

Matt Western MP
Chair Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy
Houses of Parliament
London
SW1A 0AA

09 June 2026

Dear Matt,

NATIONAL SECURITY (STATE THREATS) BILL

We are writing to inform you that today the Government has introduced the National Security (State Threats) Bill in the House of Commons, as announced in the King's speech.

In recent years we have seen state threats activity grow and evolve.

In 2025, the Director General of MI5 said that the UK had seen a 35% increase in the number of individuals under investigation for state threats from the previous year. Over the same period, MI5 had tracked more than twenty potentially lethal Iran-backed plots. As we have cracked down on foreign intelligence service activity in the UK, states are increasingly turning to proxies to undertake activity on their behalf.

The Government is seeking to introduce crucial new powers to allow us to keep pace with the evolving threat picture.

The Bill provides a new power to disrupt and deter the activities of state and state-linked (non-state) entities and those acting in concert with them. Such a power was recommended by Jonathan Hall KC, the Independent Reviewer of State Threats Legislation, in his report of May 2025 which the Government committed to implementing. The Bill also reflects the Government's manifesto commitment to take the approach used for dealing with terrorism and adapt it to deal with state-based security threats.

Mr Hall rejected the term 'proscription'. As a matter of international law, we can't ban the existence of a foreign state entity. But we can make it impossible for people to advance their malign interests in the UK. That is exactly what this Bill does.

As the existing terrorism proscription regime is not appropriate for dealing with state entities and their activities, this Bill creates a new power for the Secretary of State to designate bodies engaged in state threats activity, subject to the affirmative Parliamentary

process. The Bill itself will not designate individual organisations. As soon as it comes into force next month, the Secretary of State will be able to use these new powers immediately.

Once the Secretary of State has designated a body, new criminal offences will apply. That includes a new offence of supporting a designated body, modelled on the offences in the Terrorism Act 2000. Other offences in the Bill will apply to materially assisting or obtaining material benefits from a designated body, ensuring those acting on behalf of proxy organisations are subject to the same strong criminal sanctions currently in the National Security Act 2023.

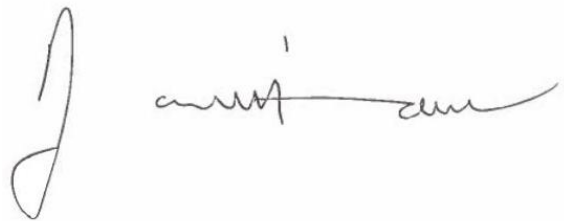
Taken together, this means that those who provide a platform for members of designated organisations to address UK audiences, those who glorify the malign activities of a designated organisation, and those who provide such organisations with material assistance will face the full force of the law, with penalties of up to 14 years in prison to result.

The Government intends to ask Parliament to expedite the passage of this legislation. Given the speed at which the legislation will go through the House, we appreciate your committee will not have time to undertake additional scrutiny during its passage. We would be very happy to brief your committee on the Bill at your earliest convenience including during the Bills passage. Please contact my office through usual channels who would be happy to arrange this.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Jarvis', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dan Jarvis MBE MP
Security Minister
Cabinet Office and Home Office

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hanson', with a horizontal line underneath.

Rt. Hon Lord David Hanson of Flint
Minister of State in the Home Office