



General Licence – Publication Notice

General licence - INT/2023/2711256

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 15 February 2023, OFSI issued General Licence INT/202 /2711256 under Regulation 61 of The Syria (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (“The Syria Regulations”) pertaining to humanitarian activity in relation to the earthquake in Syria and Turkey.

Any persons intending to use General Licence INT/2023/2711256 should consult the copy of the Licence on this page for full details of the permissions and usage requirements.

For the purposes of General Licence INT/2023/2711256:

- **Designated Person** is any individual or body of persons (corporate or unincorporate) designated under the Syria Regulations.
- **Designated Financial Institution** are Agricultural Cooperative Bank, Central Bank of Syria, Commercial Bank of Syria, Industrial Bank, Popular Credit Bank, Real Estate Bank of Syria (REB), Saving Bank, and Syrian Lebanese Commercial Bank.
- **Relevant Person** is United Nations, including its Programmes, funds and other entities and bodies, as well as its specialised agencies and related organizations; international organisations carrying out relief activities; humanitarian organisations having observer status with the United Nations General Assembly and members of those humanitarian organisations; bilaterally or multilaterally funded non-governmental organisations participating in the United Nations Humanitarian Response Plans, Refugee Response Plans, other United Nations appeals, or humanitarian clusters coordinated by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; and any employees, grantees, subsidiary, or implementing partners of any organisation falling within the above while and to the extent that they are acting in those capacities.
- **Relevant Activity** is activities necessary to facilitate humanitarian assistance in relation to earthquake relief efforts in Syria and Turkey. This includes the provision, processing and payment of funds, or economic resources, and the provision of goods and services necessary to ensure the timely delivery of such assistance or to support such activities.
- **Relevant Institution** is a person that has permission under Part 4A of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (permission to carry on regulated activities); 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 section 285 of

the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000; and 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.

Permission

Under General Licence INT/2023/2711256, subject to the condition set out below, a Relevant Person may perform Relevant Activities provided that the Relevant Person believes that carrying out the Relevant Activity is so necessary to ensure the timely delivery of earthquake relief efforts in Syria and Turkey and there is no reasonable cause for the Relevant Person to suspect otherwise.

Condition

- a) Any funds used to effect the permission set out above must not be from funds or economic resources that are owned, held or controlled by a Designated Person.
- b) The permission does not allow the use of economic resources owned, held or controlled by a Designated Person except where a Designated Person has received funds, goods or services in exchange for those economic resources from a Relevant Person to perform Relevant Activities.
- c) Condition (a) does not apply to funds that are controlled by a Designated Financial Institution in the event that those funds are not owned, held or controlled by any other Designated Person or where the transfer of funds is otherwise licensed.

General

The permissions in General Licence INT/2023/2711256 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 Syria Regulations, save as permitted under licences granted under The Syria Regulations.

General Licence INT/2023/2711256 took effect from 11:59 pm on 15 February 2023. On 26 June 2024 it was extended and now expires on 14 February 2025 at 11.59 pm.

Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation

HM Treasury