

**OFFICIAL**

**JUSTICE SUB-COMMITTEE ON POLICING**

**POLICING BREXIT**

**WRITTEN SUBMISSION FROM THE SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY**

The Scottish Police Authority (SPA) submits written evidence ahead of the Committee's session with Police Scotland on 1 March 2021. This is the Authority's second submission to the Committee on the issue of policing Brexit. The first, submitted in October 2020, outlined the Authority's approach to governance and oversight of Police Scotland's preparedness in relation to Brexit<sup>1</sup>.

Police Scotland has briefed the Authority regularly, allowing ongoing scrutiny of the policing arrangements and opportunity to raise matters of concern and public interest. The Authority's oversight has focused on holding the Chief Constable to account in public for any decisions he has taken in respect of the policing of Brexit and promoting public awareness and accountability of Police Scotland's preparedness through regular updates to Authority meetings.

Since October 2020, the Authority has received two detailed public updates from Police Scotland. In November 2020, Police Scotland provided an update on their contingency planning, in preparation for the United Kingdom's (UK) departure from the European Union (EU) on the 31 December 2020<sup>2</sup>. On 22 January 2021, Police Scotland provided an update to the Authority following the UK's departure from the EU on 31 December 2020<sup>3</sup>.

The Authority's most recent oversight has focused on a number of areas, including:

- The work of the National Co-ordination Centre which became operational on 28 December 2020;
- The loss of the SIS II database, mitigated by increased use of Interpol notices and diffusions and the potential future utilisation of the International Law Enforcement Alert Platform (ILEAP);
- The introduction of a new European warrant framework through the Interpol system;
- The introduction of a framework on mutual legal assistance following the loss of European investigation orders;
- Access and links to Europol, Euro, Passenger Name Records and PRUM;
- Ongoing contingency planning around extradition, specifically for EU member states to extradite their own nationals;
- The use of the Flexible Response Unit to support the policing response.

To support transparency and public accessibility, a dedicated section of the SPA's website captures all of Police Scotland's reporting on policing Brexit. This information, including the most up to date reporting from 22 January 2021, can be accessed from the following link on the SPA website: Authority scrutiny and oversight of policing Brexit<sup>4</sup>.

Scottish Police Authority  
22 February 2021

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.parliament.scot/S5\\_JusticeSubCommitteeOnPolicing/Inquiries/SPASubmission.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_JusticeSubCommitteeOnPolicing/Inquiries/SPASubmission.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.spa.police.uk/spa-media/mapfby1d/rep-b-20201114-item-7-brexite-contingency-planning.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.spa.police.uk/spa-media/g5xlz2wj/rep-b-20210113-item-8-policing-response-to-eu-exit.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.spa.police.uk/strategy-performance/brexit-briefings/>