



Department
for Transport

From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

To all UK air and maritime ports

18th March 2022

Aviation and Maritime Sanctions for Russian linked aircraft and vessels

I would like to start by expressing my gratitude for the support shown by airports and ports across the UK to the Government's response to the terrible events in Ukraine.

Russia's assault on Ukraine is an unprovoked, pre-meditated attack against a sovereign democratic state. The UK has already introduced the largest package of sanctions in our history, which we are developing and implementing in partnership with our international allies. Airports and ports have a critical role in ensuring sanctions are enforced to achieve the desired impact. I am writing to you to ask for your continued support in enforcing these sanctions.

Any breach of these sanctions would be a criminal offence with significant criminal penalty attached.

The aviation and maritime sectors are fundamental to connectivity and international trade and we must all play our part in restricting Russia's economic interests and holding the Russian government to account.

My officials are liaising closely with many of you in your efforts to determine aircraft and ships connected with Russia. Thank you for your support and due diligence to date in these investigations and swift detentions of contravening assets so far.

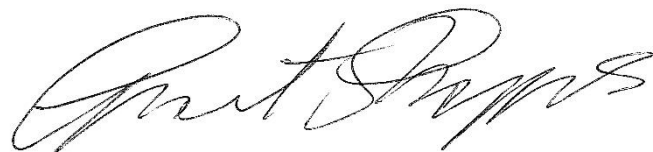
As operators, you have a crucial role to play in ensuring that Russian connected aircraft and ships do not operate in or out of your airports and ports. It is critical that you investigate all aircraft and ships that could be connected to Russia and have the potential to break the sanctions that the UK Government has put in place. Please report these to the Department for Transport at the earliest possible opportunity.

To support the UK's and our allies' approach to dealing with Russia's aggression, I am seeking your assurances that you will conduct thorough investigations into the owners and operators of such aircraft and ships as well as those chartering flights at your airports. I would urge you to be proactive and tireless to prevent any aircraft and ship operating that could be in breach of the sanctions. This includes by exercising your powers to direct aircraft operators and pilots and prohibit the entry of ships into ports where appropriate.

I appreciate some of the concerns that have been raised regarding information available to you and sharing of certain information. You have enormous experience in operations such as these, strong working links and knowledge of many of those operating at your airport and ports. I would look to you to take a common sense approach and work with my officials if you have any queries. I would like to reassure you that any information will be handled appropriately and passed to the appropriate Law Enforcement authority, where needed.

Thank you once again for your continued support in enforcing this internationally significant package of sanctions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant Shapps', written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT