

Written Ministerial Statement

Operation of the UK's Counter-Terrorist Asset Freezing Regime:

1 October 2018 to 31 December 2018

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (John Glen): Under the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010 (TAFA 2010), the Treasury is required to prepare a quarterly report regarding its exercise of the powers conferred on it by Part 1 of TAFA 2010. This written statement satisfies that requirement for the period 1 October 2018 to 31 December 2018.

This report also covers the UK's implementation of the UN's ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida asset freezing regime (ISIL-AQ), and the operation of the EU's asset freezing regime under EU Regulation (EC) 2580/2001 concerning external terrorist threats to the EU (also referred to as the CP 931 regime).

Under the ISIL-AQ asset freezing regime, the UN has responsibility for designations and the Treasury, through the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI), has responsibility for licensing and compliance with the regime in the UK under the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2011.

Under EU Regulation 2580/2001, the EU has responsibility for designations and OFSI has responsibility for licensing and compliance with the regime in the UK under Part 1 of TAFA 2010.

A new EU asset freezing regime under EU Regulation (2016/1686) was implemented on 22 September 2016. This permits the EU to make autonomous Al-Qaida and ISIL (Da'esh) listings. One new designation under the regime was made during this quarter, and is recorded in the fifth column of the table below.

The Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018 will help ensure that UK counterterrorist sanctions powers remain a useful tool for law enforcement and intelligence agencies to consider utilising, while also meeting the UK's international obligations.

Under the Act, a designation could be made where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the person or group is or has been involved in a defined terrorist activity and that designation is appropriate. This approach is in line with the UK's current approach under UN and EU sanctions and would be balanced by procedural protections such as the ability of designated persons to challenge the Government in court.

The following tables set out the key asset-freezing activity in the UK during the quarter.

Frozen funds

	TAFAs 2010	EU Reg (EC) 2580/2001	ISIL-AQ regime EU Reg 881/2002	EU Reg 2016/1686
Total funds frozen (GBP equivalent at the end of the quarter)	£9,000	£18,000 ¹	£70,000 ²	0
Total accounts/payments frozen (at the end of the quarter)	6	3	36	0
Accounts/payments frozen (during the quarter)	0	0	1	0
Accounts/payments unfrozen (during the quarter)	0	0	0	0

New Designations in this Quarter

	TAFAs 2010	EU Reg (EC) 2580/2001	ISIL-AQ regime EU Reg 881/2002	EU Reg 2016/1686
New public designations (during the quarter)	0	0	3	1
New confidential designations ³ (during the quarter)	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total number of confidential designations (at the end of the quarter)	0	N/A	N/A	N/A

Delistings and TAFAs Renewals in this Quarter

	TAFAs 2010	EU Reg (EC) 2580/2001	ISIL-AQ regime EU Reg 881/2002	EU Reg 2016/1686
Total delistings (during the quarter)	0	0	0	N/A
Total renewals of designations by HMT (during the quarter)	5	N/A	N/A	N/A

¹ Calculated using exchange rates as of 06/09/2004.

² Calculated using exchange rates as of 31/12/2018.

³ Confidential designations can be made under section 3(2)-(4) and section 7(2)-(4) of TAFAs 2010.

³ The first designation under EU regulation 2016/1686 was made on 26/02/2018.

Licensing

8 licences were issued under the ISIL-AQ regime during this quarter. Four General licences remained current during this quarter.⁴

Listings

All persons subject to financial sanctions

Consolidated list of all the individuals, organisations and businesses subject to financial sanctions in the UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-sanctions-consolidated-list-of-targets/consolidated-list-of-targets>

UN and EU sanctions on the Al-Qaida and ISIL (Da'esh) organisations

Current designations under the UN's ISIL-AQ regime and EU Regulation 2016/1686:⁵

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/current-list-of-designated-persons-al-qaida>

Current designations under the UK and EU's terrorist asset-freezing regime

Current designations under Tafa 2010 and EU Regulation (EC) 2580/2001:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/current-list-of-designated-persons-terrorism-and-terrorist-financing>

The following descriptors are included in the 'Other Information' field of the consolidated list:

- 'UK listing only' – listed under Tafa 2010 only
- 'Both UK and EU listing' – listed under Tafa 2010 and under the EU's asset freezing regime 2580/2001
- 'EU listing only' – listed under EU's asset freezing regime. The prohibitions are found in Council Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 with penalties given by Tafa 2010

⁴ General licences are published on GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-financing-of-terrorism-general-licenses>.

⁵ Designations under this regulation are identified as "EU listing only" in the 'The ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida organisations' section of the consolidated list.