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The Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP  
Chair of the Work and Pensions Select Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

By email - [griffithsam@parliament.uk](mailto:griffithsam@parliament.uk)

Dear Mr Timms,

### **COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO PENSIONS SCAMS**

I am writing following oral evidence provided to your Committee on 27 January 2021 by Guy Opperman MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Pensions and Financial Inclusion at the Department for Work and Pensions. In his evidence, the Minister questioned whether City of London Police were doing enough to liaise with their international colleagues and felt there was more they could do.

As National Lead Force, the City of London Police investigates serious, complex and cross-border fraud which is beyond the capability of local policing. In this capacity, it already engages with a wide range of international partners and Action Fraud crime reports are routinely monitored to identify overseas links and opportunities to work with overseas law enforcement to address fraud threats affecting the UK. It might be worthwhile setting out some of that activity should it be useful to the Committee as it concludes this phase of its inquiry.

As you may know, as part of its preparations for Brexit, an International Crime Coordination Centre (ICCC) was established to provide continuity for UK law enforcement following withdrawal from the European Union. For the past two years, the City of London Police has had a Detective Inspector on secondment at the ICCC. This provides access to intelligence sharing through the Foreign Law Enforcement Community and the newly formed National Extradition Unit.

The City of London Police works closely with National Crime Agency International Liaison Officers in key jurisdictions affecting the UK. The officers provide links with international law enforcement around the world to facilitate joint operational activity. Further afield, the City of London Police engages with the Five Eyes community (comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the US and the UK) on economic crime issues. The Force has economic crime officers

seconded to the New York District Attorney's Office and Interpol who build international relationships and facilitate intelligence sharing and joint operational activity.

Where specific intelligence provides sufficient evidence pointing to perpetrators overseas, City Police work with local law enforcement to pursue those individuals. An example of this is the successful joint operations with Microsoft and Indian authorities to break up call centres in India conducting Computing Software Service Fraud.

I hope this background is useful to the Committee and should you require any further detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**Bruce Hunt**  
**Parliamentary Briefings Manager**  
**Office of the City Remembrancer**