



Department for Business & Trade

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Dear Liam,

I write to update you following my letter of 12 February 2026 about a possible export by Cygnet Texkimp to Armenia.

In October 2024, Cygnet Texkimp applied to export carbon fibre production machinery to a new client in Armenia (Rydena). The Export Control Joint Unit (ECJU) determined – incorrectly – that no licence was required (NLR) for any elements of the export. There was, we have now determined, an error in this assessment, as one element of the equipment should have been assessed as subject to control.

Following reporting published in the Guardian earlier this year, which you referenced in your letter of 9 February, ECJU re-examined this case. Following further discussions with the exporter, ECJU has established that a specific component of the export did fall under dual-use controls and therefore require a licence.

Such errors are a regrettable but extremely rare occurrence in the work of our Export Control Joint Unit which, as you know, processes around 16,000 licences each year, each often containing multiple lines of goods, I would like to assure you that – as in every case where a potential error is identified – we have conducted an urgent and thorough review of the relevant assessment processes involved. We have already implemented a number of additional processes to ensure the technical errors that led to the misclassification in this case are not repeated in the future, in some cases building on wider improvements in operational delivery already underway in ECJU.

In the meantime, the company resubmitted a new licence application at the request of ECJU which has now been assessed. The application was then subject to further assessment from officials in MOD, FCDO and DBT. Upon reviewing this advice, I have decided that export of the controlled goods should be refused on the grounds of national security of the UK, and the existence of a risk that the items will be diverted to an undesirable end-user or for an undesirable end use (criteria five and seven of the UK Strategic Export Licensing Criteria).

As I mentioned in my previous letter, Cygnet Texkimp is a company with a fifty-year history in high-tech manufacturing and innovation, which has a long record of compliance with export licences and a constructive relationship with ECJU.

ECJU have notified the company that their export licence application has been refused and, as I referenced in my previous correspondence, I can assure you that no equipment had been exported under this licence prior to the re-assessment of this case.

I hope this response proves helpful to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Bryant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SIR CHRIS BRYANT MP
Minister of State for Trade
Department for Business and Trade