of the Rows; k) Jump Changes were not used; l) Only one Method was rung in any one Row; m) A Performance with only one ringer was witnessed by an umpire; n) The Performance was consistent with this framework.

7: Record Lengths

A	Requirements
1	To be recognised as a Record Length, the Performance must comply with all of the requirements in Section 7.B and 7.C.
2	The performance must also comply with norms a) to i) in Section 6.B.
3	For a handbell Record Length, every ringer rings at least two bells.

B	Notification and Verification
1	The organizer must provide notice of the attempt to The Ringing World to enable the notice to be published at least 14 days prior to the attempt.
2	The notice must state the location, date and start time of the attempt, the Length and the Method(s) to be rung.
3	The organizer must provide a copy of the notice to the Central Council at least 14 days prior to the attempt.
4	Arrangement must be made for interested people to be able to listen to the Performance.
5	The ringing must heard, and the figures of the Composition checked throughout, by competent umpire(s).

C	Reporting
1	A Performance Report must be sent to both The Ringing World (preferably via BellBoard) for publication, and to the Central Council.
2	The Performance Report must comply with the requirements of Section 6.
3	The Performance Report must include the Composition that was rung.
4	An umpires' report must be sent with the Performance Report to both The Ringing World and the Central Council.

8: Method Extension

A	Definitions	
1	Extension Process	An algorithm that can be applied to the structure of a Method at one Stage to produce the structure of Methods at higher Stages. The Central Council maintains a collection of recognized Extension Processes. References in this framework to 'Extension Process' are to those processes that are part of the Central Council's collection.
2	Extension Construction	Some Extension Processes involve setting parameters, such as a mode or the subset of a Method's Changes to be copied. An Extension Construction specifies a fully qualified Extension Process -- that is, it specifies an Extension Process and the parameter values to be used.
3	Related Methods	Two Methods at two different Stages are Related Methods if the higher Stage Method can be obtained by applying an Extension Process to the lower Stage Method.
4	Parent Method	A Method at a given Stage from which it may be possible to derive Related Methods at higher Stages using an Extension Process.
5	Extension	A Method at a higher Stage than a Parent Method that is related to the Parent Method by an Extension Process.
6	Extension Path	When two Related Methods that have the same Class Descriptors have been given the same Method Name, this establishes an Extension Path for these Methods. Additional Methods at new Stages with the same Class Descriptors that are related to these existing Methods by the same Extension Construction are on this Extension Path.

B	Requirements	
1	Related Methods with the same Class Descriptors may be given the same Method Name if the requirements of this Section 8, as well as Section 5 (Method Naming), have been met. Methods with the same Class Descriptors that are not Related may not be given the same Method Name.	
2	Once an Extension Path has been established for two Related Methods with the same Class Descriptors then: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> New Extensions of these Methods created using the same Extension Construction, and which have the same Class Descriptors, shall be given the same Method Name; and A new Method at a different Stage with the same Class Descriptors that is not on the Extension Path shall not be given the same Name. 	
3	There are no Extension naming restrictions per se between two Methods that have different Class Descriptors. However, when a new Extension is produced that has different Class Descriptors from its Parent Method, the new Extension may only be given the same name as its Parent Method if this	

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	doesn't conflict with Sections 8.B.1 and 8.B.2 above as they relate to the Class Descriptors of the new Extension.
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C	New Extension Processes
1	<p>A band that wishes to use a different Extension Process from those included in the Central Council's collection to create a new Extension is invited to submit the proposed process to the Central Council for review.</p> <p>The Central Council will add the new Extension Process to its collection of recognized Extension Processes if it believes the proposed process is a valid manner in which to extend Parent Methods to higher Stages.</p>

D	Exceptions
1	Many higher Stage methods were named and recorded in the Methods Library before the Central Council implemented requirements for Method Extension. All such Methods retain their existing names, and the requirements of this framework only apply to new Methods.
2	If a new Extension that is on an Extension Path ought, under Section 8.B, to be given the same name as its Parent Method, but that name has already been used for a different Method recorded in the Methods Library before the Central Council implemented requirements for Method Extension, then another name can be given to the new Extension.
3	If two (or more) Methods with the same Class Descriptors that are not related under this framework have previously been given the same name, and none forms part of an Extension Path with other Method(s), then any of the Methods may be used to establish an Extension Path to other Stages.

9: Related Roles

A	Collections
1	<p>The Central Council maintains and makes available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) A Methods Library (see Section 5.A.1);b) A Calls Library (see Section 3.F.2);c) A Variations Library (see Section 5.D.2).
2	The Central Council maintains and makes available a collection of recognised Extension Processes (see Section 8.A.1).

B	Records
1	The Central Council maintains and makes available records of the Record Length rung to date in each Method or set of Methods.

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2	The records separately identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Tower bell and handbell Record Lengths;b) Variable Cover and non-Variable Cover Record Lengths in the same Method or set of Methods;c) Records Lengths rung using simulated sound.
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C	Advice
1	The Central Council will endeavour to provide advice, upon request, on any aspect related to this framework, notably Method Extension.

D	Publication
1	The Ringing World is the Central Council's official medium of publication, both in print and through its BellBoard website.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The Ringing World publishes Performance Reports of Quarter Peal Length and longer that it receives, categorizing them according to the Lengths defined in Section 3.I;b) The Ringing World publishes Performance Reports of less than Quarter Peal Length that it receives when these Performances name a new Method(s);c) The Ringing World publishes other Performance Reports that it receives at its discretion;d) The Ringing World may abbreviate Performance Reports as commercial considerations necessitate.
3	The Ringing World publishes notices of Record Length attempts at least 14 days prior to the attempt, providing the notice is received in sufficient time for such publication.
4	On receiving a Performance Report of a claimed Record Length, The Ringing World waits for the Central Council's determination of whether a new Record Length has been rung before publishing the Report.
5	When publishing the Performance Report of a Record Length, The Ringing World includes the umpire(s)' report.

E	Analysis and Reporting
1	The Central Council produces, for each calendar year, an analysis of all Performances of Quarter Peal Length or longer that were published by The Ringing World. This analysis will either be published by The Ringing World or made available by the Central Council.
2	The analysis will separately categorize: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Performances of the different Lengths defined in Section 3.I;b) Tower bell and handbell Performances;c) Performances that differed from one or more of the Performance Norms listed in Section 6.B;d) Performances that used simulated sound.

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F	Transitional Arrangements
1	The Central Council may determine transitional arrangements relating to the implementation of this framework, and to future updates of this framework. For example, these arrangements may provide for retroactive recognition of Methods and Peals that were not recognized under previous Central Council Decisions or earlier versions of the framework.