



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Sarah Boyack MSP • M1.07
The Scottish Parliament • Edinburgh • EH99 1SP



Our Ref: SB7017

9 September 2021

Good afternoon

Re: Police Scotland involvement with the Sri Lankan Police Force

I am writing to you following correspondence from the Tamil Guardian, an online newspaper for the Tamil Diaspora in the UK and beyond.

The Tamil Guardian highlighted Police Scotland's long-standing commitment to training the Sri Lankan police force alongside concerns that rather than capacity-building, this training is -in the words of Human Rights Watch – “endors[ing] the actions of an abusive police force.”

I would like to ask you to outline the metrics you use to judge whether Police Scotland's interventions in Sri Lanka are successful. I am clear that outcomes of Development/Capacity-building assistance are not linear and positive results are not guaranteed. I believe that police Scotland has been undertaking well-intentioned work of a high professional standard. However, it is vital to ensure that this publicly-funded work is supporting the police force in Sri Lanka to protect against human rights abuses not, as has been alleged, endorse abusive behaviour or embolden the Rajapaksa regime.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah

Sarah Boyack
Member of Scottish Parliament
for Lothian Region (Scottish Labour)

Scottish Labour MSP for the Lothian Region
0131 348 5831 • M1.15, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP •
Sarah.Boyack.MSP@Parliament.Scot