



Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley DBE MP
Chair, Home Affairs Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

21 February 2025

Dear Dame Karen,

Policy change to allow the exclusion of elites linked to the Russian state

On Monday 24 February, the Government is announcing an important reform to the Home Office's exclusion policy. Under new measures, the Home Office will expand the criteria for exclusion to ensure that while Russia remains an acute national security threat to the UK, exclusion from the UK may be considered if the individual is part of an elite linked to the Russian state.

This category will consider any individual who:

- provides significant support to the Russian state,
- and/or owes their significant status or wealth to the Russian state,
- and/or has access to the highest levels of the Russian state.

The entry of elites linked to the Russian state into the UK may threaten our national security and our national interests. Elites linked to the Russian state may pose a number of specific harms, including but not limited to acting as tools of influence for the Russian state; opening the UK to accusations of hypocrisy for welcoming these individuals while condemning the actions of the Russian state; and enabling the continuation and expansion of the Russian state's aggression or malign activities.

The UK has been steadfast in its response to Russia's illegal war in Ukraine and its malign activities in the UK. We have imposed extensive sanctions on elites linked to the Russian State, strengthened our law enforcement capabilities through the NCA's Combatting Kleptocracy Cell and closed the legislative loopholes open to money laundering by criminal actors.

Despite these measures, there are members of the elite who continue to travel to the UK while denouncing the West in public life, seeking to enjoy in private the benefits here, which they deprive others of in Russia. The nature of the Russian state, with its lack of rule of law, free media, or delineation between the public and private realms, means that we can no longer rely on existing exclusions measures, such as grounds of corruption or involvement in serious crime to deal with corrupt elites. We must go further to ensure that

those who pose a threat to UK interests, because they enable, support or are indebted to the Kremlin regime, are prevented from accessing the UK.

The measures we are introducing today will expand our exclusion criteria to ensure that the most senior and influential individuals linked to Russian State – whether through financial, political or governmental ties – can be stopped from entering the UK when that is what our interests demand.

Our reforms will:

- **Strengthen the criteria for exclusion:** Any member of the elite with known links to the Kremlin may be subject to exclusion from the UK.
- **Enhance information sharing:** Working closely with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office as well as our operational partners, the Home Office will ensure that exclusion decisions are based on the most robust and up-to-date information available.
- **Signal the UK's position on Kremlin-linked elites:** These reforms make the Government's view clear that elites linked to the Russian state are not welcome in the UK.

This policy has been subject to extensive internal and external review. These new measures will not target ordinary Russians, but will focus on those who are prop up the Russian regime, wherever they are born. The Government has been clear: we do not take issue with the Russian people, but with the actions of their Government.

On the third-year anniversary of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Government remains resolute in its support for Ukraine and in standing with our allies against Russian aggression both at home and abroad. These measures send a clear message: the UK is not a haven for those who enable or profit from the Kremlin regime.

I will arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Jarvis', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dan Jarvis MBE MP
Security Minister