



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

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Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP
Minister of State for Policing
and the Fire Service
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
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6 February 2019

Brexit: the proposed UK-EU security treaty

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 25 January 2019 on the Government's response to our report *Brexit: the proposed UK-EU security treaty*. The EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee considered your letter at its meeting on 6 February 2019.

We are grateful for the information you provided on the feasibility of a comprehensive security treaty and the avoidance of an operational cliff-edge at the end of the transition period. However, the committee would appreciate further detail on the following areas:

- Does the Government intend to explore with the EU the possibility of establishing 'no deal scenario' interim arrangements which maintain UK access to EU security tools on a short-term basis, to avoid disruption and any reduction in the UK and the EU's ability to keep their citizens safe until alternative mechanisms for cooperation can be established?
- What other forms of security cooperation is the UK exploring with European partners, and have any discussions taken place with EU27 countries to establish alternative mechanisms such as bilateral channels?
- How are UK police and security agencies preparing for the possibility of a 'no deal' Brexit?

I look forward to hearing from you within 10 working days.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash MP, Chair of the Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Jessica Mulley, Clerk to the Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Arnold Ridout, Legal Adviser to the Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Les Saunders, Department for Exiting the EU; and Alex Bernal, Home Office.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Boswell

Lord Boswell of Aynho
Chairman of the European Union Committee