

European Scrutiny Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From: Sir William Cash MP

17 March 2021

Matt Warman MP

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JOIN(20) 18 and COM(20) 823: Cybersecurity: EU Strategy and revised Network and Information Systems Directive

The Committee has asked me to thank you for your two Explanatory Memoranda (EM) on the above listed documents.

In light of the end of the post-Brexit Transition Period – as per the UK/EU Withdrawal Agreement – and the recent conclusion and provisional application of the UK/EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), the Committee would appreciate it if you could provide further information on the following points:

- In the Government's EM on the Commission's proposed Directive, it was noted that elements of the legislation could potentially be raised with the UK by the EU under Article 13(4) of the Northern Ireland Protocol. Could you provide the Committee with further information on the likelihood of this transpiring and, were it to, what impact this could have on Government policy for the UK's own cybersecurity strategy?
- Part 4 of the TCA provides scope for future cooperation between the UK and the EU in the cybersecurity field. In light of this, could you provide the Committee with more information on how the UK might potentially interact with new and existing bodies outlined in the EU's Cybersecurity Strategy, such as its NIS Cooperation Group and Joint Cyber Unit, as well as the European Cyber Crises Liaison Organisation Network (EU-CyCLONe) and the EU Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA)?
- Depending on the nature of this interaction, could you provide the Committee with more information on what impact, if any, it will have on continued UK participation in the Five Eyes intelligence alliance and ongoing cooperation with NATO allies in the field of cybersecurity?

We request a response to this letter within 15 working days.

I am copying this letter to Lord Kinnoull and Christopher Johnson in the Lords; Julian Knight MP, Chair of the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee; Yvette Cooper MP, Chair of the Home Affairs Committee; Tom Tugendhat MP, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Tobias Ellwood MP, Chair of the Defence Committee; Les Saunders at the Cabinet Office; and to James Ainsworth, Departmental Scrutiny Co-ordinator.

CHAIR