

# European Scrutiny Committee

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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From: Sir William Cash MP

10 September 2020

Rt Hon. James Brokenshire MP  
Minister for Security  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

## **UK participation in the Schengen Information System (Council documents 6463/20 and 6554/20) (ESC 41107 and 41120)**

Thank you for your [letter of 7 August 2020](#) responding to the issues raised in the European Scrutiny Committee's [Thirteenth](#) and [Seventeenth](#) Reports of Session 2019-21 and providing the additional information requested in my [letter of 16 July 2020](#).

As you appreciate, UK access to the Schengen Information System (SIS II) or to a mechanism delivering similar law enforcement capabilities when the post-exit transition period ends on 31 December 2020 is an important part of the UK's future relationship negotiations with the EU. We note the Government's position that there is no legal barrier to maintaining SIS II capability after transition and that any technical obstacles can be overcome as part of a wider upgrade of the UK's Law Enforcement and Border force IT systems.

We would welcome a further update from you in October on the progress made in implementing the UK's action plan to address the deficiencies identified in the Council Implementing Decision, the Commission's evaluation of the adequacy of the measures taken by the UK and the recommendations that remain outstanding, and the prospects for reaching an agreement on capabilities broadly replicating those provided by SIS II or on other means of sharing criminal information and intelligence to take effect after the post-exit transition period has ended.

I am copying this letter to the Chair (Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP) and Clerk (Elizabeth Hunt) of the Home Affairs Committee, the Chair (Sir Bob Neill MP) and Clerk (David Weir) of the Justice Committee; the Chair (Rt Hon Hilary

Benn MP) and Clerk (Gordon Clarke) of the Future Relationship with the European Union Committee, the Chair (the Earl of Kinnoull) and Clerk (Christopher Johnson) of the EU Committee in the House of Lords; Alex Bernal, your Departmental Scrutiny Coordinator; and Les Saunders and Donald Harris in the Cabinet Office.

## **CHAIR**