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Sir Robert Neill MP
Chair, Justice Select Committee
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

10 May 2022

Dear Sir Robert,

Thank you for inviting me to attend the evidence session before the Justice Select Committee on 20 April 2022. I am writing to you with responses to the outstanding questions that arose during the session.

National Crime Agency (NCA) Funding

You asked for clarity on the NCA's budget. The NCA have received a year-on-year increase to their overall budget delegations between 2019/20 and 2022/23. These figures exclude depreciation and Annually Managed Expenditure (one-off funding negotiated separately to the Spending Review process).

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23 (provisional)
Total funding (cash DEL)	603.6m	669.6m	713.1m	797.7m
Total (inflation adjusted, 20/21 base year)	635.5m	665.1m	713.1m	-

Governance Structures

You asked about the governance structures for fraud, including a request for further information on the Economic Crime Strategic Board (ECSB) and the Economic Crime Delivery Board (ECDB).

Joint Fraud Taskforce

The Joint Fraud Taskforce (JFT) is a partnership between the private sector, government, civil society and law enforcement to tackle fraud collectively and to focus on issues that have been considered too difficult for a single organisation to manage alone. It was relaunched on 21 October 2021 and is now chaired by me, as the responsible minister for fraud against individuals and businesses. Unlike ECSB, its focus is solely on fraud, rather than the wider economic crime portfolio.

The JFT drives public-private action on fraud through the development and oversight of the industry elements of the Fraud Strategy, including progress against voluntary sector agreements with industry - the fraud sector charters.

Economic Crime Strategic Board

The Economic Crime Strategic Board is co-chaired by the Home Secretary and Chancellor and brings together Ministers, senior government officials, heads of law enforcement, the Governor of the Bank of England, the Chief Executive of the Financial Conduct Authority, the CEOs of the major banks and building societies, and senior representatives from the accountancy, legal, insurance and property sectors. The Board's purpose is to drive the public and private sector response to economic crime as a whole, as set out in the Economic Crime Plan and ensure effective delivery, by setting strategic priorities and scrutinising overall performance against the economic crime threat. The Board has recently been expanded to include senior representatives from the technology and telecommunications sectors, in recognition of the growing threat of online fraud.

Economic Crime Delivery Board

The Economic Crime Delivery Board is chaired by the Home Office Permanent Secretary and HM Treasury's Second Permanent Secretary. This brings together senior officials from all key public sector delivery partners including HMG Departments and law enforcement. The board oversees both the Government's delivery and progress against the Economic Crime Plan as a whole.

<u>Information sharing after leaving the European Union</u>

You asked whether leaving the European Union has impacted information sharing in international investigations. The Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice aspects of the Trade and Co-operation Agreement delivered a comprehensive package of capabilities that will ensure that Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice partners can continue to work effectively with counterparts across Europe to tackle serious crime. This includes streamlined extradition arrangements; arrangements with Europol and Eurojust that enable continued operational cooperation; arrangements enabling fast and effective exchange of national DNA, fingerprint and vehicle registration data; arrangements enabling fast and effective exchange of criminal records data; and arrangements for continued transfers of Passenger Name Record data.

In September 2021, NCA and EUROPOL signed a working and administrative arrangement which sits under the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement. Operational cooperation between UK law enforcement agencies and EU Member States via EUROPOL has continued effectively and without interruption.

The transition out of the EU has been smooth with data exchange and cooperation with EU Agencies working well. The NCA continues to use channels including the NCA International Liaison Officer network, the EUROPOL Liaison Bureau and Foreign Law Enforcement Community to assess partner relations.

The NCA continues to work with Home Office and UK law enforcement colleagues to track the effectiveness of new arrangements across Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice systems, including building on existing data around tool use to provide more qualitative input to better understand impact and construct a clearer narrative.

Following the loss of access to the Schengen Information System, UK law enforcement is now reliant on EU Member States providing information via INTERPOL (with member states also relying on UK law enforcement to do likewise). NCA and UK law enforcement have worked effectively together to streamline circulation of INTERPOL notices and to minimise the impact of this change.

Damian Hinds
Security Minister

Annexes:

Annex 1: Economic Crime Delivery Board – Core Membership

- Chair - Permanent Secretary, Home Office
- Chair – Second Permanent Secretary, HM Treasury
- Attorney General's Office
- Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
- Cabinet Office
- City of London Police
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Financial Conduct Authority
- Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
- HM Treasury
- Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
- Home Office
- Ministry of Justice
- National Crime Agency
- National Police Chief's Council
- Office for Professional Body Anti-Money Laundering
- Serious Fraud Office

Attendees are relevant Director General/Director level. Wider Departments including Devolved Administrations are invited.

Annex 2: Economic Crime Strategic Board – Core Membership

- Rt Hon Priti Patel MP, Home Secretary
- Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, Chancellor
- Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP, Minister for Security and Borders
- Chris Philp MP, Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy
- Rt Hon Suella Braverman QC MP, Attorney General
- John Penrose MP, Anti-Corruption Champion
- Governor of Bank of England
- Director General, Homeland Security, Home Office
- Director General, National Crime Agency
- Director, Economic Crime, Home Office
- Director, Fraud Investigation Service, HMRC
- CEO, Financial Conduct Authority
- Commissioner, City of London Police
- Chair, UK Finance
- Chief Executive Officer, UK Finance
- Representatives from the Financial Sector
- Representatives from the Tech Sector
- Representatives from the Telecoms Sector

Private sector representatives rotate dependent on the discussed topics. A wider group of representatives will be asked to attend if an item specific to their area needs to be discussed, as appropriate.