

United Kingdom – national procedures for mutual legal assistance  
in criminal matters

Updated 30/11/2020

The information contained in this table should be updated on a yearly basis.

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| <p>The Central Authority (name of the institution, address, telephone, fax and e-mail where available) responsible for mutual legal assistance:</p> | <p>The United Kingdom has three central authorities. Each deal with different types of requests.</p> <p><b><u>England, Wales and Northern Ireland</u></b></p> <p>UK Central Authority<br/>International Criminality Unit<br/>Home Office<br/>2nd Floor Peel Building<br/>2 Marsham Street<br/>London, SW1P 4DF</p> <p>Fax: +44 20 7035 6985<br/>Tel: +44 20 7035 4040<br/>Email: <a href="mailto:UKCA-ILOR@homeoffice.gov.uk">UKCA-ILOR@homeoffice.gov.uk</a></p> <p>For specific policy queries:<br/><a href="mailto:MLApolicy@homeoffice.gov.uk">MLApolicy@homeoffice.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b><u>Scotland</u></b></p> <p>International Co-operation Unit<br/>Crown Office<br/>25 Chambers Street<br/>Edinburgh<br/>EH1 1LA</p> <p>Tel: +44 131 243 8152<br/>Fax: +44 131 243 8153<br/>Email: <a href="mailto:coicu@copfs.gov.uk">coicu@copfs.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>MLA requests relating to tax and fiscal customs matters in England &amp; Wales and Northern Ireland should be directed to HMRC:</b></p> <p>Criminal Law Advisory Team<br/>HM Revenue and Customs<br/>Solicitor's Office<br/>First Floor<br/>Bush House SW Wing<br/>Strand<br/>London<br/>WC2B 4RD</p> <p>Fax: +44 3000 589792<br/>Email: <a href="mailto:mla@hmrc.gov.uk">mla@hmrc.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Please see the <a href="#">MLA Guidelines</a> for further information.</p> |
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| If different from the Central Authority, the authority to which the request should be sent (name of the institution, address, telephone, fax and e-mail where available): |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Channels of communication for the request for mutual legal assistance (directly, through diplomatic channels or other):                                                   | The UK does not require requests to come via diplomatic channels and central authorities are content to receive requests directly. However, the requesting authority will need to comply with its own domestic laws relating to the transmission of requests.<br><br>Please see the <a href="#">MLA Guidelines</a> for further information.                    |
| Means of communication (e.g. by post, fax, e-mail <sup>1</sup> ):                                                                                                         | Central authorities can receive letters of request by post, email or fax but these methods are not usually secure channels of transmission. The requesting authority will need to comply with its own domestic laws relating to the transmission of requests<br><br>Please see the <a href="#">MLA Guidelines</a> for further information.                     |
| Language requirements:                                                                                                                                                    | All requests to the UK must be in English<br><br>Please see the <a href="#">MLA Guidelines</a> for further information.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Double criminality requirement, if applicable:                                                                                                                            | In the UK dual criminality is required for coercive measures such as restraint and confiscation of assets and search and seizure. In Scotland, a search and seizure request will only be executed when the equivalent crime in Scotland is an offence punishable by imprisonment<br><br>Please see the <a href="#">MLA Guidelines</a> for further information. |
| Limitation of use of evidence obtained:                                                                                                                                   | Evidence provided by the UK pursuant to a MLA request must only be used for the purpose specified in the request.<br><br>Please see the <a href="#">MLA Guidelines</a> for further information.                                                                                                                                                                |
| Other particularly relevant information (e.g. documentation)                                                                                                              | Further information can be found on the MLA section of the Home Office website:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

<sup>1</sup> Please indicate if encryption or electronic signature is required.

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| <p>required for special types of assistance):</p>                                                                                                                       | <p>(<a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mutual-legal-assistance-mla-requests">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mutual-legal-assistance-mla-requests</a>)</p> <p>It is recommended that requesting authorities read the <a href="#">MLA Guidelines</a> prior to submitting a request for MLA to the UK.</p> |
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| <p>Links to national legislation, national guides on procedure:</p>                                                                                                     | <p>Further information can be found in the <a href="#">MLA Guidelines</a>.</p> <p>Legislation: <a href="#">Crime (International Cooperation) Act 2003</a>.</p>                                                                                                                                         |
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| <p>Parties to the Second Additional Protocol: Link to database with contact details of competent authorities for the purpose of direct transmission of MLA requests</p> | <p>All incoming letters of request should be sent to the relevant central authority.</p> <p>Please see the <a href="#">MLA Guidelines</a> for further information</p>                                                                                                                                  |