



To: Simon McVicker, Head of Public Affairs, Professional Contractors Group

Dear Simon,

NATIONAL SECURITY VETTING POLICY

I am writing to inform you that a new statement of national security vetting policy has now been published, along with much more comprehensive advice and guidance on personnel security and vetting policy and processes than has previously been available. This is contained in a Cabinet Office publication, **HMG Personnel Security Controls**. The Prime Minister placed a copy of this document in the Library of the House of Commons on 27 July, via a short written statement that underlined the continuing importance of vetting and the need for it to be carried out as transparently as national security considerations can allow. It has also been published on the Cabinet Office website at:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/420689/hmg-personnel-security-controls.pdf>

Whilst there are no substantive change to the policy on security vetting or the procedures adopted during the vetting process, the new statement and advice clearly underlines some important considerations that the statement it replaces did not. As well as placing more information about the operation of the security vetting system in the public domain and making the process more transparent, it states very clearly that no one should be expected to hold an existing clearance to apply for a sensitive post in all but limited circumstances.

We hope that this clear articulation of vetting policy will assist our continuing efforts to address instances where individuals who do not hold an existing clearance are excluded from applying for certain vacancies (particularly sub-contracts). With this in mind it would be helpful if you would make your members aware of this development in the usual way. More generally I hope that the guidance itself will be of benefit to your members who might, at some point in the future, be subject to vetting, and also to those who may have any questions about the process more generally.

Yours,

[BY E-MAIL]

MICHAEL SHRYANE

