



Home Office

Lord Sharpe of Epsom OBE
Lords Minister for the Home Office

2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/home-office

Lord Purvis of Tweed
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Dear Lord Purvis,

24 January 2023

I committed to respond to you regarding questions you raised during the debate on 18 January in Committee Day Five of the National Security Bill. I have sought to address these below.

You asked for further details regarding who is currently sanctioned by the UK and has received a tier one visa. The names of those included on the list of sanctioned individuals is a matter of public record. By contrast, the Home Office does not routinely comment on the immigration status of individuals. I can say that ten individuals included on the sanctions list have at some point held leave to enter or remain under the Tier 1 (Investor) route, but I am not in a position to disclose whom those individuals are.

You also highlighted that the Government published that the amount of Russian money in September 2021 that was frozen, not seized, was £44.5 million. As you note, the most recent figures, since sanctions have been put in place against Russia over the last year, show that figure is now £18 billion. You asked for a breakdown and more information regarding the difference between the two figures.

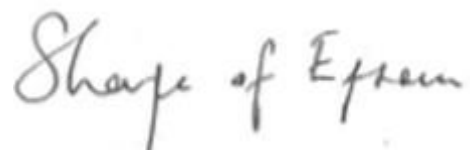
The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) is responsible for overall sanctions policy in the UK, including the making of new sanctions designations. HM Treasury, through the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI) is responsible for implementing the financial sanctions provisions of UK autonomous sanctions regimes in support of foreign policy and national security objectives.

Each year OFSI carries out a review of frozen assets held by UK institutions. Anyone who holds frozen assets (including funds and economic resources) is required to report them to OFSI. In addition to the annual frozen assets review, certain firms have an obligation to report to OFSI, as soon as practicable, information concerning funds or economic resources belonging to, owned, held or controlled by a designated person. As a result of this, from 22 February to 20 October 2022, a total of £18.39 billion in frozen funds were reported to OFSI as being held by or on behalf of persons designated under the Russia sanctions regime. This represents a very significant increase on the reported frozen assets for the Russia regime in September 2021 (£44.5million).

Thank you for your constructive contributions to Committee debate across all five days. I look forward to continuing to work with you as we progress this important piece of legislation through Parliament.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharpe of Epsom". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and legible.

Lord Sharpe of Epsom OBE