



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Tom Tugendhat MP
Chair Foreign Affairs Committee
House of Commons
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Dear Tom,

The situation in Ukraine is urgent and demands a whole of government approach. Although science and technology collaborations have in the past been regarded as outside the political sphere, the situation demands that we demonstrate our rejection of the Russian violation of Ukraine and act in concert with other nations.

The government has taken the decision to suspend publicly funded research and innovation collaborations with Russian Universities and companies of strategic benefit to the Russian state. Our aim is to introduce measures that will negatively impact the Russian state, and individuals and organisations with strong links to the Kremlin, but not to sanction individual Russian scientists or innovators with benign research interests.

We are therefore today taking action:

1. All payments for projects delivered through UK public research funds with a Russian dimension have been paused. I have commissioned an assessment, on top of the existing and strong due diligence processes of UK public research funders, to isolate and freeze activities which benefit the Russian regime.
2. We will not fund any new collaborative projects with Russia through our research and innovation organisations.
3. We have suspended existing government to government dialogue through our science and innovation network team in Russia including their collaborative science projects.
4. Where the UK is a member of multilateral organisations, we are working at pace with partners to respond appropriately – holding Russia to account for its actions while diminishing and isolating its influence.
5. We are standing up a £3m package of support for Ukrainian researchers at risk. We stand with Ukraine, its democratically elected government and its brave people at this awful time.

I am asking our research community to review their partnerships with Russia and take appropriate action, based their governance structures, the international situation and guidance on the government website.



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The UK collaborates within a number of multilateral organisations that execute brilliant science; where Russia is a member, we will work with the multilateral organisations and other partners to agree an appropriate response.

We are urgently exploring ways to provide support for Ukrainian academics, both to enter the UK, and to pursue their valued work.

I express my respect for the science community in Russia, where many have bravely opposed the Putin regime.

I would be delighted to come and discuss this decision and its implications with you and your committee when the situation allows.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE FREEMAN MP
Minister for Science, Research and Innovation