

General Questions

1. Yes, there are many examples of improved cooperation.

Police Scotland has an officer embedded within the UK Liaison Bureau at Europol. Through him Police Scotland have instant access through SIENA to Law Enforcement throughout the other 27 Member States with improved time critical intelligence transfer. Access to the other Member States liaison bureau means advice can be sought as to policing practice in that country and what intelligence response we can expect.

Article 40 Schengen cross-border surveillance requests have been used by Police Scotland during a number of operations, a valuable source of intelligence. Police Scotland is involved in a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) with (Human Trafficking and Labour Exploitation) this is also a very cost effective tool as it negates the need for MLA.

ECRIS ACRO provides timely European previous conviction reports for use in Court Member states respond within 10 days.

European Arrest Warrants play a crucial role in Scotland these have proved to be a useful timely and cost effective tool.

SIS11 hold upwards of 45 million alerts this will bring considerable benefit to Policing in Scotland allowing checks to be completed Europe wide. There will also be increased alerts with the resulting cost implications.

Asset Recovery legislation at European level added value to Scottish LEA.

2. By opting in there is increased co-operation between member states particularly in the area of Serious and Organised crime intelligence transfers which are timely and cost effective. Opting out would not necessarily stop intelligence transfer but they would take a lot longer. Article 40 an important investigation tool would no longer be available.
3. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT
4. Co-operation has enhanced the effectiveness of UK law enforcement, intelligence from Europe has been crucial in a number of recent cases.
5. On the whole UK law enforcement has benefited from EU co-operation. The 28 Member states contribute to a database which holds current intelligence that all MS have access. This database has over 5 million entries. This is a huge benefit to Policing in the UK. However there have been issues surrounding incoming EAW not being proportionate or being for offences that are not crimes in the UK. There are also issues surrounding extradition of prisoners to certain European partners which has serious cost implications for Police Scotland and UK Plc.

Questions on Judicial co-operation should be answered by Crown Office

6-10

Questions on policing, customs co-operation on judicial matters, and internal security should be answered by Border Policing Command and Home Office

11-16 Ease of Intelligence exchange

Questions on minimum standards in criminal law and procedure should be answered by the Crown Office and Scottish Government

17-21