



Provisional programme

Pace of diplomacy

Friday 12 February | WP1886V

1100-1300 UK time (120 minutes)

To be held virtually

In a world of heightened complexity, pace and scrutiny, how can institutions ensure that their decision-making processes are fit for purpose? What is recognised best practice on building a strong strategy-making organisational culture? How to ensure it is both strategic and responsive to fast-moving global events?

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) was created in September 2020, merging two key government departments. As this new department develops, senior civil servants and policy makers are examining innovative approaches to meeting the pace of 21st century diplomacy whilst delivering strategic objectives.

Every organisation is facing similar challenges, from strengthening decision-making with data and technology to building a lasting culture of strategy delivery. The FCDO is keen to draw on best practice from a range of different perspectives and institutional contexts.

This invitation only meeting will bring together up to 20 figures drawn from business, academia, civil society and other institutions which have undergone strategic shifts in a fast-paced environment.

The meeting aims to:

- explore ways in which to manage complexity and pace in decision making
- establish what the innovators are doing in this space

This meeting, which will be conducted in English, will be held under the '[Wilton Park Protocol](#)', whereby all discussion will be off the record.

In association with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

1045

Participants to join meeting

1100-1110

Welcome

Julia Purcell

Programme Director, Wilton Park

1110-1125

Opening remarks

Melinda Bohannon

Director of Strategy, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

1125-1155

1. Managing pace and change

Plenary session looking at effective decision-making amid competing priorities: best practice, risks and pitfalls, including how to ensure oversight and transparency in a high-pressured environment.

Ryan Gawn

Director, The LEGO Foundation

Catherine Royle

Member, Wilton Park Advisory Council; Political Advisor to the Commander at Joint Force Command Brunssum, NATO

1155-1200

Break

1200-1205

2. Introduction to breakouts

1205-1230

3. Planning for uncertainty: breakout discussion

Break into 3 or 4 smaller groups to discuss long term planning and forecasting.

Facilitators

Jules Chappell

Chief Executive Officer, London and Partners, London

Jeremy Greenstock

Chairman, Gatehouse Advisory Partners, London

Louise Harvey

Member, Wilton Park Advisory Council; Non-Executive Chair, FTI Consulting, Brussels

Robert Wainwright

Partner, Deloitte Risk Advisory B.V., Amsterdam

1230-1245

4. Reflections from breakouts

1245-1300

5. Close of meeting

Wrap up and response to reflections from the discussion.

Nic Hailey

Director General for Transformation, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

1300-1315

Informal networking (optional)

The virtual meeting room will stay open for participants to chat informally after the formal ending of the meeting.

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This is an invitation only conference.

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