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Dear Marian Pallister

SRI LANKA POLICING PROGRAMME

I write further to recent communications and to keep you informed.

With a focus on supporting vulnerable people, Police Scotland has contributed to the capacity and capability building of the Sri Lanka Police Service since 2010, commencing as Sri Lanka exited the civil war. As you are aware, the programme of work has been aligned to supporting the realisation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly gender equality, reduced inequality, peace and justice, strong institutions and partnerships.

Prior to the pandemic, the support provided by Police Scotland, on a non-profit, cost-recovery basis, focused on community policing, promoting gender equality and enhancing the police response to sexual and gender based violence. Progress has been achieved through:

- Providing mentoring to local police officers in support of two community policing pilots;
- Facilitating the establishment of the first ever Gender Forum within the Sri Lanka Police Service;
- Strengthening prevention and response to sexual and gender based violence by providing training to police officers from the Women and Children's Bureau and to police officer trainers at the National Police Academy, enabling them to cascade the training to all provinces.

Police Scotland's training in Sri Lanka was suspended at the start of 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic and officers have not been deployed in Sri Lanka since then. In May 2021, Police Scotland formally paused contributions to the programme as the Oversea

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Security and Justice Assistance (OSJA) assessment required to be reviewed to accurately reflect the security and human rights environment in Sri Lanka.

The OSJA assessment review remains incomplete. However, we understand there will be no requests for support during the remainder of the contract, which expires in March 2022. Our work remains paused, however there will be no Police Scotland officers deployed to Sri Lanka during the remainder of our contract.

Additionally, we are reviewing future international programmes of work to ensure our capability and limited resources are engaged and best directed to where they can be most effective and make a positive contribution. Based on this, we would like to advise you that we will not seek to renew our contract or engage in any contracts to support the Sri Lanka Police Service.

Police Scotland seeks to work with people who are committed to leading strategic change, promoting human rights and building inclusive safer communities. We remain committed to supporting the international development of policing services, with human rights and our values of integrity, fairness and respect at the heart of the work that we deliver and everything we do.

We are keen to continue to support Conflict, Stability and Security Funded (CSSF) programmes of work delivered by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office across the world, with a focus on supporting efforts to prevent harm at source, manage demand, innovate, share best practice and support the stabilisation of communities beyond our boundaries.

In response to your letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, dated 16 August 2021, and to the letter to the Chief Constable, received 29 November 2021, signed by Ben Kumar Morris, Deputy Campaign Director, Sri Lanka Campaign for Peace and Justice this letter has been copied to all signatories. Please also note that we will seek further opportunities to engage.

Yours sincerely



Gary Ritchie
Assistant Chief Constable

cc:

Yasmine Ahmed, UK Director, Human Rights Watch
Ben Kumar Morris, Deputy Campaign Director, Sri Lanka Campaign for Peace and Justice
Melissa Dring, Campaign Director, Sri Lanka Campaign for Peace and Justice
Steve Crawshaw, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Freedom from Torture
Tracy Doig, Head of International Advocacy, Freedom from Torture