



# Treasury Committee

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James Cartlidge MP  
Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury  
HM Treasury

Via email

26 January 2023

Dear James,

## Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation

I am writing to you following your offer during yesterday's [Urgent Question](#) to provide further information regarding media reports<sup>1</sup> that Yevgeniy Prigozhin, the sanctioned founder of the Wagner Group, obtained a specific licence from the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI) to allow him to pay legal fees. It is reported that these fees were used to aid him in bringing an unsuccessful libel action in the UK against a journalist who reported on Mr Prigozhin's activities.

1. Will you ask officials within OFSI to introduce a red flag system in which any sanctions decision (including designation, variation, review, licensing or revocation) relating to Yevgeniy Prigozhin, the Wagner Group and associated persons are brought individually to the attention of the relevant Treasury Minister?
2. What is the nature of the internal review being conducted into the way in which OFSI handles licence applications? When will the review report its findings and how will these be shared with the Committee and the House?

In line with the Committee's usual practice, I will be placing this letter and your response in the public domain. I would be grateful for a reply by Thursday 2 February 2023.

With best wishes,

**Harriett Baldwin MP**  
Chair of the Treasury Committee

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<sup>1</sup> Open Democracy, [Revealed: UK government helped sanctioned Putin ally sue British journalist](#), 23 January 2023; Financial Times, [Wagner Inc: a Russian warlord and his lawyers](#), 24 January 2023