



Home Office

Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP  
Minister of State for Security and  
Economic Crime

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Sir William Cash MP  
Chair, The European Scrutiny Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1H 9NB

20 September 2018

Dear Bill,

**DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL laying down rules facilitating the use of financial and other information for the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of certain criminal offences and repealing Council Decision 2000/642/JHA**

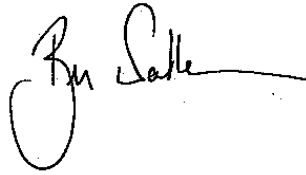
I am writing to inform you that the Government has decided to opt in (under the UK's JHA opt-in Protocol) to the proposed Directive.

The proposed Directive seeks to improve the sharing of financial information, including bank account details, and financial analysis, to support law enforcement investigations and prosecutions. The Directive would repeal but not replace the existing Council Decision covering cooperation arrangements between financial intelligence units (FIUs), as these arrangements are now contained in the Fourth Money Laundering Directive (4MLD), which the UK participates in.

Through our Serious Organised Crime Strategy and our Action Plan for anti-money laundering and counter terrorist finance, we have made it clear that being able to tackle money laundering and share information internationally is a priority. The proposed Directive will bring benefits to the UK through ensuring that our operational agencies are able to seek and receive financial intelligence, including bank account details, where appropriate, in order to tackle both money laundering and wider criminality.

I am copying this letter to Lord Boswell, Chair of the Lords European Union Committee; Chris Johnson, Clerk to the Lords Committee; Lynn Gardner, Clerk to

your Committee; Les Saunders, Department for Exiting the European Union; and Alex Bernal, Departmental Scrutiny Coordinator.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Wallace". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP**  
**Minister of State for Security and Economic Crime**