

## Manor of Northstead

News story

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## Russia cut off from UK services

- Foreign Secretary to cut off Russia's access to the UK's management consulting, accounting and PR services
- further sanctions will also hit those behind Putin's vicious disinformation campaign, including RT and Sputnik online
- the UK has now sanctioned over 1600 individuals and entities

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss is today (Wednesday 4 May) announcing a ban on services exports to Russia, cutting them off from doing business with UK sectors that are critical to the Russian economy.

The new measures will mean Russia's businesses can no longer benefit from the UK's world class accountancy, management consultancy, and PR services, which account for 10% of Russian imports in these sectors.

Russia is heavily reliant on Western services companies for the production and export of manufactured goods, and today's measures will further ratchet up economic pressure on Putin's siege economy.

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said:

Doing business with Putin's regime is morally bankrupt and helps fund a war machine that is causing untold suffering across Ukraine. Cutting Russia's access to British services will put more pressure on the Kremlin and ultimately help ensure Putin fails in Ukraine.

Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said:

Our professional services exports are extraordinarily valuable to many countries, which is exactly why we're locking Russia out. By restricting Russia's access to our world-class management consultants, accountants and PR firms, we're ratcheting up economic pressure on the Kremlin to change course.

Following the publication this week of UK-funded research exposing the Kremlin's shadowy troll factory tactics, the Foreign Secretary has also announced 63 new sanctions, many of which hit actors and organisations from mainstream media organisations with asset freezes and travel bans.

This is bolstered by new legislation now in force which means social media, internet services and app store companies must take action to block content from 2 of Russia's major sources of disinformation, RT and Sputnik.

Tech and Digital Economy Minister Chris Philp said:

For too long RT and Sputnik have churned out dangerous nonsense dressed up as serious news to justify Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

These outlets have already been booted off the airwaves in Britain and we've barred anyone from doing business with them. Now we've moved to pull the plug on their websites, social media accounts and apps to further stop the spread of their lies.

Those sanctioned today includes significant individuals at Channel One, a major state-owned outlet in Russia. Channel One is known for spreading disinformation in Russia, justifying Putin's illegal invasion as a 'Special Military Operation'. Those sanctioned include war correspondents who are embedded with Russian forces in Ukraine:

- Evgeny Poddubny, a war correspondent for the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company
- Alexander Kots, a war correspondent for Russian newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda
- Dmitry Steshin, a Russian journalist and special correspondent for Komsomolskaya Pravda

Other strategic propaganda organisations sanctioned include:

- all Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting, a major state-owned

broadcaster that has played a key role in justifying Putin's aggression against Ukraine

- InfoRos, a news agency spreading destabilising disinformation about Ukraine and is alleged to have links to Russian intelligence agencies
- SouthFront, a disinformation site that has spread false information that seeks to justify Russia's invasion of Ukraine
- the Strategic Culture Foundation, an online journal spreading disinformation about Russia's invasion of Ukraine, including the role of Russian forces in the killing of civilians in Bucha

The UK will continue to work closely with social media platforms and allies to uncover, expose, and counter the Kremlin's disinformation operation.

Alongside previous asset freezes against media outlets already in place the UK is systematically shutting out Putin's propaganda machine.

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## [Dame Sue Owen appointed as Non-Executive Chair of the United Kingdom Debt Management Office's Advisory Board](#)

News story

HM Treasury has announced today that Dame Sue Owen has been appointed as the first Non-Executive Chair of the United Kingdom Debt Management Office's (DMO) Advisory Board.



Dame Sue brings a wealth of experience to the role, having previously been a civil servant for 30 years, including 14 at HM Treasury. Amongst other things, she worked on fiscal policy and debt management policy at HM Treasury, including with the DMO between 2002 and 2006.

Most recently she served as the Permanent Secretary at the Department for Culture Media and Sport, from 2013 to 2019.

The appointment of Dame Sue as Non-Executive Chair of the DMO's Advisory Board is for a period of three years.

**The Economic Secretary to the Treasury, John Glen said:**

I am delighted to welcome Dame Sue Owen as the first Non-Executive Chair of the DMO's Advisory Board. Her extensive leadership and governance experience will be a great asset for guiding the DMO's Board in the coming years.

Dame Sue's appointment will help support the DMO to continue delivering its critical objectives, including meeting the government's financing requirements, to the highest standards.

**DMO Chief Executive, Sir Robert Stheeman said:**

I am extremely pleased that Dame Sue Owen has been appointed as the first Non-Executive Chair of the DMO's new Advisory Board. Dame Sue's extensive experience at a senior level in both the public and private sectors will be a huge asset to us. Her previous experience, in particular at HM Treasury, in UK fiscal and debt management policy, means that she will be exceptionally well-placed to make a valuable contribution to the role of the Advisory Board, as a key component of the DMO's governance arrangements.

**Dame Sue Owen said:**

I am delighted to be appointed to Chair the DMO's Advisory Board. The DMO underpins the smooth operation of the public finances. Their work tends to go unrecognised as they are so good at the job; 2020-21 was an astonishing year with gilt sales at a record £485.8 billion and cash management turnover totalling £7.1 trillion, 45% up on the year before.

**Further information**

- The DMO is an Executive Agency of HM Treasury and is responsible for delivering HM Government's debt management and cash management requirements, lending to local authorities, and managing certain public sector funds
- The appointment of a Non-Executive Chair of the Advisory Board was a recommendation included in the Tailored Review of the DMO, published in

June 2021

- The appointment of Dame Sue followed a fair and open recruitment campaign, led by HM Treasury, in accordance with the requirements of the Governance Code for Public Appointments
- Dame Sue Owen DCB is an experienced and respected economist. She spent 10 years as an academic and 30 in the civil service, including 14 at HM Treasury, where she worked with the DMO between 2002-06. She also held senior roles at the FCO, DfID, and DWP, before retiring as Permanent Secretary of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport in April 2019. Dame Sue is now a specialist partner at Flint-Global, a non-executive Director at Pool Re, Pantheon International plc, and Serco plc, and she chairs the Royal Ballet Governors.

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## [Minister for Industry addresses the Make UK National Manufacturing conference](#)

Thank you all for the invitation to be able to address you this evening, and to Make UK for putting on this event at the annual national manufacturing conference.

I know that such statements are slowly, thankfully becoming the norm but it's a particular pleasure to see you all in person – to meet, to discuss, to connect. And, most importantly, to celebrate manufacturing together. The last 2 years have been so difficult for you all, and for wider society in general. And one of the ways which we mark our journey beyond COVID is by returning to what came so naturally to us beforehand and which now, we recognise, is so important. And, if only for that, it is good to be here.

But it is also good to be here because it allows me, personally, to say thank you to you all – many of whom I have had the privilege to meet in my seven months as Minister – for your warm and your kind welcome since I became the Minister for Industry and the Minister for Manufacturing 7 months ago.

When I first took up this role – my apprenticeship, if you may – I set 3 key priorities.

First: to listen.

Good government rests on being a partnership of equals with both business and industry. And when I started last September, that is exactly where I wanted to start our engagement from.

I am grateful for the all the time you have all given me...how you have outlined where the sector is, what you are focusing on, and what you all hope to achieve in the coming years. For me, the best way to properly listen was to get out and about, all across the UK. In the last 7 months, I have visited every nation, every region and I have been absolutely blown away by the depth, the capability and passion of manufacturers up and down the land. I'm coming up to about 50 visits now with manufacturers or manufacturing-related industries and countless engagements through roundtables, through meetings, and chats, and I hope I have started the process of listening – and, just as importantly, to hear you.

My second priority was to learn.

For the past 5 years, I have had the privilege of representing a manufacturing constituency in Derbyshire, which is, I'm sure you'll agree, is the best county in the entirety of the UK...and arguably the birthplace of the first Industrial Revolution, when Sir Richard Arkwright industrialised the spinning jenny on the banks of the River Derwent in 1771. I am hugely proud to represent an area which I grew up in, which has played a leading role in our industrial and manufacturing heritage and which, like so many other parts of the UK, and so many parts of this sector, is undergoing its own renaissance and change. So, I hope, I come with a little knowledge, from which you can teach me.

Yet, even from witnessing 40 years of Derbyshire industry, nothing could have prepared me for what I have seen over the last 7 months as your Minister. Every visit, every chat, every meeting has brought home to me what an absolute gem our manufacturing sector is. The sheer diversity, the capability and the passion on display every day is just so evident all across the land.

And, along the way, many of you have also taught me some skills that I would never have expected.

How to build wings in Broughton.

How to use a 3D printer in Manchester.

How to drive a digger in Staffordshire.

How to drive – and not crash – a train at Alstom's test track in Derby.

So, next time you hear the press talking about Ministers and MPs having few transferrable skills in a real-life workplace, know that you and your sector have at least taught me a few in recent months.

My third priority...which is vitally important...is to advocate. Manufacturing matters. And we should say so as often as is possible.

My job as your Minister is to be your champion across government. To speak

loudly about your successes, your achievements and the utter brilliance of your sector in making our country better. And to amplify your voice when you think something is important.

Of course, it doesn't mean that we will agree on everything, or completely align all the time. It doesn't mean that we can't have candid or robust conversations. And it doesn't mean that we seek perfection from each other. And it doesn't mean that politics will always deliver everything that people want it to...the whole point of politics is to try to imperfectly fit infinite demands into extremely finite resources.

But it does mean, I hope, that over time we can demonstrate, together, that we are making progress; that we are navigating the huge challenges that we are being thrown; that we are achieving; that both you and myself, as the government's representative, think we are going in the right direction.

And even now, after the most acutely difficult time of our lives and our careers – and with new challenges on the horizon I accept – that is certainly what I hope you will see ahead.

£203 billion of gross value added to the UK economy in 2021...more than financial and insurance activities combined.

Almost half of total UK exports.

2.5 million jobs supported in recent years – 95% of which are outside London.

And real evidence of the start of a manufacturing renaissance. From Nissan's £1 billion investment in electric vehicle production in Sunderland...to backing for Britishvolt's Blyth gigafactory...to Siemens Gamesa's expansion of its offshore wind turbine blade factory in Hull. Big ticket investments in the future of the UK – and its supply chain – by world-leading companies.

But, just as importantly, every single day over 130,000 manufacturing SMEs beaver away innovating, improving, developing and creating the very bedrock of our successful new manufacturing base. Just as we celebrate the big announcements as indications of our progress, we must equally acknowledge every single part of our manufacturing sector and the role every company plays in the progress we are making.

So, 7 months and thousands of conversations in, where are we?

Well, it's absolutely clear to me that manufacturing does, will and must play an integral role in transforming the UK's economy in the 21st century.

And I have no doubt – at all – that it will, in spite of the current unexpected and unprecedented challenges which we see, and I want to acknowledge tonight.

Looking back at the dawn of the 2020s, just a couple of years ago, and after 3 years of domestic political tumult, I doubt many of us would have expected to face the first global pandemic in a century...followed by the most extraordinary set of economic circumstances in 100 years...followed again,

quickly, by the first invasion of sovereign territory in Europe in seven decades.

Our age is one of big change, it's one of uncertainty and, at least for now, it's one of some instability.

A sovereign state being brutally invaded – causing humanitarian disaster and carnage across the world – is the most immense tragedy. We are doing all we can to support our friends in Ukraine, and I know that you are doing to. But I also know that the steps we're taking to sanction Russia are not cost free for us at home.

I know that many of you will have had to adjust already, at short notice, to changes in supply chains, to cost pressures, to energy issues, and to additional complications. Thank you again for everything you have done, are doing, and will do to make it clear that the UK stands firm against this kind of naked aggression.

And – as challenge and change always does – it does bring forward new ways of doing things...

...new realities...

...and, at times, new opportunities for UK plc and British business.

And in each of these challenges, there are lessons.

Lessons about flexibility. Business, industry and manufacturing are proving, yet again, their ability to change at short notice, and to look at new ways in which new approaches can get around unexpected problems.

Lessons about resilience. We saw during the pandemic just how quickly British businesses could respond to demand, with the rapid re-shoring of much of our supply of personal protective equipment. The changes which have followed have brought home to us all again the importance of our long-held, strong, trade-based relationships all around the world...but also, where possible, the need to consider the best way to strengthen the supply chains on which they are based.

In Cornwall, Devon and elsewhere, I have seen new initiatives to take advantage of the critical mineral resources underneath our feet, as an example – and which you all will need in the coming decades when manufacturing the products of tomorrow. Just-in case now has as much salience in tough times as just-in time.

And we have also learnt lessons about opportunity. With record job vacancies and unemployment back at pre-crisis levels, we know that there are strong opportunities to bring on the workforce of tomorrow into a sector which has so much to offer, but which we also have to make sure has the skills. And, alongside this, the opportunity to further unleash the power of automation, artificial intelligence, big data, machine learning and more.

And underneath all of this flexibility, resilience and opportunity which you



show daily is one key driver: productivity.

As your Minister, this is the one thing that I want to relentlessly focus upon in the coming year ahead.

I want to show how much you have achieved already. Every day, up and down the land, you are making choices which spur improvements, make things better and increase the UK's competitiveness all around the world.

Whether it is the investment in 3D printers I saw in Bury just a few months ago.

Or the Advanced Manufacturing Resource Centre in Preston, opened earlier this Spring, which will unlock the next generation of innovation all across the North West.

Or the portable graphene factory built in a shipping container in Cambridge.

Or the next generation of wings being developed by Airbus.

Or the first electric boat ready to hit the waves in Belfast.

Even in adversity, productivity was around 2% higher in the fourth quarter of 2021 than before the pandemic. A testament to your innovative spirit.

And I want to highlight what – as a Government – we are already doing in partnership with you.

Take our Made Smarter programme, which is offering dedicated support and grants to SMEs all across the North East, the North West, Yorkshire and the Humber and the West Midlands...allowing SMEs like Cumbria-based agricultural machine manufacturer Storth, who use robotics to increase the speed of welding tasks, and who are expecting to produce parts up to 2.5 times quicker than before.

Or our "Help to Grow" schemes, which are designed to improve the adoption of basic digital technologies and modern management practices.

Or tax incentives like the Annual Investment Allowance, or our super-deduction.

Or the increase to the Employment Allowance...or significant subsidy for skills development. A massive issue for you, and which we have much to go on – but, I hope, and indication of some progress.

And, just last week, we announced that high energy usage businesses – such as steel and paper manufacturers – will receive further support for electricity costs.

And thirdly, and most importantly, I want to focus on what we can achieve together. Productivity is a shared endeavour – good for government because our national capability expands...but also good for business because it generates revenues, profits and new opportunities. And it helps to address

some of the issues which I know you are facing at the moment.

To be frank, we still have some way to go on productivity in our country.

Regional productivity gaps are large.

Across our economy, and compared to other G7 countries, our GDP per hour worked lags other countries.

The “long-tail” puzzle has been visible in our country for far too long.

And I say these things not to be negative but to reflect the reality of where we are – and the opportunity that we all have to work together to improve. Productivity matters because absolutely nothing else that we or you do can succeed without it.

From a government perspective, our ambitions to level up and to achieve net zero are all based on businesses scaling up, doing more and providing the tax revenues to be able to achieve our priorities. And, as Minister for Industry, I’m determined to work with the business community to try to improve productivity, along with trying to help with the issues that you are facing.

It will be based on a greater diffusion of tech.

It will require even more economy-wide improvements to how firms invest and innovate.

Better access to finance.

More global thinking.

Improved skills, and better management and training.

Some of this support will already come from the Government...

...some will come from UK and overseas investors...

...and some will of course come from business and manufacturing themselves.

On the first 2 points, I want to announce that later this year we will be launching the UK’s new manufacturing investment prospectus. A document which will show the brilliance and innovation of the UK’s manufacturers, and the policies which demonstrate that this government is committed to your businesses – so we can promote the UK as the destination of choice for investment in manufacturing and help you make the most of what is already available.

And, finally, for the third point, I want to say that I will continue to work with you over the coming months ahead – through visits, roundtables, discussions and meetings – to work out how we can redouble our efforts on productivity to make the UK an even better place to do business.

Sometimes other sectors and other industries may speak louder than manufacturing, but in the last seven months I have seen it with my own eyes

that you have an amazing story to tell. Together, we want it to go further. Made in Britain is already a massive badge of honour. Now is the time for us to work out how to make even more in Britain.

I look forward to working with you in the coming months. Have a good evening. Thank you.

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## [UK – Japan Joint Announcement on Deepening Digital Collaboration](#)

News story

On 4th May 2022 the UK Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Nadine Dorries, and Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) of Japan, Mr Yasushi Kaneko, reaffirmed their shared commitment to deepening UK-Japan collaboration on digital and data.



The UK and Japan are natural partners that share the same fundamental values on digital and data. We both believe in the power of the free market and the importance of Data Free Flow with Trust. We are inherently optimistic about the opportunities that digital technologies offer to our citizens, businesses, and societies, whilst being clear on the risks and the need to protect people and industries from harm.

We will convene a UK-Japan Digital Group this year, with representatives from all relevant departments and Ministries, to deepen digital cooperation between the UK and Japan. This will cover all facets of our joint digital priorities, including digital infrastructure, data, digital regulation and standards as well as digital transformation. This will strengthen our tech sectors and revitalise our local communities through digital transformation.

The Ministry for Internal Affairs and Communication (MIC), Digital Agency and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) will be the main contributors from the Government of Japan. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and

Sport (DCMS) will be the main contributor from the UK Government. The Digital Group meeting will be held annually, led by senior officials and coordinated by DCMS and MIC. Development of this cooperation will also include high-level and working group meetings as necessary.

Signed by:

UK Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)  
Government Digital Service (GDS)

Government of Japan Ministry for Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC)  
Digital Agency Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)

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