



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Home Office

13 December 2018

Tom Tugendhat MP
Foreign Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Yvette Cooper MP
Home Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

INTERPOL

Dear Tom, Dear Yvette

Thank you for your letter of 19 November. We note the concerns you have raised about INTERPOL leadership and possible abuse of INTERPOL notices and systems.

As you will be aware, South Korean Kim Jong Yang was elected as the next president of INTERPOL on 21 November. The Government warmly welcomes Mr Kim's successful appointment. He is the right person to lead INTERPOL and will work, we believe, effectively with German Secretary General Jürgen Stock who has responsibility for the day-to-day conduct of INTERPOL. Mr Kim's successful election is welcome for rules and rights-based security cooperation. It is also testament to the efforts of colleagues across our overseas network and at the National Crime Agency (NCA), and a sign of the collective will of the UK and its partners to uphold the international rules-based system.

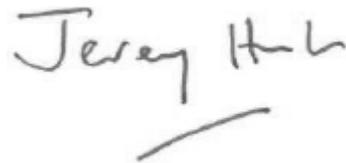
Whilst it is reassuring that the new President of INTERPOL is from a country that respects the international rules-based system, we will continue to work to ensure that INTERPOL's constitution is upheld and individuals' rights are protected. The UK does take very seriously any allegations of misuse or contravention of INTERPOL's constitution which, as alluded to in your letter, strictly forbids any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character. The NCA hosts the INTERPOL National Crime Bureau for the UK and their experience to date is that INTERPOL's systems are sufficiently robust to deal with any concerns of abuse.

The UK's international law enforcement and security cooperation is based on a range of important operational capabilities and systems of which INTERPOL is a key component. INTERPOL systems facilitate police to police cooperation between 194 Member Countries. We continue to engage with INTERPOL to improve its systems and processes to prevent any possibility of abuse, including working closely with the incumbent Secretary General who has prioritised the safeguarding of INTERPOL systems. While we do not believe it would be the most efficient course of action to establish a new entity which replicates INTERPOL's functions, our officials would be pleased to discuss further any specific proposals to ensure effective cooperation between law enforcement organisations.

We hope the above reassures you that this is an issue the Government takes very seriously.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Javid'.

Rt. Hon Sajid Javid MP
Home Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Hunt'.

Rt. Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Foreign Secretary