Serious Fraud Office – Framework Agreement

I write further to my letter of 18 January. As indicated in that letter, as part of measures to clarify and strengthen the superintendence relationship between my office, the Serious Fraud Office and the Crown Prosecution Service, new joint Framework Agreements have been agreed.

I am pleased to confirm that the first Ministerial Strategic Board for the SFO was held on 21 January where the Framework Agreement between the Law Officers and the SFO was ratified. The Framework Agreement will be published today (22 January). Publication of the CPS Framework will follow once ratification has taken place at the CPS Ministerial Strategic Board which is expected to take place in March.

As set out in my previous letter, the Framework Agreements will replace the 2009 Protocol, reflecting how the organisational relationships have developed and evolved over the past 10 years. The documents reflect significant joint work between my office, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Director of the SFO, who are both supportive of the documents. I am grateful for their support in this important piece of work which will underpin our future relationships and set the standard for continued positive engagement between the Law Officers, the SFO and the CPS in delivering our joint objectives.