

Andy Slaughter MP
Chair, Justice Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

MoJ ref: SUB134696

9 June 2026

Dear Andy,

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND LATVIA ON JUSTICE COOPERATION

I am writing to inform you that, on 8 June 2026, I, alongside Minister Jarvis from the Home Office, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Justice Cooperation between the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Justice and Home Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The final text has now been published and can be accessed online at Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and Latvia on justice cooperation - GOV.UK.

While the MoU is not legally binding, it represents a shared commitment to strengthening justice cooperation between the United Kingdom and Latvia. It aims to improve the delivery of justice across borders, tackle cross-border criminality, support security and prosperity, and enhance justice outcomes for citizens, families and children in both countries.

The MoU commits both parties to establish a “green corridor” for prisoner transfers by introducing clear timelines at each stage of the process, thereby improving the speed and efficiency of transfers. Strengthening bilateral prisoner transfer arrangements with European partners remains a key government priority.

In addition, the MoU provides for closer cooperation in supporting victims, their families, and witnesses. It also reaffirms the importance of effective civil judicial cooperation, including to strengthen global protections for victims of domestic abuse. It also underscores our intention to continue working as effectively as possible on Mutual Legal Assistance matters, which falls within the competence of the Home Office. Furthermore, it reaffirms our steadfast support for Ukraine, including through information-sharing on current and planned initiatives, identifying opportunities for collaboration to deliver strengthened and coordinated support.

The MoU also represents an important moment of cooperation with a key European partner – a step in the right direction as the UK seeks to strengthen relationships with all European partners.

I hope that you will agree on the value of the Memorandum of Understanding and the importance of strengthening cooperation with European partners. A copy of this letter and the agreement will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jake Richards', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JAKE RICHARDS MP