



The Committees on Arms Export Controls

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From: The Rt Hon Sir John Stanley MP, Chairman

23 July 2014

The Rt Hon David Cameron MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

I should be grateful for your clarification of what is now the Government's policy on arms exports to Russia following the answers you gave to 2 questions after your statement on Ukraine (Flight MH17) and Gaza in the House of Commons on 21 July.

In your reply to Harriet Harman you said: "It is time to start to go into the tier 3 sanctions. For instance, future military sales from any country in Europe should not be going ahead. We have already stopped them from Britain." (Col. 1153).

In your reply to Liam Fox you said: "On the issue of defence equipment, we already unilaterally said – as did the US – that we would not sell further arms to Russia." (Col 1156).

Please could you tell me in the light of your replies:

- a) whether all, or only some, of the UK Government's approved 285 extant arms export licences to Russia (as detailed in Evidence pages 498–510 of Volume II of our Report published today) have now been revoked, suspended, or re-issued without Russia as a permitted destination;
- b) if only some, what is the Government's policy for deciding which of these 285 extant licences should be revoked, suspended or re-issued without Russia as a permitted destination, and which should be left extant; and

- c) again, if only some, please could you state precisely – licence-by-licence – which of these 285 extant arms export licences have been revoked, suspended or re-issued without Russia as a permitted destination, and which not.

Please could you also tell me:

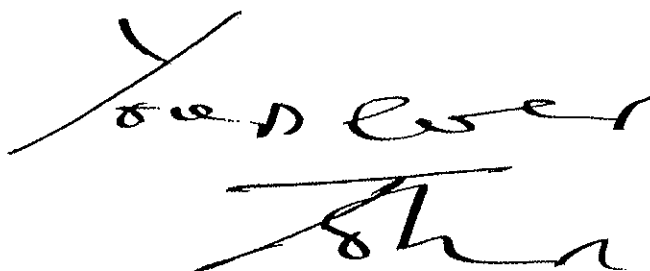
- a) whether the Government has now suspended all, or only some, application processing of licences for direct export to Russia of military and dual-use items, and of licences for exports to third countries of military and dual-use goods for incorporation into equipment for indirect export to Russia; and
- b) if only some, what is the Government's policy for deciding which new licence applications for direct or indirect military and dual-use exports to Russia should be processed or not.

Finally, in the debate on Ukraine on 18 March this year, the then Foreign Secretary, William Hague, announced the Government's policy on the export of military and dual-use items to Russia as follows:

“We believe that in the current circumstances there is a compelling case for EU member states to act on defence export licences. The UK will now, with immediate effect, suspend all extant licences and application processing for licences for direct export to Russia for military and dual-use items destined for units of the Russian armed forces or other state agencies which could be or are being deployed against Ukraine. We will also suspend licences for exports to third countries for incorporation into equipment for export to Russia where there is a clear risk that the end product will be used against Ukraine. All such licences were reviewed following the Prime Minister's statement on 10 March, and so we are able to act immediately. We encourage other European nations to take similar action.” (Col 658).

Please could you tell me whether there has been any change of this policy. If so, what is the change of policy, and what was the date on which that change of policy took place.

I should be grateful for your reply at an early date.



The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read 'Gordon Brown'. There are two distinct lines of handwriting, with the second line being more prominent and possibly representing the surname.