

Putin's contempt for human life is inexcusable: UK statement to the OSCE

Thank you, Mr Chair. In recent weeks, the UK and others have come together to condemn Russia's attacks on Ukraine's civilians and critical national infrastructure. Sadly, this week we must again call out these attacks and Russia's appalling lack of respect for human life.

Russia's systematic targeting of energy infrastructure since 10 October has resulted in damage to over 400 energy facilities, affecting around 4.5 million people. Combined with the targeting of hydroelectric dams and reports of damage to vital water supply infrastructure, countless civilians have been left for prolonged periods without electricity and water.

The purpose of these attacks is clear. Russia is seeking to instil fear and disrupt the lives of innocent civilians, plunging millions into darkness and denying access to fundamental necessities such as heating and clean water.

As civilians continue to suffer at the hand of President Putin, Ukraine's health care system has shown tremendous resilience. However, it is under increasing strain from the massive power outages and from regular attacks on healthcare facilities and healthcare workers – as of 7 November, the World Health Organisation reports 580 verified attacks on healthcare facilities and an estimated 14.5 million people in Ukraine in need of health assistance.

Mothers are giving birth in hospital basements and makeshift facilities, whilst shelling and drone attacks continue around them; oncology centres providing life-saving care for cancer patients have been destroyed; and hundreds of health professionals have been killed or injured. Accessing essential services is becoming more and more challenging for a growing number of people, in areas of active conflict and those living under temporarily Russian-controlled areas, where a third of Ukrainians are unable to get the medicines they need.

No healthcare professional should have to deliver care in these terrible circumstances, but this is what nurses, doctors, ambulance technicians and medical teams are doing on a daily basis. Healthcare facilities, and their staff, must be protected. Intentionally directing attacks at civilians and civilian infrastructure, including health care facilities, violates international humanitarian law. Russia knows its attacks will impact the most vulnerable. It is morally bankrupt, and it must stop immediately.

Mr Chair, the contempt Russia has shown for human life is inexcusable. Evidence of Russia's horrific treatment of the Ukrainian people is mounting, including in relation to Russia's use of 'filtration'. A Human Rights Watch report, outlining the systematic nature and scope of the filtration process inflicted upon thousands, describes it as "punitive and abusive". The report also notes that those individuals that 'fail' the filtration process are at risk of grave harm, including torture or other ill-treatment. The practice is

barbaric.

We continue to see horrific reports of the treatment of prisoners of war in temporarily Russian controlled areas. The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine has documented that prisoners of war in temporarily Russian controlled areas have suffered torture and ill treatment; some detention facilities lack adequate food, water, healthcare and sanitation. The situation in the penal colony in Olenivka is particularly dire, with prisoners reportedly suffering from infectious diseases, including hepatitis A and tuberculosis. Mariana Mamonova, a military medic, described how she was held in Olenivka for six months while pregnant, where they denied her access to healthy food, fresh air and threatened to take away her baby.

We remind Russia again of its obligations under the third Geneva Convention – that all prisoners of war should be treated humanely, afforded appropriate medical treatment and basic necessities, and be protected from humiliating and degrading treatment. Those responsible must be held to account for any violations.

Mr Chair, we remain in awe of the bravery and resilience of the Ukrainian people in the face of Russia's unprovoked aggression. The UK is proud to support the [OSCE's Support Programme for Ukraine](#) in its efforts to combat some of the immediate challenges to civilians posed by the war. We and the international community will not let Ukraine face these challenges alone. We will stand by Ukraine now and until Ukraine prevails.

[UK sanctions on Russia top £18 billion for the first time](#)

- New figures released today reveal the full effect of UK sanctions on Russia – with over £18 billion frozen and reported to OFSI.
- The figure, released in OFSI's Annual Review, is around £6 billion more than held across all other UK sanctions regimes.
- The UK and its allies have imposed the most severe sanctions Russia has ever faced, sanctioning more than 1,200 individuals and more than 120 entities.

New data released today (10th) reveals the full effect of UK sanctions on Russia – with £18.39 billion of Russian assets frozen and reported to the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI).

The figure, released for the first time in OFSI's Annual Review, demonstrates the key role the UK has played in standing up to Russia following their illegal invasion of Ukraine. It is nearly £6 billion pounds more than reported across all other UK sanctions regimes.

In conjunction with its allies, the UK has imposed the most severe sanctions Russia has ever faced, designating more than 1,200 individuals, over 120 entities and freezing the assets of 19 Russian banks with global assets of £940 billion since they began their illegal invasion.

Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Andrew Griffith said:

"As staunch defenders of democracy, the UK is united with its allies in opposition to Russia's barbaric and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. We have imposed the most severe sanctions ever on Russia and it is crippling their war machine.

"To make sure we are doing all we can to keep the pressure on Putin's corrupt cronies we are more than doubling OFSI's headcount. Our message is clear: we will not allow Putin to succeed in this brutal war."

FCDO Minister of State, Anne-Marie Trevelyan said:

"When Putin invaded Ukraine he assumed we would sit idly by. He was wrong. Instead, the UK and our international partners have stood shoulder to shoulder with Ukraine in their fight for territorial integrity and political independence.

"Today's report shows the scale of UK sanctions – freezing over £18 billion of Russian assets to stop Putin funding his war machine. We will continue to ramp up our sanctions to exert maximum economic pressure on the Russian regime until Ukraine prevail."

By implementing these sanctions alongside our international partners, the UK is degrading Russia's military machine. Despite the Russian regime's attempts to firefight, GDP is predicted to decline by up to 6.2% in 2022 when compared to pre-invasion forecasts, and decline a further 2.3% in 2023. 60% of Russia's foreign reserves have been immobilised, Russia's exports have plummeted, and imports of critical goods have dropped by 68% from sanctioning countries.

The £18.39 billion figure is a significant contribution to the \$30 billion of frozen Russian assets reported by the Russian elites, proxies, and oligarchs (REPO) taskforce in June. All this is having a major impact on the Russian military complex – vital semiconductors are now being scavenged from fridges and soviet-era equipment is being sent to the front line.

In order to ensure that the most stringent financial sanctions in history on Russia have not adversely affected the UK's private and voluntary sectors, where appropriate OFSI has worked with businesses and granted general and specific licences allowing UK businesses to move away from Russian facing positions without an increased risk.

These licences have been granted where sufficient evidence has been provided and are often for basic needs and legal fees. The careful granting of these licences by OFSI in line with legislation, has helped UK individuals and businesses to function throughout a challenging period and helped maintain the UK's place as a centre for financial stability.

The Russia sanctions regime will continue to play a major part of the OFSI's work for as long as Putin's illegal war against Ukraine continues. The government has committed to ensuring that OFSI is fully resourced, more than doubling its headcount.

Notes to editors

- The Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation annual review was published on Thursday 10th November, here: [OFSI Annual Review – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114222/OFSI_Annual_Review_2022.pdf)
- The total of £18.39 billion consists of the value of Russian assets frozen under the UK's sanction regime (between 22 February and 20 October 2022) and reported to OFSI where the relevant person or organisation has been formed or carried out business in the UK.
- Statement from the Russian Elites, Proxies, and Oligarchs (REPO) Task Force can be found [here](#).

Asset freeze

- An asset freeze prevents any UK citizen, or any business in the UK, from dealing with any funds or economic resources which are owned, held or controlled by the designated person. UK financial sanctions apply to all persons within the territory and territorial sea of the UK and to all UK persons, wherever they are in the world. It also prevents funds or economic resources being provided to or for the benefit of the designated person.

Travel ban

- A travel ban means that the designated person must be refused leave to enter or to remain in the United Kingdom, providing the individual is an excluded person under section 8B of the Immigration Act 1971.

Transport sanctions

- Recently introduced powers make it a criminal offence for any Russian aircraft to fly or land in the UK and give the government powers to remove aircraft belonging to designated Russian individuals and entities from the UK aircraft register, even if the sanctioned individual is not on board. Russian ships are also banned from UK ports.

[Floodcheck Academy Limited: information for creditors and investors](#)

News story

Information for creditors and investors of Floodcheck Academy Limited in liquidation.



On 21 September 2022, a winding up order was made against Floodcheck Academy Limited in the High Court of Justice. The court appointed the Official Receiver, Joseph Sullivan, as the Liquidator.

The Official Receiver's role and duties as Liquidator are to investigate the company's affairs, realise any asset for the benefit of creditors and determine the director's conduct.

Information for creditors and investors

You will need to [register as a creditor](#) in the liquidation if:

- You have not been paid for goods or services you've supplied to Floodcheck Academy Limited (in liquidation)
- You have paid Floodcheck Academy Limited (in liquidation) for goods or services that you have not received
- You are an investor in Floodcheck Academy Limited (in liquidation).

To register as a creditor you will need to complete a [Proof of Debt form](#) which you should then email: ORLondonSouthend@insolvency.gov.uk quoting the reference: LQD6627795 – FLOODCHECK ACADEMY LIMITED

Due to the high volume of creditors, the Official Receiver will not be able to respond or acknowledge receipt. Creditors and investors will be updated when appropriate by way of a further report to creditors.

Company's affairs and director conduct

The Official Receiver welcomes any new information that may assist his statutory enquiries into the company's affairs and director conduct. Please write to ORLondonSouthend@insolvency.gov.uk quoting the reference LQD6627795 – FLOODCHECK ACADEMY LIMITED.

The Official Receiver will contact anyone he requires further information from.

Published 10 November 2022

[UK Ranger Unit serves alongside US Special Operations Forces](#)

Press release

UK Rangers have deployed alongside US Special Operations Forces for the first time, in California's Mojave Desert.



- UK Ranger Battalion deploys alongside US Special Operations Forces for the first time
- United Kingdom, United States and Australia showcase pioneering equipment during Project Convergence exercise in California
- Multi-national demonstration promotes rapid data sharing and decision making

The Rangers work with the Special Operations Forces and the US 75th Ranger Regiment to explore the deployment and use of the British Army's new Special Operations Brigade and Ranger Regiment.

Allies from the UK, US and Australia demonstrated the integration of cutting-edge technology alongside key industry leaders, in a series of experimental

battlefield firsts.

The event, Project Convergence 2022, examines how using artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and autonomy can improve battlefield situational awareness, connecting sensors with shooters and accelerating decision-making speeds.

At Fort Irwin in California around 300 technologies were showcased and assessed, including long-range fires, uncrewed aerial systems, autonomous fighting vehicles and next-generation sensors.

Delivering the UK element of the project, 450 soldiers from the British Army, under the UK's 20th Armoured Combat Battle Team (20 ABCT), were supported by more than 20 scientists and engineers from the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory.

Experimentation, science and research enables better data capture and analysis to identify successes and address challenges for future war fighting.

Attending the project, Defence Procurement Minister Alex Chalk said:

Delivering on our ambitions outlined in Future Soldier and the Integrated Review, Project Convergence highlights the progress the British Army is making to being more lethal, agile and expeditionary force, through key collaboration with our longstanding international allies and partners.

The project also saw a number of other firsts for the UK:

- A UK Air Surveillance Radar (Giraffe) has connected to a US network to control and manage targets (normally a US only system) for battlefield data sharing.
- ZODIAC, a UK artificial intelligence enabled decision support system that can help Commanders make decisions, was connected to US 'sensors', feeding information into a multinational intelligence network.
- A US F35 fighter jet has cued fires for a UK GMLRS missile platform, without the requirement for a person in the loop, cutting the strike time down from minutes to seconds.
- The UK have manufactured US parts using 3D printing, helping them resupply at reach and sharing technical designs of vehicle and weapon parts.

- UK HoloLens (augmented reality lenses) have been used to help logisticians and maintainers fix equipment supported by a technical expert on the other side of the world.

Through the tri-national collaboration, Project Convergence has placed a renewed emphasis on how data can be transformed into information which can be exploited across weapons systems for the UK, our allies and partners.

Published 10 November 2022

[Restaurateurs disqualified after abusing Bounce Back Loans](#)

Bounce Back Loans were government-backed loans designed to support businesses through the Covid pandemic. Under the rules of the scheme, companies were allowed to borrow up to 25% of their 2019 turnover, up to a maximum of a £50,000.

Malcolm Forbes, Avin Habash and Kamil Ozkan were directors of three separate companies that applied for Bounce Back Loans. But each caused their companies to abuse the covid support scheme, which was only uncovered after the companies entered into liquidation.

Malcolm Forbes, from Portsmouth, was the sole director of Nija Bite Limited, which operated as a takeaway called Iroko Lounge on Onslow Road in Southampton and a mobile food stand.

Enquiries uncovered that Malcolm Forbes received the maximum £50,000 Bounce Back Loan having submitted an application that declared a turnover of £225,000. However, Malcolm Forbes grossly exaggerated the company's turnover, which was closer to £24,000 and this would have only entitled Nija Bite Limited to a £6,000 loan.

Liverpool's Avin Habash, was the sole director of Hot Spot Liverpool Limited, which traded as Hot Spot, a takeaway in Liverpool city centre on Temple Court

Avin Habash caused the company to apply for a Bounce Back Loan and secured £50,000 claiming a turnover of £200,000. Investigators, however, found that Hot Spot Liverpool Limited's actual turnover was closer to £100,000, which should have only entitled the eatery to circa £26,000.

And Kamil Ozkan, from West Rainton, Houghton le Spring, was the sole director of Papa Peterlee Limited, trading as Martinos Italian Kitchen on York Road in Peterlee.

Investigators discovered that Papa Peterlee Limited successfully received a £50,000 Bounce Back Loan. But instead of using the loan for the economic benefit of the company, Kamil Ozkan caused the company to transfer up to £37,500 to his personal account.

The 3 restaurateurs are now banned from directly, or indirectly, becoming involved in the promotion, formation or management of a company, without the permission of the court.

Mike Smith, Chief Investigator for the Insolvency Service, said:

Covid support schemes provided a lifeline to businesses, protecting jobs and preserving businesses. However, Malcolm Forbes, Avin Habash and Kamil Ozkan flagrantly abused that support when they either personally benefited from the loan or exaggerated turnover to secure more money than they were entitled to.

The three restaurateurs have now been removed from the corporate arena and creditors will be protected from any further harm. Their bans clearly demonstrate that we will not hesitate to take action against directors who have abused Covid-19 financial support like this.

Malcolm Forbes

Malcolm Forbes is from Portsmouth and his date of birth is July 1963.

Papa Peterlee Limited (company number: 11187602)

Malcolm Forbes had his 10-year disqualification accepted by the Secretary of State 25 August 2022

Avin Habash

Avin Habash is from Liverpool and her date of birth is January 1992

Hot Spot Liverpool Limited (Company number = 11617917)

Kamil Ozkan had her 10-year disqualification undertaking accepted by the Secretary of State on 16 September 2022.

Kamil Ozkan

Kamil Ozkan is from West Rainton, Houghton le Spring and his date of birth is September 1986.

Nija Bite Limited (company number: 11959896)

Kamil Ozkan had his 6-year disqualification undertaking accepted by the Secretary of State on 6 September 2022.

About disqualifications

Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings. Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of restrictions](#).

[Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct](#).

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on: