



**Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office**

Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP
Secretary of State for Foreign,
Commonwealth and Development Affairs

King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH
Tel: 0207 008 5000

Email:
fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/fcdo

Lord Ricketts
Chair, EU Security and Justice Sub-
Committee
European Union Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

27 November 2020

Dear Lord Ricketts,

Thank you for your letter of 10 November and your interest in the Government's approach to sanctions. You raise a number of questions which I will address in turn.

Following the end of the Transition Period (TP) on 31 December, the United Kingdom and European Union will pursue independent sanctions policies. The UK will continue to use sanctions as a tool to deliver our foreign policy and national security objectives and promote our values and interests. This will include the introduction of autonomous UK sanctions, as well as continuing to implement United Nations sanctions as part of our UN Charter obligations.

The UK's future relationship with the EU will be based on friendly cooperation between sovereign equals. The UK will continue to discuss foreign policy and national security priorities with the EU and Member States, but we do not see the need for a Treaty to govern our cooperation.

Greater sovereignty means that we can move with greater agility and autonomy where it is in our interests to do so. Equally, international cooperation will remain at the heart of UK sanctions policy, as sanctions are most effective when implemented and enforced collectively. For example, in the recent case of sanctions on Belarus, the UK and Canada imposed targeted sanctions simultaneously, followed closely by the EU and US. We co-ordinate closely with our European and other international partners and will continue to do so.

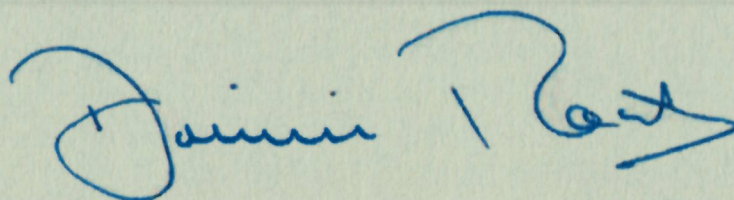
The Global Human Rights ('Magnitsky') sanctions regime, launched on 6 July, showcases our commitment to the rules-based international system and to standing up for victims of human rights violations and abuses around the world. As with all sanctions regimes, we will review the effectiveness of the Global Human Rights (GHR) sanctions regime annually and report to Parliament on the conclusions of each review. We will also lay an annual report outlining the regulations laid during the reporting period with human rights purposes. If the Government determines that it is no longer appropriate to maintain an autonomous sanctions regime, that regime will be removed or amended accordingly. Furthermore, reviews of autonomous sanctions designations will take place every three years.

As I said in the House at the launch of GHR, we strongly support the EU's efforts to establish its own human rights sanctions regime. If such a regime were to come into force in the Transition Period, an Explanatory Memorandum would be submitted in the usual way once the legal instruments are adopted by the Council of the European Union. We stand ready to work with our European partners on future measures once the EU human rights sanctions regime is established. My colleague Minister of State, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, who has responsibility for both Human Rights and Sanctions, also recently had very constructive discussions with Eamon Gilmore, European Union Special Representative for Human Rights on this very issue.

Finally, you rightly note that EU sanctions designations will remain in place until the end of the TP. At the end of the TP the UK's autonomous sanctions regimes, established using statutory instruments made under the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018 (SAML), will fully come into force. At that point we will publish an updated UK sanctions list that will include all those designated under SAML.

The UK will make decisions whether or not to designate each person or entity under powers provided by the Sanctions Act and the relevant sanctions regulations. To transition each EU designation into UK law, UK legal tests must be met. This includes demonstrating that there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the proposed designation meets the designation criteria set out in the relevant Regulations and that designating that person would be appropriate with regards to the regime's purposes as set out in those Regulations. Work to determine which EU listings will be transitioned into UK law is underway. We will publish the list of all those we decide to designate at the end of the Transition Period.

I am copying this letter to Lord Kinnoull, Chair Lords EU Select Committee; Sir William Cash, Chair of the European Scrutiny Committee; Jessica Mulley, Clerk to the European Scrutiny Committee; Tom Tugendhat MP, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee; and Chris Shaw, Clerk to the Foreign Affairs Committee.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dominic Raab', with a stylized flourish at the end.

THE RT HON DOMINIC RAAB MP