

[UK-Chile Science Advice in the UK Report launch](#)

Today, 23 September 2021, in a joint venture between the British Embassy Santiago, the Science and Innovation Network and the Science & Government Department of the Chilean Science Ministry, we launched the report 'Science Advice in the UK'.

This report examines the science advice system in the UK. It is a well-established and well regarded system, which derives its strength from its ongoing evolution – often in response to crises. The report was commissioned by the British Embassy in Santiago, as part of the work of the Science and Innovation Network, which jointly sits in the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and in the department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

The report aims to inform other governments about the evolution and function of science advice in the UK, illustrating how structures and processes have been developed and embedded, highlighting key strengths and attributes, as well as articulating where the tensions and challenges lie. More broadly, it aims to stimulate reflection and dialogue amongst those working in research and policy – and at their intersection – on what has been learnt in the UK so far. The report draws on insights from current and former scientific advisers, civil servants, evidence 'brokers' and intermediaries, and academics.

This report, that summarise 70 years of UK' experience on science advice to the Government & Parliament, has been structured to answer the main questions that can rise when developing a science-advice system in government. Therefore, it hopes to be a useful resource for any other country seeking to stablish a similar system.

The event also celebrated [the UK-Chile Government Partnership for Science, announced on 10 September 2021 when President Piñera met PM Johnson at Downing Street](#).

Further information

If you want to know more about the Report, please contact [Daniela Saldoval](#), Head of Science and Innovation, British Embassy Santiago.

For more information about the activities of the British Embassy in Santiago, follow us on:

UK acknowledges important work of OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre

Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd like to thank Ambassador Yrjölä for her comprehensive and timely report on the activities of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC).

I think we can all agree that 2021 has followed 2020 in posing immense challenges for the entire OSCE region as we continue to face complex and continuing crises.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created profound challenges for us all. We appreciate the contingency planning support and advice you have provided to field operations, and we join you in conveying our sincere condolences to the families and friends of those we have lost to the virus.

We are particularly grateful for the support you have provided to the Special Monitoring Mission in this regard. We welcome the CPC report ["A Peaceful Presence: The First Five Years of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine"](#) and the best practice which will be drawn from it. The Special Monitoring Mission fulfils a vital role, providing impartial, facts-based reporting to the international community about the security situation on the ground. CPC support on reporting, dialogue facilitation, internal early warning, technological monitoring and information management, and on further improving the alignment of management, operations and security, is invaluable. We appreciate too your support first to Ambassador Grau and now to Ambassador Kinnunen, and the coordinators of the Trilateral Contact Group Working Groups in their pursuit of a peaceful resolution of the conflict in full respect of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. This will be all the more important as we work to close the Border Observation Mission at the checkpoints in Gukovo and Donetsk.

We also value the support you provide to OSCE field operations elsewhere in our region. Your continued advice and support on project and programme management, including monitoring and evaluation, should help colleagues in these missions make even better use of their resources to support host countries to fulfil their OSCE commitments. We note in particular the important role which you have been playing in respect to the situation in Afghanistan. We look forward to hearing more about the assistance which OSCE might offer to support regional security both in the immediate neighbourhood and further afield.

We welcome the work which the CPC has done to further strengthen the Conflict cycle toolbox in the year which marks the 10th anniversary of the [Ministerial Council decision on "Elements of the Conflict cycle"](#). We look forward to engaging constructively in negotiations led by the chair at the upcoming Ministerial Council on a decision on further strengthening OSCE capabilities in addressing the conflict cycle. The particular attention to the meaningful

participation of women and civil society at all levels and in all phases of the conflict cycle is valuable. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into OSCE activities is another vital way to enhance their effectiveness. It means we have a greater understanding of how issues affect men and women differently and therefore can better tailor our responses to them.

The UK highly values the tools provided by the Conflict Prevention Centre on early warning, including through its work as the organisation wide focal point and the monitoring provided by its round-the-clock Situation Centre, on early action, on conflict resolution and on conflict prevention. We support your plan to strengthen these tools further. However, we recognise that all this support and all these resources, can only be as effective as we, the participating States, allow them to be. We must all demonstrate the political will to use these resources and to fully implement the OSCE principles and commitments that underpin comprehensive security for all our citizens.

The CPC has again provided invaluable support to the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) this year. We remain concerned that OSCE's politico-military acquis continues to be undermined by partial and non-compliance. We want to see these conventional arms control and confidence and security building measures (CSBM) agreements function to their full potential, to the benefit of all participating States, including through long-overdue Vienna document modernisation. We continue to value the Structured Dialogue as an added value forum to discuss current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area.

We thank you and your team for your significant contribution to the overall work of the OSCE.

[Our work helps define NLC goals](#)

News story

An outline of the academic engagement programme commissioned by the NLC



The National Leadership Centre (NLC) was launched by the government in 2019 to support public service leaders across the country. The Centre runs leadership programmes, brings leaders together in a network of peers, and funds research and evaluation studies on leadership.

In early 2019, the NLC commissioned us to help define their research goals and engage experts on some of their key questions. They wanted a better handle on the evidence about leadership to help shape their work, and to build a network of academics to help the Centre to become a hub for leadership expertise.

We led a programme of academic engagement to achieve these goals. We mapped a network of 60 UK experts on leadership, organised four workshops around the country, commissioned a set of 17 accessible articles, and filmed a set of video interviews. You can read the articles we commissioned and edited [here](#).

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[Impact in Policy Making](#)

News story

The Open Innovation Team's impact in UK Government policy making



Over the past five years, the Open Innovation Team has delivered more than 75 policy projects for 13 government departments and public sector organisations. We've collaborated with over 1,000 experts from more than 350 organisations, supporting policy development in a wide range of areas, including education, growth, justice, policing, housing, foreign policy, health, youth services, social care and civil service reform.

In the last three years alone, our work has featured in at least 14 ministerial submissions and meetings, 10 publications on gov.uk, and three green/white papers. Some of the outputs we've recently provided expert

insight and evidence for include, the Geospatial Commission's work on the [Future of Data and Transport](#), and the [Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy](#).

The teams we work with have emphasised how we've helped them gain new perspectives on their policy issues, developed and broadened their expert networks, and better understand the expert evidence in their policy areas.

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[London commuter sees his sentence extended for sexual assault](#)

News story

Gurvinder Singh has seen his sentence increased following an intervention by the then Solicitor General, the Rt Hon Lucy Frazer QC MP.



A London commuter has seen his sentence increased following an intervention by the then Solicitor General, the Rt Hon Lucy Frazer QC MP.

On separate occasions, Gurvinder Singh, 36, sexually assaulted two women whilst travelling on public transport in London. The offender was later identified from CCTV footage, as well as from DNA obtained from the victims.

On 2 July 2021, Singh was convicted of two counts of sexual assault and handed a 12-month community order, with an additional 40 hours of rehabilitation activity.

Following a referral to the Attorney General's Office, his sentence was referred to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence (ULS) scheme.

On 23 September 2021, in a hearing at the Court of Appeal, his sentence was

found to be unduly lenient and increased to 12 months' imprisonment, suspended for 18 months.

After the hearing at the Court of Appeal, the Solicitor General, Alex Chalk MP, said:

"Sexual assaults on public transport are devastating for victims, and create fear for other members of the travelling public. It was right to challenge such a lenient sentence, and I am glad that the Court of Appeal has increased the penalty so that justice can be served."

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