Public Services Level 3 – Home Office

1 of 16 – Welcome

Welcome to this session on the Home Office.

By the end of this session you will be able to:

* Understand the role and responsibilities of the Home Office
* Consider the impact of the Home Office on public services

2 of 16 – The Home Office

The Home Office is one of 24 Ministerial departments that the Government has. It is the lead government department for:

* Immigration and passports
* Drugs policy
* Crime
* Fire
* Counter-terrorism
* Police

As you can see, the Home Office has a huge remit and plays an important role in relation to many of the public services.

3 of 16 – Task

Which public service roles can you identify that are directly influenced by the Home Office?

Download the accompanying interactive **The Home Office final PDF**, and complete Task 1.

Remember to save your work!

Watch the video below about working for the Home Office. As you watch, make a note of any roles that you did not think of. After the video has finished, add them to your list on your PDF:

[Working at the Home Office](https://www.youtube.com/embed/Yts71R03JqM?autoplay=1&rel=0&start=0&modestbranding=1&showinfo=0&theme=light&fs=0&probably_logged_in=0)

4 of 16 – Agencies

The Home Office works with 30 agencies and public bodies.

**Executive non-departmental public bodies**

* **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)** – processes requests from employers for criminal records checks
* **Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner** – regulates immigration advisers
* **Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority** – protects workers from exploitation
* **Independent Office for Police Conduct** – oversees the police complaints system in England and Wales
* **Security Industry Authority** – regulates and licenses the private security industry in the UK

**Advisory non-departmental public bodies**

* **Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs** – makes recommendations to government on the control of dangerous or otherwise harmful drugs
* **Migration Advisory Committee** – advises the government on migration issues
* **Technical Advisory Board** – advises the Home Secretary on whether the obligations imposed on communications service providers under the terms of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act are reasonable
* **Animals in Science Committee** – provide advice to the Secretary of State, to animal welfare bodies and within the European Union on issues relating to the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 as amended
* **Police Advisory Board for England and Wales** – considers draft regulations under the Police Act 1996 about matters such as recruitment, diversity and collaboration between forces
* **Biometrics and Forensics Ethics Group** – provides independent ethical advice to Home Office ministers on issues related to the use of biometrics and forensics
* **Police Remuneration Review Body** – advise the government on pay and conditions for police officers at or below the rank of chief superintendent

**Tribunal non-departmental public bodies**

* **Investigatory Powers Tribunal** – investigates complaints about the alleged conduct of public bodies in relation to members of the public under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000
* **Police Discipline Appeals Tribunal** – hears appeals against the findings of internal disciplinary proceedings brought against members of the police force

**Independent monitoring body**

* **Independent Anti-slavery Commissioner** – encourages good practice in the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of modern slavery offences

**Other**

* **The Adjudicator’s Office** – investigates complaints about HM Revenue and Customs and the Valuation Office Agency
* **College of Policing** – provides training and skill development for individuals working in the police force, to enable them to prevent crime and to protect the public
* **Commission for Countering Extremism** – an agency that was established to target and fight against acts of extremism
* **Investigatory Powers Commissioner’s Office** – monitors how investigatory powers are used by intelligence agencies, the police, and other authorities
* **Office for Communications Data Authorisations** – reviews requests communications data in a way that honours the Human Rights Act 1998
* **Biometrics Commissioner** – reviews the retention and use by the police of DNA samples, DNA profiles and fingerprints
* **Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration** – monitors and reports on the efficiency and effectiveness of the immigration, asylum, nationality and customs functions
* **National Crime Agency Remuneration Review Body** – makes independent recommendations to the government on the pay and allowances of National Crime Agency (NCA) officers
* **Forensic Science Regulator** – ensures that the provision of forensic science services across the criminal justice system is subject to an appropriate regime of scientific quality standards
* **Independent Family Returns Panel** – provides independent advice to the Home Office on how best to safeguard children of families who are being removed from the UK
* **The Security Service** – known as MI5, responsible for protecting the UK against threats to national security
* **HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services** – independently assesses police forces and policing, and fire and rescue services
* **Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation** – reviews the operation of the UK’s laws on terrorism and writes up the findings and recommendations in regular reports
* **National Counter Terrorism Security Office** – a police unit that supports the 'protect and prepare' strands of the government’s counter terrorism strategy
* **Surveillance Camera Commissioner** – encourages compliance with the surveillance camera code of practice

5 of 16 – Priorities

The Home Office has several set priorities, namely to:

* Cut crime, including organised crime and cyber-crime
* Manage civil emergencies within the Home Office remit
* Protect vulnerable people and communities
* Reduce terrorism
* Control migration
* Provide world-class public services and contribute to prosperity
* Maximise the benefits to be gained for the United Kingdom in leaving the European Union

Let’s look at some of these in more detail.

6 of 16 – Cut crime, including organised crime and cyber-crime

The Home Office aims to cut crime and prevent abuse and exploitation. They have introduced the Serious Violence Strategy to target the increase in violent crimes in recent years. Alongside this, they have introduced a Modern Crime Prevention Strategy to target crimes before they are acted out, as well as taking steps to establish Violence Reduction Units in certain areas.

They are also looking to expand their knowledge and skills in preventing and detecting organised crime, by combining their efforts with some found in the private sector.

There was an additional emphasis placed on policing and training, to develop better skills throughout.

7 of 16 – Protect vulnerable people and communities

The Home Office planned to closely monitor the impact of the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, and they later introduced the Domestic Abuse Bill in a further attempt at supporting vulnerable people.

This was another area where the Home Office laid plans to pool their resources and expertise with others working in safeguarding. Their prediction was that these combined efforts across several sectors would allow for increased protection of the most vulnerable members of societies, with a particular emphasis placed on the protection of children and minors.

8 of 16 – Reduce terrorism

The Home Office’s strategy is to develop, co-ordinate and oversee delivery of the government’s counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST, which consists of the following 4 pillars:

1. **Pursue**: to stop terrorist attacks
2. **Prevent**: to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
3. **Protect**: to increase protection against a terrorist attack
4. **Prepare**: to mitigate the effects of a terrorist attack

The Home Office also planned to convene a co-ordinated response across all emergency services, which could be quickly delivered in the event of a terrorist attack.

The risk of a terrorist attack against the UK has increased in recent years. This is why this priority is one the Home Office are consistently trying to address in their work.

9 of 16 – Control migration

There were plans laid to introduce the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination, which would build a framework for a stronger border and migration system. The Home Office also looked to simplify the details of their immigration system in a way that would identify and eliminate instances of abuse.

An emphasis was also placed on reducing illegal immigration, and therefore the harm it can cause in terms of the role it plays in organised crime and national threats. There would be greater amounts of control placed around work and benefits, as well as services available, while proper safeguarding measures were put in place to monitor immigration.

10 of 16 – Maximise the benefits to be gained for the United Kingdom in leaving the European Union

The Home Office aimed to negotiate new security and law enforcement measures, to create a shared justice system with the European Union. This would allow for a better overview of criminal threats and would eventually lead to a shared pool of intelligence.

There were also discussions on how to support the economy, by ensuring a consistent work force of highly skilled and skilled workers from a number of countries, in agreement with the UK’s Industrial Strategy.

Finally there was a call for a more sophisticated immigration system, taking into account travel plans between UK citizens and EU nationals.

At the time of writing these plans were subject to negotiation.

11 of 16 – Task

Now complete task 2 on your interactive **The Home Office final PDF**. Remember to save your work!

12 of 16 – Question 1

Which of the following are the Home Office responsible for?

Choose all that apply:

1. Immigration and passports
2. Education
3. Counter-terrorism
4. Police
5. Transport

The correct answer is A, C and D, Immigration and passports, Counter-terrorism and Police.

13 of 16 – Question 2

From the list below, can you identify the key priorities outlined by the Home Office?

Choose all that apply.

1. Cut crime
2. Contest terrorist attacks
3. Reduce terrorism
4. Control migration
5. Minimise benefits to UK in leaving the European Union
6. Implementing plans for education and transport services

The correct answers are A, C and D, cut crime, reduce terrorism, and control migration.

14 of 16 – Question 3

The Home Office’s counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST, consists of 4 pillars.

Match the four pillars; **Pursue**, **Prevent**, **Protect** and **Prepare**, with the descriptions shown below:

1. To increase protection against a terrorist attack
2. To mitigate the effects of a terrorist attack
3. To stop terrorist attacks
4. To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

The correct answers are shown below:

**Pursue** – To stop terrorist attacks

**Prevent** – To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

**Protect** – To increase protection against a terrorist attack

**Prepare** – To mitigate the effects of a terrorist attack

15 of 16 – Question 4

The Home Office works with how many agencies and public bodies?

1. 28
2. 25
3. 30
4. 27

The correct answer is C, 30.

16 of 16 – End

Well done. You have completed this session on the Home Office.

You should now be able to:

* Understand the role and responsibilities of the Home Office
* Consider the impact of the Home Office on public services

If you have any questions about anything covered in this session, please speak to your tutor for more help.