



## General Licence – Publication Notice

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### General licence - INT/2023/3626884

OFSI has the power to issue General Licences for country sanctions regimes under the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018 (“the Sanctions Act”).

On 6 October 2023, OFSI issued General Licence INT/2023/3626884 under all UK Autonomous Sanctions Regulations (see Annex 1 of the General Licence for the list of relevant Regulations) which allows for UK Designated Persons (UK DPs) to make Permitted Payments to Companies House and for Persons acting on behalf of UK DPs to make Permitted Payments to Companies House. Any persons intending to use General Licence INT/2023/3626884 should consult the copy of the Licence on this webpage for full details of the permissions and usage requirements.

For the purposes of General Licence INT/2023/3626884:

**Companies House** means the executive agency, sponsored by the Department for Business and Trade, which registers company information and makes it available to the public, and incorporates and dissolves limited companies.

**UK DPs** are entities designated (or owned or controlled by ~~a person~~ an individual or an entity designated) for the purposes of an asset freeze by the UK under the UK Autonomous Sanctions Regulations, excluding those designated for the purpose of compliance with United Nations obligations.

**Permitted Payments** means:

- The payment of fees owed by or due from UK DPs to Companies House for filing a confirmation statement (previously known as an annual return) in respect of entities incorporated in the UK registered with Companies House; and
- The payment of late filing penalty fees owed by or due from UK DPs to Companies House incurred as a result of late filing of annual accounts by those UK DPs.
- The payment of fees owed by or due from UK DPs to Companies House for the administrative restoration of an entity previously incorporated in the UK which was struck off and dissolved by the Registrar of Companies at Companies House, and any related filing fees and penalties.
- The payment of fees owed by or due from UK DPs to Companies House for filing an Overseas Entity Update Statement in respect of entities on the Register of Overseas Entities.
- The payment of penalties owed by or due from UK DPs to Companies House incurred as a result of failure to register as an entity on the Register of Overseas Entities or failure to provide an Overseas Entity Update Statement in respect of entities on the Register of Overseas Entities.

**Person** means an individual or a body of persons corporate or unincorporate but does not include a UK DP.

**Relevant UK Institution** means:

- A person that has permission under Part 4A of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (permission to carry on regulated activity).
- A person that is authorised or registered under Part 2 of the Payment Services Regulations (SI 2017/752).
- A person that is authorised or registered under Part 2 of the Electronic Money Regulations (SI 2011/99).
- A person that is a “recognised clearing house”, “third country central counterparty”, “recognised CSD” or “third country CSD” for the purposes of s.285 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.
- A person that is an operator of a recognised payment system (or that is a service provider in relation to recognised payment systems) for the purposes of Part 5 of the Banking Act 2009.

Under General Licence INT/2023/3626884, UK DPs may make Permitted Payments to Companies House. Persons acting on behalf of UK DPs may make Permitted Payments to Companies House. Where a Permitted Payment is made by a Person acting on behalf of a UK DP:

- The UK DP may repay that Person the same amount as that Permitted Payment; and
- The Person may receive that amount from the UK DP.

The reporting and record-keeping requirements for UK DPs are set out in the General Licence.

On 19 October 2023, General Licence INT/2023/3626884 was updated to clarify that the term Permitted Payments relates to:

1. The payment of fees owed by or due from UK DPs to Companies House for filing a confirmation statement in respect of entities incorporated in the UK registered with Companies House (not just those with the legal form of a company, i.e., also including limited liability partnerships for example); and
2. The payment of late filing penalty fees owed by or due from UK DPs to Companies House incurred as a result of late filing of annual accounts by those UK DPs (the General Licence initially referred incorrectly to the payment of penalty fees incurred as a result of late filing of the confirmation statement).

And the term UK DP relates to:

1. Entities designated (or owned or controlled by an individual or an entity designated) for the purposes of an asset freeze by the UK under the UK Autonomous Sanctions Regulations, excluding those designated for the purpose of compliance with United Nations obligations.

On 15 December, the General Licence was amended to also permit activity that would otherwise breach the prohibitions in Regulation 17A of the Russia Regulations.

On 23 February 2024, General Licence INT/2023/3626884 was updated to add a permission to the list of Permitted Payments:

- The payment of fees owed by or due from UK DPs to Companies House for the administrative restoration of an entity previously incorporated in the UK which was struck

off and dissolved by the Registrar of Companies at Companies House, and any related filing fees and penalties.

On 2 April 2024, General Licence INT/2023/3626884 was updated to add permissions to the list of Permitted Payments:

- The payment of fees owed by or due from UK DPs to Companies House for filing an Overseas Entity Update Statement in respect of entities on the Register of Overseas Entities.
- The payment of penalties owed by or due from UK DPs to Companies House incurred as a result of failure to register as an entity on the Register of Overseas Entities or failure to provide an Overseas Entity Update Statement in respect of entities on the Register of Overseas Entities.

### **General**

The permissions in General Licence INT/2023/3626884 do not authorise any act which the person carrying out the act knows, or has reasonable grounds for suspecting, will result in funds or economic resources being made available in breach of the Russia Regulations, save as permitted under licences granted under the Russia Regulations.

General Licence INT/2023/3626884 took effect on 6 October 2023.

**Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation**

**HM Treasury**