

Committee(s): Police Authority Board	Date(s): 16 th December 2020
Subject: Exit from the European Union – City of London Police Preparedness	Public
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 76-20	For Information
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Summary

The United Kingdom is due to exit the European Union on 31st December 2020. As yet, it is unclear on the exact terms and conditions of any exit agreement.

Concurrence with the COVID pandemic may have reduced the level of organised protest that was experienced prior to previous exit dates. There is no current intelligence of significant protest on or around the date of planned exit.

City of London Police is operating a command structure for this event under the direction of T/Commander Operations & Security Dai Evans.

There is cross organisational support between City of London Corporation (CoL) Silver Group headed by Paul Wilkinson and the City of London Police (CoLP) with each being represented on parallel meeting structures. The London Resilience Forum coordinated Strategic Coordination Group that is overseeing the COVID response has assimilated the role and responsibility for EU Exit and we remain fully represented at SCG level.

The principal risk identified prior to previous exit dates in respect of loss of various statutory instruments has been mitigated over the intervening period and is no longer assessed as presenting a significant risk to operational capability for the force.

Some abstraction of resources may be considered likely in support of national mutual aid and this could create an unbudgeted pressure.

A Policing plan is in place with dedicated command team for the 31st December date.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of this report.

Main Report

Background

1. The United Kingdom will exit from the European Union at midnight on 31st December 2020, following the original referendum vote of June 2016. It is currently unknown what the final and agreed exit agreement terms will be and hence preparations have been made to take account of the potential loss of various statutory instruments.
2. Under the direction of Deputy Assistant Commissioner Richard Martin, National Police Chiefs Council has formed the International Crime Coordination Centre (ICCC), to coordinate and seek standardised position for UK forces.

Current Position

3. Benefiting from providing a full time embed within the ICCC, all investigations reliant upon aspects of the Schengen agreement and related statutory instruments have been migrated to parallel methodologies under Interpol governance.
4. All previously identified records (5 in number) have been successfully migrated thereby negating the risk that had previously been recorded on the CoL Risk Register.
5. Current information suggests that much of the ancillary legal instruments relating to crime, intelligence and security have been agreed but will not be ratified before an agreement can be reached in relation to trade. *The negotiating position is that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.* Irrespective of the final negotiated outcome it is known that Forces and Law enforcement agencies will lose access to the relevant legal provisions that exist for European Arrest Warrants (EAW's). The loss of such provisions is most likely to be felt by CoLPs Economic Crime Directorate but examination of previous usage suggests this loss to pose a minimal operational impact.
6. The Force is re-drafting some of the information sharing and partnership agreements it has with US Federal agencies such as Homeland Security and specifically our agreement with the New York District Attorney as they are currently predicated on European legislation.
7. The National Police Coordination Centre (NPoCC) will retain responsibility for any cross border mutual aid requests for deployment of specialist staff.
 - a. Some pressures may be experienced in the abstraction of specialist officers in support of other policing areas under the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR).
 - b. Previous requests have included support to south coast ports and the regional traffic network

Conclusion

8. Whilst CoLP continues to seek information and intelligence regarding the status of legislation and any specific intelligence regarding protest and potential disorder, City of London Police is well placed and prepared to address exit from the European Union

Appendices

- None

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