



Department for
International Trade



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter of 7 May regarding the Services Mobility and Police Cooperation Agreements with Switzerland. I am pleased to be able to provide clarification on the points where you requested it.

The United Kingdom and Switzerland share a joint aim to maintain and develop our close trade and economic relations. To that end, we are committed to modernising our Trade Agreement in line with our 24-month review clause. DIT officials have already engaged with their Swiss counterparts on how we will drive forward those discussions over the coming year. Our review clause notes additional areas of interest for a modernised Agreement, including Trade in Services.

The UK-Swiss Services Mobility Agreement allows for a working group to continue discussions to ensure the long-term further development of the recognition of professional qualifications in general. The UK's preference is that all relevant sectors should be included in the negotiations for a comprehensive recognition of professional qualifications agreement; however which sectors are covered would be subject to negotiation and agreement with Switzerland. The UK will seek to ensure that any agreement effectively facilitates the recognition of professional qualifications, providing opportunities for UK and Swiss professionals to practice or deliver services, while maintaining the ability of UK regulators to ensure consumer protection and set standards.

Once there is substantive progress on the discussions in the Working Group, I should be happy to provide the IAC with an update (though this may need to be given privately).

Exchanges of information under the Police Cooperation Agreement may take place as long as appropriate and substantial safeguards are in place through national laws and international obligations. The new Swiss Data Protection Act and Switzerland's separate implementation of the EU Law Enforcement Directive (2016/680) into domestic legislation form part of such national laws. The UK will keep this position under review to ensure that the high data protection standards required by the Police Cooperation Agreement are being met. As stated in our previous response, if the UK determines this should no longer be the case, provisions allow for the cessation of data exchange and put in place conditions for its resumption.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the House of Lords Library.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grimstone', written in a cursive style.

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt
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