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10 September 2015

Dear Mr Faulkner

Response to BIPA Committee A - report on cross border police cooperation and illicit trade

Thank you for the invitation from the committee to meet with them in response to this report.

I understand that HMRC formally responded to Dr Robin James on 7 September 2015 welcoming the report and providing responses to the recommendations contained therein.

In view of the close collaboration between the Revenue Commissioners and HMRC on illicit cross border activity I have asked Jim Harra, Director General Business Tax, HMRC to attend the committee hearing on 20 October. This will also enable HMRC to update the committee on the work they have undertaken to introduce the new fuel marker from 1 April 2015 and more recently the initial deployment of roadside testing equipment. I was able to see the mobile capability for myself in Northern Ireland earlier this year and meet with enforcement agencies to understand the extent of fuel fraud.

You will be aware that I announced in July, an evaluation of the new marker after six months in operation. That evaluation will be presented to me in October and I hope to publish the findings shortly thereafter. The evaluation is being informed by a number of interested parties across the fuel and marker industry and I am grateful for the time and expertise they have given to assist.

As you know, the UK Government is committed to tackling fuel fraud, both because of the lost revenue and because of the criminal activity it supports, and



the introduction of the new fuel marker alongside other enforcement activity continues this fight.

*Your sincerely
Damian Hinds*

Damian Hinds
Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury