

Reporting Template

Report to:	International Development Board
Meeting Date:	19 November 2021
Location:	MS Teams
Title of Paper:	Sri Lanka update
Author/Business Area presenting:	S38(1)(b) [REDACTED] International Development and Innovation Unit (IDIU)
Agenda Item Number:	5.2
Classification:	For Discussion / Approval
Appendix Attached:	A) Overseas Security and Justice Assessment (OSJA) updated

Submission to the SPA (where appropriate) [\(Note 2\)](#)

N/A

Links to Strategic Priorities [\(Note 3\)](#)

International development is a key part of Scotland's global contribution within the international community. It is Police Scotland's ambition to co-operate globally through relationships and partnerships, supporting our international partners towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Whilst Police Scotland's main purpose is to improve the safety and well-being of people, places and communities in Scotland national and international dimensions to poverty, justice, inequality and climate change are interlinked.

Governance Route for Report

The governance routes for reports should be discussed with line managers to enable the most appropriate route to be followed for noting information or decision making, thereby ensuring effective corporate governance. If applicable, list the meetings/forums to which the report will be presented. See example below:

Meeting/Forum	Meeting Date	Comment	Decision
	(Date report went to committee, or date it is planned to go to committee)	(If applicable, what was the outcome with any relevant brief details)	(If decision required, what was the outcome)
N/A			

1. Purpose (Note 4)

1.1 This paper is presented to provide an update on Police Scotland’s activity in Sri Lanka.

2. Background (Note 5)

2.1 In 2010 the Scottish Police College was funded by the Scottish Government to provide capacity and capability building support to the Sri Lanka Police Service, as they exited 30 years of civil war. Subsequently, since 2013, Police Scotland have been engaged by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), previously FCO, to continue this support.

2.2 The focus of activity (pre-COVID19) supported by the British High Commission (BHC), Colombo relates to the provision of technical assistance to:

- establish better police engagement with communities
- improve the response to domestic violence and sexual and gender based violence
- improve gender equality within the Sri Lanka Police Service.

2.3 Officers have not been deployed in Sri Lanka since the commencement of the COVID19 pandemic in March 2020.

2.4 As reported at the May 2021 International Development Board meeting, S31(1), S32(1)(a) [redacted]
 [redacted] The decision was taken at that Board meeting to ‘pause’ the programme whilst the Overseas Security and Justice Assessment (OSJA) is updated.

3. Main Report (Note 6)

3.1 The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) have updated the OSJA, attached as Appendix A. S31(1), S32(1)(a) [redacted] The OSJA has been submitted to S38(1)(b) [redacted] Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office for consideration.

3.2 The current FCDO contract, which has been paused since the start of the pandemic,

	<p>expires 31 March 2022. As such, if the OSJA is endorsed S38(1)(b) a new contract will be required to recommence activity. To progress a new contract requires Police Scotland to affirm, or otherwise, to recommence activities and then for the Scottish Police Authority to sign the contract, with consent of the Chief Constable.</p>
3.3	<p>Whilst the UK Government may approve and support re-engagement in Sri Lanka, each individual deployment of an officer overseas requires approval from Scottish Government Ministers, as the officer is being deployed under Temporary Service Regulations. To seek approval for the deployment from the Scottish Government Ministers a business case is submitted with details of the person, date, task and with supporting information, e.g. copy of the OSJA.</p>
3.4	<p>Whilst the legislation requires that Scottish Ministers approval individual deployments, Scottish Ministers should have the opportunity to consider the wider impact that any deployments may have for UK and Scottish relations with other countries. S31(1), S32(1)(a), S38(1)(b)</p> <p>S31(1), S32(1)(a), S38(1)(b) Scottish Government Ministers are consulted to confirm that they would continue to approve business cases for police officers to deploy to Sri Lanka, to work on the themes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish better police engagement with communities • improve the response to domestic violence and sexual and gender based violence • improve gender equality within the Sri Lanka Police Service.
3.5	<p>Over the recent months there has been significant interest in Police Scotland's activities in Sri Lanka with reports in the media, both in Scotland and in Sri Lanka, several parliamentary questions and Ministerial letters, and Freedom of Information requests. Several communications are seeking an end to Police Scotland's engagement in Sri Lanka on the basis of the human rights concerns.</p>

4.	Key Strategic Implications
4.1	Workforce (Note 7)
4.1.1	Not applicable
4.2.	Health & Safety (Note 8)
4.2.1	There are currently no planned deployments to Sri Lanka.
4.3	Equality, Diversity and Human Rights (Note 9)
4.3.1	<p>S31(1), S32(1)(b)</p> <p>[Redacted text]</p>
4.3.2	[Redacted text]

4.4	Environmental & Sustainability (Note 10)
4.4.1	Not applicable
4.5	Financial (Note 11)
4.5.1	All activity undertaken in support of the Sri Lanka Police Service is fully funded by the FCDO.
4.6	Legal (Note 12)
4.6.1	All activity undertaken in Sri Lanka is approved under an Agreement with the FCDO. Police Scotland's engagement is undertaken under Section 87 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. The deployments of individual police officers are undertaken under Section 2(1) of The Police Service of Scotland (Temporary Service) Regulations 2013.
4.7	Performance (Note 13)
4.7.1	Not applicable
4.8	Timing (Note 14)
4.8.1	Not applicable
4.9	Risk (Note 15)
4.9.1	S31(1), S32(1)(b), S38(1)(b) [REDACTED]
4.10	Communication & Engagement (Note 16)
4.10.1	Not applicable
4.11	Training (Note 17)
4.11.1	Not applicable
4.12	Privacy (Note 18)
4.12.1	Not applicable

5.	Discussion (Note 19)
5.1	Not applicable

6.	Recommendation (Note 20)
6.1	This paper is presented to provide an update on Police Scotland's activity in Sri Lanka.
6.2	If the OSJA is NOT SUPPORTED by S38(1)(b) [REDACTED] Police Scotland's engagement in Sri Lanka will terminate.

6.3	It is recommended that if the OSJA is SUPPORTED by S38(1)(b) that the next steps are: i) Police Scotland to affirm, or otherwise, support to re-engage activities, and thereafter, ii) the Scottish Police Authority to sign a new contract with the FCDO, with the consent of the Chief Constable, to enable engagement to re-commence.
6.4	It is recommended that if the OSJA is SUPPORTED by S38(1)(b) that the Scottish Government Ministers are consulted to confirm that they would continue to approve business cases for police officers to deploy to Sri Lanka, to work on the themes to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• establish better police engagement with communities• improve the response to domestic violence and sexual and gender based violence• improve gender equality within the Sri Lanka Police Service

7.	Core Brief (Note 21)
7.1	N/A