



Department
for Transport

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

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
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Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

To all UK airports and airfields

08 March 2022

Russia's assault on Ukraine is an unprovoked, premeditated attack against a sovereign democratic state. The UK government has shown there would be massive consequences and a severe cost for any Russian military incursion into Ukraine, and, in coordination with our international allies and partners, we are developing an unprecedented package of further sanctions.

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

In these circumstances the Department for Transport does not consider it appropriate for Russian aircraft to continue to enter UK airspace or land at UK airports. With effect from 25th February there has already been legislation in place to prohibit Russian aircraft from UK airspace. From today, the legislation is aligned with other sectors within the sanctions regime with criminal offences attached for breaching them. UK air traffic control and UK airports are not to provide access to any aircraft which they have reason to believe is a Russian aircraft, being:

1. an aircraft registered in Russia,
2. an aircraft owned, operated or chartered by an individual designated in respect of the aviation sanctions under the legislation,
3. an aircraft owned, operated or chartered by persons connected with Russia (as defined in the legislation).

From 1700 today, air traffic control now have powers to issue directions to a pilot or operator of a Russian aircraft not to enter UK airspace, or to leave it by a certain route. Airport operators can direct those persons to take off, or not take off, from one of their airports, or not land there.

Moreover as Secretary of State I can direct air traffic control and airport operators to take steps as just described, and can also direct airport operators to detain a Russian aircraft, or secure that it is moved to a different airport.

Where able and appropriate we will seek to support UK air traffic control and UK airports in their identification of Russian aircraft within scope of the above. As a part of that support, detailed guidance is in the process of being issued. Please note that non-compliance may give rise to a criminal offence.

The new legislation also includes a power for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to refuse to register aircraft on the UK register if on the basis of information provided to the CAA the aircraft appears to be owned, chartered or operated by a person who has been designated for the purposes of aviation sanction. There is also a power for me to issue directions to the CAA to terminate the registration of aircraft on the UK register where the aircraft is owned, chartered or operated by a person who has been designated for the purposes of aviation sanctions.

I would like to thank you for supporting the Government with these new aviation sanctions and playing your part as the UK supports Ukraine in the fight against the Russian invasion.

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