

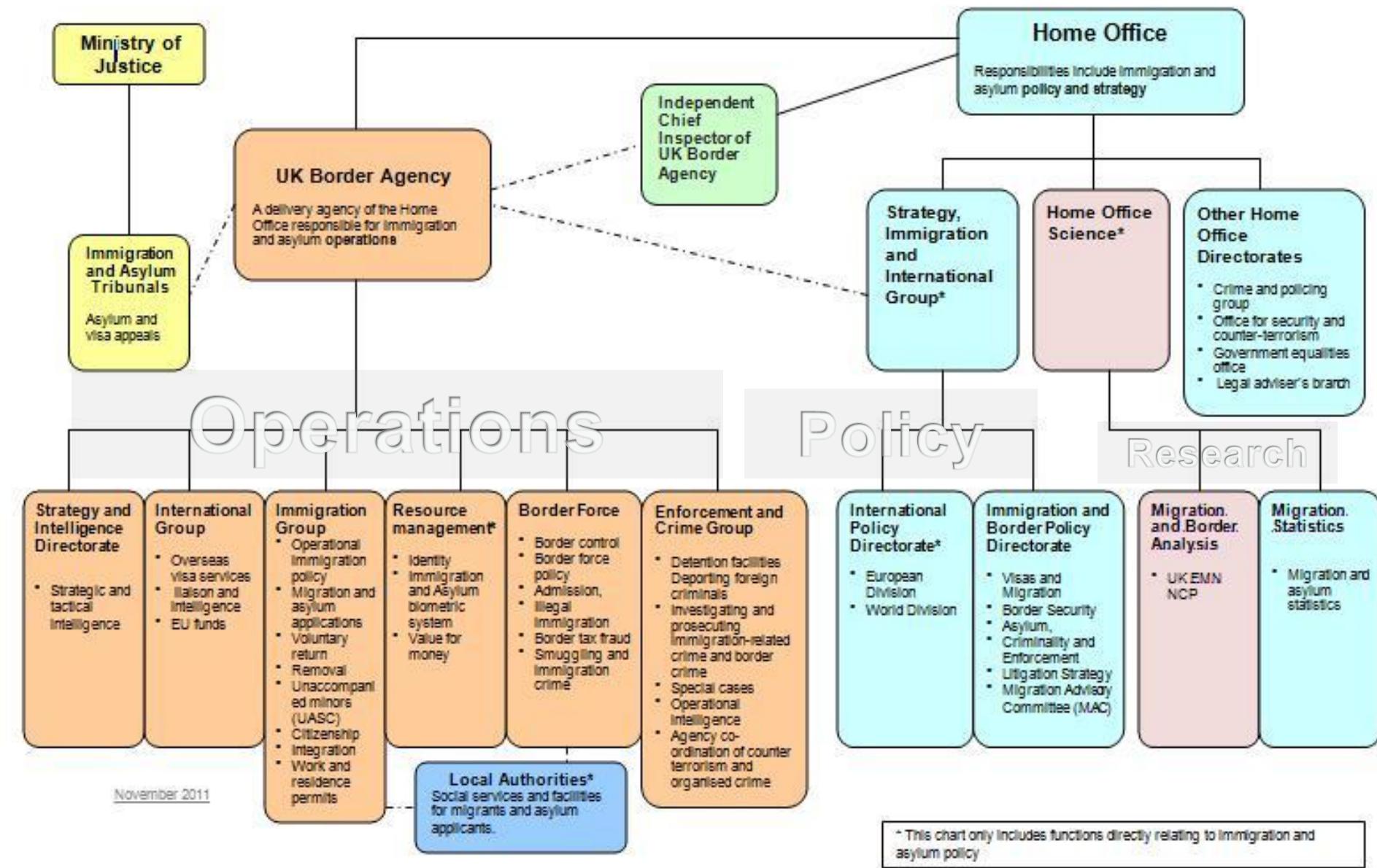


# The role of scientific expertise in migration policy in the UK

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## Institutional Framework for Immigration and Asylum Policies in the United Kingdom



\* This chart only includes functions directly relating to immigration and asylum policy

# Knowledge Networks

5CC

Frontex

GDISC

European  
Migration  
Network

Metropolis

Universities

Research  
Institutes

Agencies

Academic  
Network

Physical sciences

Security  
Services

Home Office  
Ministers and  
Migration Policy

Other UK  
Government  
Departments:  
Analysts and  
Policymakers

Policy

Intelligence analysts

Performance analysts

Operational modellers

Customer insight

Communications and Media relations

Social researchers

Economists

Statisticians

Home Office/UK Border Agency  
Analyst network

Operations

Research

International

# Analytical leadership in the Department

- ☒ Not a question of separation or proximity to policy-makers
- ☒ Independence and critical analysis are necessary regardless of the organisational arrangements
- ☒ Co-operation and leadership are critical
- ☒ Processes should facilitate networking, openness and transparency
  - ...and in HO have been led by Deputy Director for Migration and Border Analysis
- ☒ Develop recognised roles to provide oversight and responsibility for specific areas of work
  - ✓ Requirements and objectives for research Head of Policy
  - ✓ Social research and analysis Deputy Director for Migration and Border Analysis
  - ✓ Publication of statistics Chief Statistician
  - ✓ Use of management information Head of Performance and Change Unit in the UK Border Agency
  - ✓ Economic appraisals and analysis Chief Economist

# Networks are multi-faceted



- ❖ **In the department** – involving analysts in policy areas, operations and central science units
  - Regular contact between unit heads in the Knowledge Network (*relationship-building*)
  - Sandbox meetings to test emerging thinking or findings amongst analysts (*challenge and openness*)
  - Cockpit presentations to showcase research & analysis for senior policy makers (*innovation*)
- ❖ **Within government** – with other departments with migration interests
  - Either a standing meeting, or as needs arise (*"joined up government"*)
- ❖ **Nationally** – developing relationships with academics and researchers
  - Regular contact through newsletter, occasional conference or meetings (*independent views, new insights, other work*)
- ❖ **Internationally** – to access comparative information and research
  - Through EMN or FCC contacts (*external context, fresh thinking*)

# Commissioning should adopt a mixed-model

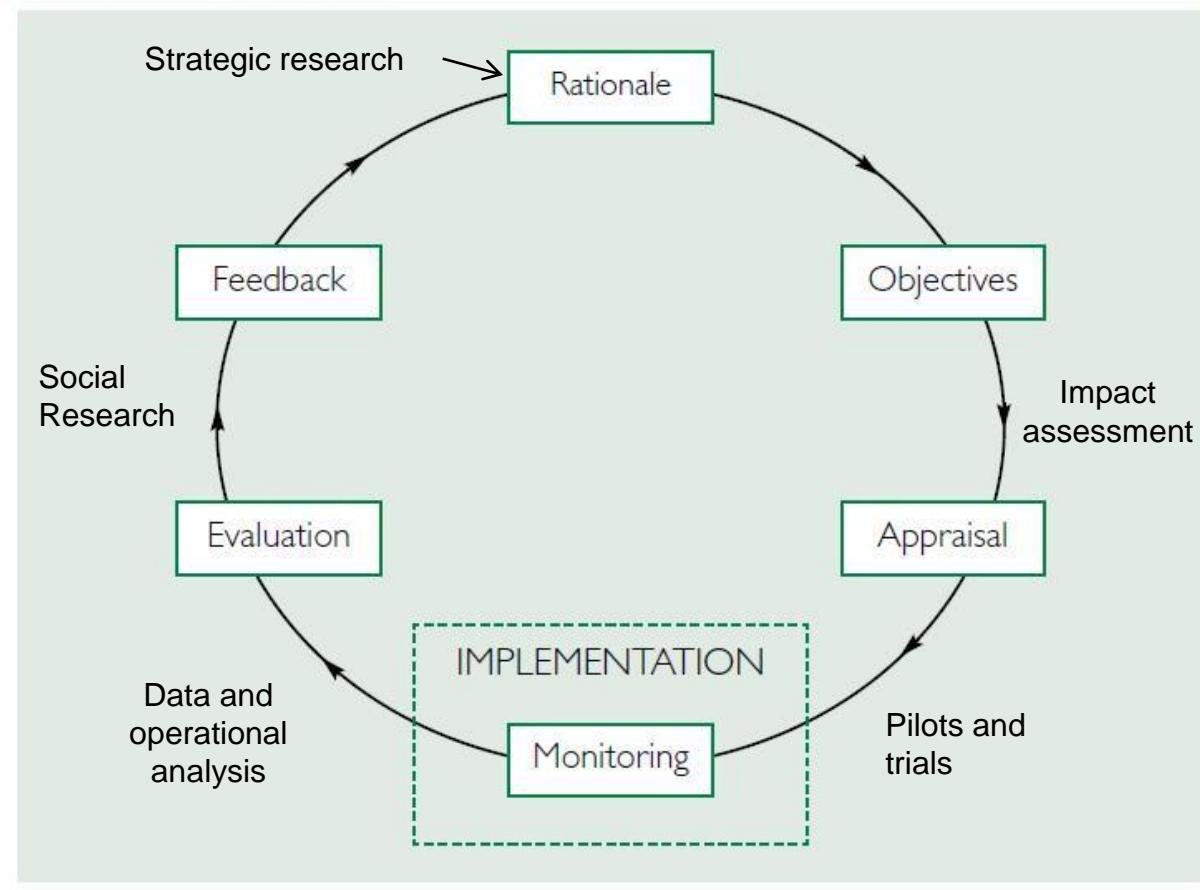


- ☒ We do some work in-house and some work using external contractors
- ☒ Some analysis and knowledge is better-sourced within the business
- ☒ Use the people and tools appropriate for the task
  - ✓ Establish where knowledge or skills lie and who has the resource
  - ✓ Some analysis of internal or sensitive data may be better done in-house
  - ✓ Significant additional data collection may require temporary external support
  - ✓ Longer-term projects might be better done through contractors
- ☒ Ongoing relationships with key-contractors facilitates access and close-working

# In theory: The policy-making cycle



BOX 2: ROAMEF CYCLE



In practice 1:



# Policy review of family migration

- ✖ Analysts were involved early on to help frame the requirements for research and the ‘art of the possible’ (money, timescales!)
- ✖ An “Intelligent customer” role within policy directorate advised analysts throughout and checked research relevance
- ✖ Early clarification of key statistics was essential to baseline other research and analysis consistently and set it in context
- ✖ A wide range of analyses were used to answer emerging policy questions – some longer-term research, some more immediate
- ✖ Cross-team working within Knowledge network but with clear responsibilities for individual products and overall programme
- ✖ A coherent set of outputs at the end, each different but as a whole providing a solid evidence-base for policy on family migration

In practice 2:



# Family Migration research products

**Public consultation** on proposed policy options (Policy paper with evidence integrated throughout) [link](#) and analysis products:

- ❖ **Statistical summary** (annex to the public consultation)
- ❖ **Impact Assessment** (Economic analysis of options) *to be published*
- ❖ **Migrant Journey**: Second report (Internal long-term data analysis) [link](#)
- ❖ **Family Migration Evidence Base** (Focused evidence from a wide-range of sources – published statistics, internal data, ad hoc surveys, strategic sources) [link](#)
- ❖ **Marriage-related migration** to the UK (Externally-commissioned review of the academic literature on marriage migration) [link](#)
- ❖ **Summary of consultation responses** (both online survey and write-in responses) *to be published*

Together providing a wide-ranging evidence base since used in speeches ([link](#)), parliamentary debates etc