



15 February 2018

Baroness Harris
House of Lords
London
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harrisa@parliament.uk

Dear Baroness Harris,

During the debate of the draft Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 (Consequential Provisions) Order 2017 in the House of Lords on Wednesday 10th January, I undertook to write to you in response to your query regarding the practical implications of cross-border railway policing arising from the devolution of the responsibility for railway policing to Scotland. Arrangements will be put in place to provide for officers of the British Transport Police and Police Scotland to have jurisdiction to police in the others' normal jurisdiction when necessary to ensure effective policing across the border. Through the Joint Programme Board, the two Governments are working together with the two forces and the two police authorities to identify the legislative provisions necessary to achieve this. The border clearly cannot be a barrier to the effective policing of the railway. Furthermore, mutual aid arrangements will remain in place.

In response to your question about the name of the British Transport Police, following the transfer of responsibilities, I can assure you that there are no plans to change the name of the force.

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

Yours sincerely

**Lord Duncan of Springbank
Minister for Scotland**

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