Further to your call for written evidence on “Brexit and EU policing and security cooperation”, and David Armond’s letter of 15 December 2016, I am, at the Committee’s request providing you with updated statistics on UK law enforcement agencies’ use of EU-related databases and legal frameworks. Unless stated otherwise, all SIS II statistics are as of 31 December 2017.

Second Generation Schengen Information System (SIS II)
SIS II is used for law enforcement, immigration and border controls in the EU, and contains almost 76.5 million alerts in relation to people and objects wanted for law enforcement purposes.

As of 31/12/2017 there were a total of 1,234,455 UK alerts in circulation. Between 01 January 2017 and 31 December 2017 there were 9,832 UK hits on non-UK alerts and 16,782 non-UK hits on UK alerts. Of the 9,832 UK hits on non-UK alerts, 97% are person alerts including terrorists, travelling sex offenders and fugitives. Similarly of the 13,103 non-UK hits on UK alerts 94.3% of these are person alerts including terrorists, travelling sex offenders and fugitives.

European Arrest Warrants
In 2016/17 1,735 individuals were arrested in the UK on a European Arrest Warrant; this means the total number of individuals arrested in the UK on an EAW since April 2009 is over 12,000. Similarly over 1,000 individuals have been surrendered by Member States to the UK, including over 300 surrenders of own nationals.

EAW/SIS II
As of 31 December 2017, there were over 37,600 alerts in circulation on SIS II relating to individuals wanted for arrest. These individuals will be located across Europe and not just in the UK.

Europol
In the calendar year 2017 the UK sent and received almost 47,000 [46,918] messages through Europol channels.

In 2016, the UK was the highest contributor to Europol SOC Analysis Projects, and the second highest contributor overall, including counter terrorism (with Germany being the largest). The UK is the highest contributor of information in relation to Firearms, CSEA, Money Laundering, Cyber and Modern Slavery, and the second highest contributor to the Organised Immigration Crime Analysis Project (again, with Germany being the largest).

The SIENA (Secure Information Exchange Network Application) system can be accessed through 95 gateway points across the UK Law Enforcement community. This consists of 32 NCA access points and 63 non-NCA access points.

There are currently 217 officers across UK Law Enforcement who are trained to use EIS (Europol Information System). Europol’s Operational Partners are able to submit EIS data requests through SIENA.
European Multidisciplinary Platform against Crime Threats (EMPACT)

As part of the new four year EU Policy Cycle (2018-2021), EMPACT projects bring together and coordinate ongoing activity by Member States and EU organisations against identified threats. The UK participates in all thirteen current EMPACT priorities, in addition to the cross-cutting theme of Document Fraud.

Among these, the UK has the ‘Driver’ (project leader) status in two priorities (Trafficking in Human Beings (THB), and Excise Fraud,) and ‘Co-Driver’ status in a further four (MTIC (Missing Trader Intra-Community) Fraud, Drugs (Cannabis, Cocaine and Heroin), Criminal Finances (Money Laundering/Asset Recovery) and Firearms).

Across all EMPACT priorities, a total of 150 operational actions have been planned for 2018, of which the UK is leading 25 (17%).

European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS)

ECRIS is the secure electronic exchange mechanism through which the UK is able to exchange tens of thousands of pieces of information about criminal convictions. It helps law enforcement to investigate crime, protect the public and manage sexual and violent offenders. The system allows for requests to be made for employment purposes in relation to children, for example.

In 2016 the ACRO Criminal Records Office (ACRO) sent and received 173,251 Requests and Notifications via the EU Framework, of which a large proportion are sent via ECRIS.

ACRO also notified Member States of 35,509 convictions handed down to their Nationals in the UK enabling European Law Enforcement Agencies to have a full offending history of their Nationals. ACRO responded to 13,460 requests for information from the EU relating to UK Nationals offending in the EU, well within 10 working days in the majority of cases. On average, ACRO has experienced a 30% increase in requests for information from the EU for the past 3 years.

I hope that this information is of assistance to the Committee.

Matthew Horne
Deputy Director General (Operations)