



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Lord David Cameron
Secretary of State for Foreign,
Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth and
Development Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

House of Commons,
London,
SW1A0AA

31 January 2024

Dear The Rt Hon Lord Cameron,

Re: Joint Letter Calling for Russia to be designated a state sponsor of terrorism

The bombardment of Kyiv and other cities in Ukraine over the Christmas and New Year period once again highlighted the indiscriminate nature of the unprovoked Russian aggression.

The people of Ukraine remain defiant in the face of Russian attacks, but after two years of full-scale war, civilians' lives are increasingly being ruined by Putin's barbarism. Additional funding by the UK Government last week was welcome, but as the two-year anniversary of the full-scale invasion approaches and after nearly nine years of Russian attacks, we remain appalled by the actions of Russia.

Therefore, we are making the clear message that Russia should be named as a state sponsor of terrorism by the UK Government.

The UK can become the first major Western country to proscribe the Russian state. The European Parliament passed a motion calling Russia a state sponsor of terrorism in November 2022. It follows the UK Government's decision in September 2023 to proscribe Wagner Group as a terrorist organisation. The Wagner Group is a Russian-state-controlled mercenary organisation that has committed barbaric acts both in Ukraine and in at least six African countries including Mali, Libya, Sudan and the Central African Republic.

Since the death of Yevgeny Prigozhin, when Wagner fighters were assimilated into the command structure of the Russian military, it now acts fully as the terrorist arm of the Russian state. A country that continues to commit terrorism against the citizens of Ukraine, which is only rightfully defending its independence against the aggression of its neighbour.

A report published by the UK Friends of Ukraine brings together thousands of acts of terrorism that have been committed by the Russian-state. As of 11 January 2024 the following figures provided by Ukraine are conclusive evidence that Russia is a terrorist state. This includes over 10,000 murdered civilians and 150,000 destroyed civilian buildings.

Actual numbers might be considerably higher, as information from many locations

with intense hostilities is not yet available or confirmed. These numbers are constantly rising as there is no end to Russian terrorism.

By designating Russia a terrorist state, not only will it show international leadership, but could be part of Government legislation to move from the freezing to seizing of Russian assets. More can be done to unlock frozen assets, which could be used to support the reconstruction of Ukraine. The United Kingdom has frozen more than £18 billion in Russian assets since the full-scale invasion.

Parliamentarians could show our continued support for Ukraine by voting to designate Russia a state sponsor of terrorism, while bringing forward the legal plan for moving from freezing to seizing Russian assets and spending the money on needed projects in Ukraine.

We believe it is time the UK Government showed its opposition to state-sponsored terrorism and live up to its commitment as a vital ally of Ukraine. That is why we are calling on the UK Government to recognise and designate Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism.

Kind regards,

Alex Sobel MP

Co-Chair, Ukraine APPG and Member of Parliament for Leeds North West

Bob Seely MP

Co-Chair, Ukraine APPG and Member of Parliament for Isle of Wight

Liam Byrne MP

Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP

Wendy Chamberlain MP

Jonathan Djanogly MP

Allan Dorans MP

Stephen Farry MP

Fabian Hamilton MP

Chris Law MP

Stewart Malcolm McDonald MP

Ian Paisley MP

Sammy Wilson MP

Lord Alton of Liverpool

Baroness Brinton

Lord Foulkes of Cumnock

Baroness Harris of Richmond

Lord Roberts of Belgravia