



Foreign, Commonwealth
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The Rt Hon the Baroness Anelay of St Johns
Chair, International Relations and Defence
Committee
House of Lords
London SW1A 0AA

26 April 2021

Dear Baroness Anelay,

GLOBAL ANTI-CORRUPTION SANCTIONS

I am writing to update you on the Government's progress in tabling legislation to bring a Global Anti-Corruption sanctions regime into force.

Following the passage of the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018 and the end of the Transition Period, the UK now has an independent sanctions policy. As Foreign Secretary, I am personally committed to using these new powers to defend our interests and values, in line with our approach to the UK's G7 Presidency and the active, internationalist role set out in the Integrated Review. I know that many Members on all sides of the House share my conviction and I welcome the continuing interest from Members in our approach to sanctions.

The launch of the Global Human Rights ('Magnitsky-style') sanctions regime in July 2020 was a landmark moment, giving the UK a powerful new tool to hold to account those involved in serious human rights violations. Since July, the UK has imposed Global Human Rights (GHR) sanctions on 78 individuals and entities involved in serious human rights violations from Russia, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Pakistan, Myanmar, North Korea, Belarus, The Gambia and China. I am proud of the unprecedented action we have taken in coordination with our close friends and allies in response to some of the world's most egregious human rights abuses.

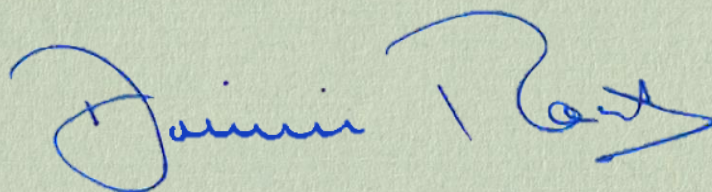
When I launched the GHR sanctions regime I announced in Parliament my intention to pursue an anti-corruption sanctions regime. I am pleased that today we will be in a position to bring forward new Global Anti-Corruption sanctions regulations, under the Sanctions Act powers.

Corruption is one of the key drivers undermining human rights, democracy, development and the rule of law around the world. Wherever it occurs, corruption has a corrosive effect on the functioning of states and markets, trust in institutions and the very fabric of our societies, including here at home. The UK remains a global financial centre and an attractive location for businesses seeking to invest and carry out their legitimate business due to our strong property rights and respect for the rule of law. However, this must not be an open door for corrupt actors seeking to launder and invest their ill-gotten gains, whether in high value property, luxury goods or other services.

The UK is already a global leader in tackling corruption and illicit finance. This new sanctions regime will work alongside the other elements of the UK's Anti-Corruption Strategy and our already world-leading anti-corruption armoury. As with our approach to GHR sanctions, corruption sanctions will be a smart tool allowing the Government to impose asset freezes and travel bans on individuals and organisations involved in serious corruption around the world. The sanctions regime draws on the internationally agreed provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and will enable the UK to target both corrupt actors and their enablers.

Expanding our sanctions framework to cover corruption as well as human rights will give us similar powers to the US and Canada, whose 'Magnitsky' frameworks already combine human rights and corruption. This will enable even closer cooperation and coordination with our likeminded friends and partners.

I recognise that the UK's approach to tackling corruption, as well as the use of sanctions, are areas of Parliamentary interest and Parliamentary colleagues on all sides of the House have been supportive of the UK bringing forward anti-corruption sanctions powers. I am committed to continue working with Parliamentarians and Select Committees to ensure that we are making best use of the Global Anti-Corruption sanctions regime, as well as our broader independent sanctions framework.

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

THE RT HON DOMINIC RAAB MP