From Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, Chair

Baroness Williams of Trafford
Minister of State
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

April 2019

Dear Susan,

Biometrics Strategy and Forensics Services
Thank you for your letter of 26 March following your appearance before the Committee on 19 March.

Your letter addresses some of the points that I raised in my letter of 25 March. However, I would be grateful if you could set out to the Committee the date by which a new computer system will be implemented that will facilitate the automatic deletion of custody images of unconvicted individuals.

In your letter you say that you were "surprised that the Committee decided to question me on the Information Commissioner’s Office’s (ICO) submission, without sharing it with me, or indicating that you would refer to it, beforehand". I do apologise that you did not have prior sight of this submission. Please be assured that the Committee and I had no intention of causing you any difficulty. As you may be aware Committee staff only have authority from the Committee to give high-level oral briefings to departments on the likely areas of questioning—they are not permitted to go into detail nor is it possible for them to always anticipate what specific Members may wish to raise with witnesses. We undertook the preparations for this session in a compressed timeframe and therefore only took the decision on whether to publish the written evidence in the private meeting on 19 March. Should we be working to such timeframes in the future, we will consider whether it is possible to alert witnesses to the evidence we have received.

I would be grateful, if at all possible, if you could provide a response to this letter by Tuesday 30 April.

Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP
Chair