



Ms. Tara Kelly  
Clerk to the Assembly  
British Irish Parliamentary Assembly  
tara.kelly@oireachtas.ie

17 April 2015

**Our Ref:** AI0150076

Dear Ms. Kelly,

On behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Charles Flanagan T.D., I wish to thank you for sending a copy of the report produced by BIPA Committee A (Sovereign Matters) on '*Cross-border Police Cooperation and Illicit Trade*' for the Minister's consideration.

The report is very welcome. It recognises the close and effective cooperation between the Garda Síochána and the PSNI and the excellent North-South work that is being done in this area. As noted by the Committee, the decision by the Northern Ireland Assembly to extend the remit of the UK National Crime Agency to Northern Ireland is a further positive step in the fight against cross-border crime.

The Minister commends the Committee for their work on this report and notes the recommendations put forward by the Committee, which are primarily a matter for the Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald TD.

Yours sincerely,

Robert O'Driscoll  
Private Secretary