



Report Concerning Breach of Financial Sanctions Regulations

Publication of a Report – Information offences

Summary

1. On 14 March 2025 the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (“OFSI”), part of HM Treasury, issues this report in accordance with s149(3) of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 (“PACA”) against a number of charities listed in this report (“the charities”) for a breach of Regulation 36 (6) of the Counter Terrorism (International Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (“the regulations”). OFSI refers to the use of this power as a Disclosure. It relates solely to an information offence for failure to respond to Requests for Information (“RFI”).
2. At the time OFSI attempted to make contact with them, the charities were all UK registered charities, regulated by the Charity Commission and were listed on the Charity Commission public register of charities (“the register”) which indicated that the charities were still active and had public contact information available. This Disclosure relates to the failure of the charities to provide information or engage with OFSI when they were required to do so.
3. OFSI categorises breach cases as being of lesser severity, moderate severity or serious enough to justify a civil monetary penalty. On the facts as known, OFSI does not assess the breach as sufficiently serious to impose a monetary penalty. However, the nature and circumstances of this breach were assessed as moderately severe and in OFSI’s judgement publishing a Disclosure is the appropriate and proportionate enforcement response.
4. OFSI considers that this breach satisfies the test at section 149(3) of PACA 2017 which states:

“The Treasury may also publish reports at such intervals as it considers appropriate in cases where—

- (a) a monetary penalty has not been imposed under section 146 or 148, but*
- (b) the Treasury is satisfied, on the balance of probabilities, that a person has breached a prohibition, or failed to comply with an obligation, that is imposed by or under financial sanctions legislation”.*

Detail

5. OFSI emailed a letter which included an RFI to the named charities using the email address listed in the register. OFSI requested a range of information and stated this was needed to assist in monitoring compliance with the regulations. OFSI did not receive a response within the stated timeframe from any of the charities.
6. OFSI sent a second letter to the charities by post and email, using the email address and postal address listed in the register, noting a lack of response to the RFI within the stated timeframe, and reiterating the charities’ obligation to provide the requested information within the updated deadline OFSI set. OFSI did not receive a response within the stated timeframe from any of the charities.
7. OFSI sent a third letter, by post and email, using the email address and postal address listed in the register (including using updated contact information from the register where it had been changed since the previous letters were sent), noting a lack of response within the updated timeframe and expressing an intention to publish the Disclosure in accordance with s149(3) of PACA. A deadline for making representations relating to that letter was given. OFSI did not receive a response to this letter from the charities.
8. Taking into account the above, OFSI considers the charities to be in breach of Regulation 36 (6) of the Regulations by failing to provide the information required without reasonable excuse.
9. OFSI considered the following aggravating factors when reaching its decision to publish the Disclosure, the:
 - a. Failure to respond to the RFI despite several communication attempts. In particular, all of the charities are listed with the Charity Commission, and consequently OFSI

would expect the charities to have awareness of the need to engage with OFSI whilst their charity was active; and

- b. Importance of the purpose of the RFI. Namely, the need for the information to monitor compliance with the regulations. The lack of engagement hindered this.

10. OFSI also considered any potentially mitigating factors when reaching its decision to publish this Disclosure. In particular, although OFSI recognises the possibility that a lack of engagement from the charities may be a result of them failing to update their contact information on the register, OFSI does not consider this to be a mitigating factor. Charity Commission guidance for trustees outlines the duty placed on trustees to ensure their charity is accountable and complying with the law which includes ensuring they are contactable through the information provided to the Charity Commission.

11. In determining the final outcome, OFSI considered that the aggravating factor and lack of mitigating factors meant this should be treated as a moderately severe case, rendering a Disclosure the appropriate enforcement response.

Notes on compliance

12. Charity trustees have a duty to comply with the law, including the regulations. This responsibility extends to responding to the RFIs made by OFSI. It is noted that all other charities contacted by OFSI complied with the regulations by providing the requested information. They also demonstrated robust awareness of sanctions compliance duties including record keeping. The Disclosure is published in respect of the small minority of charities who failed to respond to the RFI.

13. During the course of its work OFSI has identified multiple charities where contact information was not updated or incoming correspondence was not regularly monitored, which delayed their response to the RFI. Further to that, OFSI notes it would assist charities in discharging their responsibility to respond to RFIs if they ensured their contact information on the register was up to date and incoming correspondence was regularly monitored.

14. This Disclosure relates to an information offence only, and OFSI does not hold information that the charities involved have committed any further breach of the regulations. However, a lack of response from those involved has hindered OFSI's ability to monitor compliance with the regulations.
15. OFSI and HMG are committed to ensuring that the regulations are applied in a clear and effective manner that is proportionate to risk. OFSI's work is intended to support compliance with the regulations, without unnecessarily impeding legitimate humanitarian activities within the UK or overseas.
16. Any charities concerned about sanctions exposure should contact OFSI at the first opportunity and can also be directed towards OFSI guidance for the charity sector available at OFSI's website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-sanctions-guidance-for-charities>.
17. If you are concerned, know, or believe you have committed a breach of financial sanctions, you should inform OFSI as soon as practicable. OFSI values voluntary disclosure and if done by the person who has committed a breach in relation to which a Disclosure is being considered this may be taken into account as a mitigating factor when OFSI assess the case.
18. Further information and guidance on UK financial sanctions can be found on OFSI's website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-of-financial-sanctions-implementation>

The charities

	Name	Charity Commission Registration Number
1	Sahara Hands	1154302
2	Peculiar Peoples' Palace Ministries	1156675
3	Impact Planet	1161297