



HOME SECRETARY

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Dr Hywel Francis MP
Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights
House of Commons
7 Millbank
London
SW1P 3JA

07 NOV 2012

Dear Hywel

Re: EU police and criminal justice opt-out

Thank you for your letter of 23 October concerning the 2014 decision.

As I set out in my statement on 15 October, the Government's current thinking is to opt out of all EU police and criminal measures adopted before December 2009 and seek to rejoin measures where it is in the national interest to do so.

A large amount of analysis of the measures has already been completed, but to properly assess around 130 pieces of EU law and their associated impacts is a complex task which is ongoing. As such, I am unable at this stage to provide an assessment of the human rights impact of the decision. However when deciding which measures are in the national interest we will, of course, consider the impact a measure has on rights and civil liberties.

The Government is interested to hear the views of Parliament before coming to a final decision. Should the Joint Committee on Human Rights wish to undertake any work in this regard the Government would of course take due account of that work.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Justice (Chris Grayling); the Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee (William Cash); the Chairman of the Justice Committee (Sir Alan Beith); the Chairman of the Home Affairs Committee (Keith Vaz); Lord Boswell (Chairman of the Lords European Committee); Les Saunders (Cabinet Office); and Deborah Maggs, Scrutiny Coordinator in the Home Office.

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'T. May', written in a cursive style.

Rt. Hon. Theresa May MP