

European Scrutiny Committee

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel (020) 7219 3292 Email escom@parliament.uk Website www.parliament.uk/escom

From: Sir William Cash MP

9 December 2020

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

**Cross-border police cooperation: the automated exchange of DNA and fingerprint data under Prüm
(Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/968 and Council document 14247/19) (ESC numbers 40679 and 41121)**

Thank you for [your letter of 25 November 2020](#) concerning the Government's decision to share the DNA profiles and fingerprints of criminal suspects in the UK's Prüm data exchanges with other countries, contrary to assurances given to Parliament in December 2015. These exchanges will end on 31 December 2020 unless the EU and UK agree to establish a similar operational capability as part of a future relationship deal. You indicate that discussions so far have been constructive and that "there is a good degree of convergence in what the UK and EU are seeking to negotiate in terms of operational capabilities".

We note your assurance that "Parliament will of course have sufficient opportunity" to scrutinise the outcome of UK-EU negotiations "in due course". If these negotiations do result in a deal, we expect the Government to provide a comprehensive overview of the terms of any agreement reached on law enforcement and criminal justice cooperation at the earliest possible opportunity and in sufficient time to inform any debate in Parliament.

I am copying this letter to the Chair (Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP) and Clerk (Gordon Clarke) of the Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union; the Chair (Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP) and Clerk (Elizabeth Hunt) of the Home Affairs Committee; the Chair (Sir Robert Neill MP) and the Clerk (David Weir) of the Justice Committee; the Chair (Rt Hon Harriet Harman QC MP) and the Clerk (Lucinda Maer) of the Joint Committee on Human Rights; the Chair (Rt Hon Greg Clark MP) and Clerk (Danielle Nash) of the Science and Technology Committee;

the Chair (the Earl of Kinnoull) and Clerk (Stuart Stoner) of the Lords European Union Committee; Alex Bernal of your Department; and Les Saunders and Donald Harris in the Cabinet Office. I am also sending a copy to the Biometrics Commissioner (Professor Paul Wiles).

CHAIR