

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire  
and Swindon  
Briefing Note**

**Further Enquiries to: Angus Macpherson MBE, Police and Crime Commissioner  
For Wiltshire and Swindon**

**Date Prepared: 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**Topic: Impact of EU exit on policing**

**Purpose: To provide information etc.**

**Background:**

On 24th December 2020, the Prime Minister and President of the European Commission announced negotiations between the UK and EU has reached an outcome, with a deal on future trade and cooperation agreed. The agreement, through the EU (Future Relationship) Bill was approved by the House of Lords on 30 December 2020, allowing the bill to be given royal assent in the early hours of 31 December.

- As a result, the legislative framework in which police operate has changed
- During the Police and Crime Panel meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the following question was raised:

*“Following Brexit, the view held generally is that the UK is less secure as British policing has now forfeited some of its most valuable tools including the Schengen Information System, a vast database providing real-time alerts to locate terrorists and serious criminals. The UK has also lost its influential seat at the EU's policing agency, Europol. In light of these changes, does the PCC anticipate any practical difficulties for Wiltshire Police in crime prevention and detection as it relates to multi-national collaboration?”*

- The next section outlines the Wiltshire Police preparations and new arrangements which have been put in place to mitigate the local impact

**Brexit preparations: Intelligence systems/processes**

The Intelligence Development Unit (IDU) started to liaise with the International Crime Co-ordination Centre (ICCC) pre-Brexit, to seek-out any advice and guidance they could provide us, to ensure we were in a healthy position post Brexit. As a result the following was achieved:

- In September 2020 our Force went live with Operation Lupinet and Operation Signal.
  - We are now able to identify foreign national offenders suitable for consideration for deportation far sooner than our previous processes. Both operations have streamlined the way we refer cases to Immigration Enforcement (IE) against differing and complex criteria.
- In November 2020, an Interpol working group was set up
  - This was to ensure we, as a Force, were back record converting the necessary information from Schengen II to i247 (Interpol) and conducting reviews on Interpol notices, in line with best practice. Since the new Interpol working group was setup we have improved our submission rate of Interpol Enquiry forms.
- Our Force's International Liaison Officer's (ILO's, also known as our Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB)) have been made aware of the new National Extradition Unit.
  - A team that (given the loss and alterations of some EU law enforcement tools) ICCC conjured up to assist UK Police to use alternative mechanisms to share and access information about criminals and cooperate on operations.
  - If our ILO's need any support in regards to any new processes or systems such as EAWs, Europol etc., they know they must contact the unit.
- Guidance material in relation to International Letters of Request (ILORs) and Production Order Overseas Requests, produced by ICCC, was disseminated
  - The Force made sure our ILOs/FIB were informed of any and all procedural changes, pre-Brexit, so they now know what to do post-Brexit.
- IDU are aware of the ICCC's knowledge hub as a resource.
- IDU have been made aware of the ICCC mobile app but owing to ICT issues our Force is not yet able to take this on, unfortunately.

ICCC have continued to assure the Force that IDU have covered as much as possible to mitigate any risk associated with Brexit.

**End**