



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

FCDO Correspondence Team
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Tel: 0207 008 5000

Email:

fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/fcdo

Sally Higgins

Our ref: CTO2022/07425

14 March 2022

Dear Sally Higgins,

Thank you for your correspondence about Russia and Ukraine. The Correspondence Team in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) has been asked to reply.

We hold the people of Ukraine in our hearts and minds at this terrible moment in their nation's history.

Russia's assault on Ukraine is an unprovoked, premeditated attack against a sovereign democratic state. The UK and our international partners stand united in condemning the Russian government's reprehensible actions, which are an egregious violation of international law and the UN Charter.

The Prime Minister has spoken to President Zelenskyy of Ukraine and assured him of the unwavering support of the United Kingdom. The UK has been the leading European supporter of Ukraine's sovereignty. We are providing a range of support to Ukraine, including to enhance Ukraine's defence capability. Since 2015, British troops have trained more than 22,000 members of the Ukrainian armed forces. We are also providing £1.7 billion of financial support, to help develop Ukraine's naval capability. The EU, Germany, Sweden and others are following our lead in providing defensive weapons to Ukraine.

We have always been clear there would be massive consequences and a severe cost for any Russian military incursion into Ukraine. As a result of their actions, we have launched an unprecedented package of further sanctions that we have developed with our international partners.

At the G7 meeting on 24 February, the Prime Minister and other leaders agreed to work in unity to maximise the economic price that Putin will pay for his aggression. Countries that together comprise about 50% of the world economy are now engaged in maximising the economic pressure on one which makes up a mere 2%.

For our part, the UK has implemented the largest and most severe package of economic sanctions that Russia has ever seen. It sent a clear message that the UK will use its economic heft to inflict pain on Russia and degrade its strategic interests. These powers will enable us to totally exclude Russian banks from the UK financial system, which is of course by far the largest in Europe, stopping them from accessing Sterling and clearing payments through the UK. We have imposed sanctions on President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. We have also committed to removing selected Russian banks from SWIFT and we have acted with the US, EU, Japan and Canada to cut Russia's Central Bank off from our markets.

These powers will also enable us to ban Russian state and private companies from raising funds in the UK, banning dealing with their securities and making loans to them. Overall, we will be imposing asset freezes on hundreds of entities and individuals. This includes all the major manufacturers that support President Putin's war machine; and also banning Aeroflot from the UK.

The [Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation \(OFSI\)](#), which is part of HM Treasury, helps to ensure that financial sanctions are properly understood, implemented and enforced in the United Kingdom. Further information on [UK sanctions relating to Russia](#) and the [UK Sanctions List](#) of which individuals/entities have been sanctioned by the UK government can be found on gov.uk.

We are not acting alone. The UK and its allies have been consistently clear that any Russian invasion of Ukraine would carry a severe cost. We agreed this at the G7 foreign ministers meeting in Liverpool in December and confirmed this at the G7 leaders call on 24 February.

The UK's differences are with the aggressive policies of the Russian Government, not with the Russian people. The UK wants an improved bilateral relationship, but this depends on Russia de-escalating, withdrawing its troops from Ukraine and abiding by its international commitments.

The UK is supporting Ukraine's economy – including through the most recent pledge of an extra \$100 million (£75 million) to assist the people of Ukraine, bringing the total UK support during the current Ukraine crisis to £395 million. This includes £220 million of humanitarian aid which will be used to save lives, protect vulnerable people inside the country and in the wider region, and £100 million of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) to bolster the Ukrainian economy and reduce Ukraine's reliance on Russian gas imports. This is in addition to guarantees of up to \$500 million in development bank loans. Thanks to the incredible generosity from the UK public, the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal has already raised over £130 million. The UK has to date aid-matched £25 million – our largest ever aid-match contribution.

Russian incursion will have a massive human cost, and the potential for large-scale loss of life, displacement, and destruction to vital civilian infrastructure including schools and hospitals - in freezing conditions. This package of support will help partners stand up their response to the deteriorating situation in Ukraine and the

region, ensuring Ukrainians have access to basic necessities and medical supplies including; medicines, syringes, dressings and wound care packs, as people are forced to flee from their homes and seek safety.

It is also essential that donors and Allies speak as one in warning Russia's government of the humanitarian consequences of incursion, and ensuring full humanitarian access, observance for International Humanitarian Law (including protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure), and respect for human rights at all times.

On 4 March, the Ukraine Family Scheme was opened. This will significantly expand the ability of British Nationals and people settled in the UK to bring family members to the UK, extending eligibility to adult parents, grandparents, children over 18, siblings, and all of their immediate family members. Under this scheme, people will be able to live, work and study in the UK and access public funds for 36 months (3 years). More information and link to the online application are on the [Apply for a Ukraine family scheme visa page](#) on gov.uk.

We know that people want to do their bit to support those who have been forced to flee their homes in Ukraine. More information on [what people can do to help](#) is available on gov.uk.

The UK remains firmly supportive of Ukraine's NATO membership aspirations in line with the 2008 Bucharest NATO Summit Declaration, which affirmed that Georgia and Ukraine will one day join the Alliance. Ukraine needs to persevere with her defence and security reforms as the route towards membership. Ukraine has the right to choose its own alliances, and its own future, and Russia has, by its own repeated agreement, no right to dictate that choice.

To ensure the security and defence of all our Allies, we will continue to work together to make sure that Russia cannot further undermine European stability.

The UK and the international community stand against this naked aggression, and for freedom, democracy, and the sovereignty of nations around the world. We will continue to support the Ukrainian government in the face of this assault on their sovereignty and territorial integrity. We have a clear mission: diplomatically, politically, economically – and eventually, militarily – this hideous and barbaric venture of Vladimir Putin must end in failure.

Yours sincerely,

FCDO Correspondence Team
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office