



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP**

*Secretary of State for Housing,  
Communities  
and Local Government*  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

16 December 2025

Dear Philip,

**INDEPENDENT REVIEW INTO COUNTERING FOREIGN FINANCIAL INFLUENCE AND  
INTERFERENCE IN UK POLITICS**

I am writing to thank you for agreeing to lead the independent review into countering foreign financial influence and interference in UK politics. This letter formally appoints you and sets out the terms of reference for the review.

As you know, the sentencing of Nathan Gill, a former MEP, for bribery, alongside other recent cases, has exposed vulnerabilities in the UK's political and electoral systems. This Government is clear eyed about the ongoing and evolving interference threats posed by a range of foreign state actors and their proxies, and, as their tactics evolve, the Government is committed to ensuring our legislation also evolves to effectively combat the threat.

It is in this context, and in support of the Cross-Government Counter Political Interference and Espionage Action Plan, that I have decided to commission this independent review. The full terms of reference are enclosed with this letter. You will carry out your work by meeting with individuals and representatives of organisations and by reviewing all documentation and representations that you believe are relevant. The review should be completed by the end of March 2026, with the findings delivered to me and, given the read-across to the work of the Defending Democracy Taskforce, also to the Security Minister. The review report should be provided in a written format suitable for publication; once finalised and subject to the usual security and fact checking processes, it will be published on gov.uk.

You will be supported to carry out the review by a small secretariat, composed of civil servants from my department. You will be provided with office space and IT equipment, as needed. Your terms of appointment are enclosed with this letter: I should be grateful if you would sign and return them to my office.

Yours sincerely,

**RT HON STEVE REED OBE MP**

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government