



Home Office

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Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP
Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee
House of Commons
London
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By Email Only

1 April 2025

Dear Dame Karen,

Foreign Influence Registration Scheme

I am giving you advance notice, in confidence, of a Parliamentary statement on the implementation of the Foreign Influence Registration Scheme (FIRS) which I will be making today (1 April 2025).

FIRS forms a crucial part of the National Security Act which was brought into force in 2023. Parts 1 to 3 of the Act came into force in December 2023 and have been transformative for our operational partners, with six charges already brought against those conducting activity for, or on behalf of, foreign states acting within the UK. A further five individuals involved in these cases have been charged with other offences.

FIRS will provide transparency of foreign state influence in the UK in the areas where we most need it. The political influence tier of the scheme, which applies to all states, will allow the UK to be better informed about the nature, scale and extent of foreign influence in the UK's political system and will strengthen its resilience against covert foreign influence. And under the enhanced tier we can specify those foreign powers who pose the greatest threat to our society to ensure transparency of a much broader range of activities. Criminal offences for failure to comply with the requirements of the scheme will provide vital tools to our law enforcement agencies in protecting the UK.

As part of my Parliamentary statement, I will make the following specific announcements:

- That the Government intends to specify Russia on the enhanced tier of the scheme, specifically, the head of the state of Russia, the Government, agencies and authorities, and several political parties which are controlled by Russia, including the United Russia Party. They will join Iran whose addition to the enhanced tier I announced last month.
- That the Government then intends for the scheme to go live on 1 July, including the Political Tier and Russia and Iran on the Enhanced Tier.

At the same time the Government will be laying in Parliament the necessary draft regulations to bring these announcements into force Both Houses of Parliament now have the opportunity to consider and debate these regulations, under the affirmative procedure.

The Government will also publish comprehensive guidance online to support Parliament's consideration of the regulations and to support potential registrants and others to better understand their responsibilities under the scheme in preparation for its launch.

I look forward to working with Parliament, and the Home Affairs Select Committee to debate and pass these regulations to enable the implementation of this vital scheme.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely

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

Dan Jarvis MBE MP
Security Minister