



**Baroness Williams of
Trafford
Minister of State**

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All Peers
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By Email Only

3 March 2022

My Lords,

**RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE: NATIONALITY AND BORDERS BILL:
GOVERNMENT AMENDMENTS AT REPORT STAGE**

The United Kingdom stands firmly with the people of Ukraine in their struggle with Vladimir Putin's monstrous and unjustified war. Britain is stepping up to play its part in responding to the terrible situation on the ground in Ukraine and taking action to pressure the Putin regime through the toughest possible sanctions.

Related to that package of measures, I am writing about the Nationalities and Borders Bill, where I intend to bring forward a report stage amendment to allow visa penalties to be applied to countries that have taken action which threatens international peace and security; have led, or are likely to lead, to armed conflict; or breach or will likely breach international humanitarian law.

The visa penalties comprise slowing down the processing of applications; requiring applicants to an additional charge or, critically, suspending the granting of entry clearance completely.

These powers are scalable and include the ability to suspend the granting of entry clearance to all categories of visa applications from Russian nationals. Doing so will send a strong signal to the Putin regime that they cannot invade their peaceful neighbour and expect business as usual.

I will deploy these powers in relation to the invasion of Ukraine as soon as possible after the the Nationality and Borders Bill receives Royal Assent. The sooner that happens, the sooner this House and all Members can collectively act.

These measures will form part of a wider package of sanctions by the UK Government targeting Russia, in response to the invasion of Ukraine.

Exceptions will apply, for example, to comply with international legal obligations, as well as for compelling or compassionate cases.

I look forward to continuing to work with all colleagues to deliver this important legislation and further discussing these critical issues as the Bill moves through Parliament.

A copy of this letter will be deposited in the House Libraries.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S'.

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