

The Lord Hogan-Howe QPM
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

23 July 2025

Dear Bernard,

**BORDER SECURITY, ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION BILL: HOUSE OF LORDS
COMMITTEE**

I am writing further to the debate in the Lords Committee on 10 July, where you asked (Official Report 10 July column 1494) for details about police checks on biometric data, in relation to clause 34 of the Bill.

Whenever a person makes an application for entry clearance to come to the UK, they are normally required to enrol their biometrics, which includes a facial image and for those aged over five and who are physically capable, up to ten fingerprints. The fingerprints are checked against both the Immigration and Asylum Biometric System (IABS) and the police series of fingerprint databases, Ident1, including latent prints (scenes of crime) and those linked to terrorist activities.

Where a person is making an application from within the UK and has previously provided their biometric data, those fingerprints are rechecked against Ident1 series of databases to assess whether the person poses a risk of harm to the public. Where the person has not previously provided their biometric data, they are required to enrol them, and they will be checked against IABS and Ident1.

When the police arrest a person in the UK, they can take their fingerprints under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, and those fingerprints can be checked against IABS to enable custody officers to establish the person's identity and whether they are a foreign national. This information may be relevant when considering granting bail to an arrested person.

Checks of biometric data collected for immigration or nationality purposes against Ident1 would usually show where the fingerprints matched those taken from scenes of crime, including crimes linked to terrorist activities.

I look forward to further debate of the Bill as it continues Committee stage.

I will place a copy of this letter in the library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Hanson', written in a cursive style.

Lord Hanson of Flint