



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

The Rt Hon. James Cleverly MP
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Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
House of Commons
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02 March 2022

Dear George,

Thank you for your correspondence of 1 March to the Foreign Secretary, on behalf of your constituent, , about Russia and Ukraine. I am replying as the Minister for Europe and North America.

Russia's assault on Ukraine is an unprovoked, premeditated attack against a sovereign democratic state. The UK and our international partners stand united in condemning the Russian government's reprehensible actions, which are an egregious violation of international law and the UN Charter.

When the Prime Minister spoke to President Zelenskyy of Ukraine on 24 February, he assured him of the unwavering support of the United Kingdom. The UK has been the leading European supporter of Ukraine's sovereignty. We are providing a range of support to Ukraine, including to enhance Ukraine's defence capability. Since 2015, British troops have trained more than 22,000 members of the Ukrainian armed forces. We are also providing £1.7 billion of financial support, to help develop Ukraine's naval capability. The EU, Germany, Sweden and others are following our lead in providing defensive weapons to Ukraine.

We have always been clear there would be massive consequences and a severe cost for any Russian military incursion into Ukraine. As a result of their actions, we have launched an unprecedented package of further sanctions that we have developed with our international partners.

At the G7 meeting on 24 February, the Prime Minister and other leaders agreed to work in unity to maximise the economic price that Putin will pay for his aggression. Countries that together comprise about 50% of the world economy are now engaged in maximising the economic pressure on one which makes up a mere 2%.

For our part, on 24 February, the UK announced the largest and most severe package of economic sanctions that Russia has ever seen. It sent a clear message that the UK will use its economic heft to inflict pain on Russia and degrade its strategic interests. These powers will enable us to totally exclude Russian banks from the UK financial system, which is of course by far the largest in Europe, stopping them from accessing Sterling and clearing payments through the UK.

These powers will also enable us to ban Russian state and private companies from raising funds in the UK, banning dealing with their securities and making loans to them. Overall, we will be imposing asset freezes on hundreds of entities and individuals. This includes all the major manufacturers that support Putin's war machine; and also banning Aeroflot from the UK.

We are not acting alone. The UK and its allies have been consistently clear that any Russian invasion of Ukraine would carry a severe cost. We agreed this at the G7 foreign ministers meeting in Liverpool in December and confirmed this at the G7 leaders call on 24 February.

The UK's differences are with the aggressive policies of the Russian Government, not with the Russian people. The UK wants an improved bilateral relationship, but this depends on Russia de-escalating, withdrawing its troops from Ukraine and abiding by its international commitments.

To ensure the security and defence of all our Allies, we will continue to work together to make sure that Russia cannot further undermine European stability.

The UK and the international community stand against this naked aggression, and for freedom, democracy, and the sovereignty of nations around the world. We will continue to support the Ukrainian government in the face of this assault on their sovereignty and territorial integrity. We have a clear mission: diplomatically, politically, economically – and eventually, militarily – this hideous and barbaric venture of Vladimir Putin must end in failure. We hold the people of Ukraine in our hearts and minds at this terrible moment in their nation's history.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Cleverly', written in a cursive style.

The Rt Hon. James Cleverly MP
Minister of State for Europe and North America