

Supplement No. 9 published with Extraordinary Gazette No. 7 dated January 26, 2021.

NOTICE

THE AFGHANISTAN (SANCTIONS) (OVERSEAS TERRITORIES) ORDER 2020

SI 2020 NO. 1284

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NOTICE is hereby given that the Afghanistan (Sanctions) (Overseas Territories) Order 2020 SI 2020 No. 1284, was made on 11th November, 2020, laid before Parliament on 18th November and comes into force in accordance with article 1(1) of the Order.

The full text of the Order can be viewed via the following link:

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/1284/pdfs/uksi 20201284 en.pdf

The Explanatory Note of the Afghanistan (Sanctions) (Overseas Territories) Order 2020 SI 2020 No. 1284 is as follows:

"EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order extends with modifications the Afghanistan (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/948) ("the Afghanistan Regulations") as amended from time to time to all British overseas territories except Bermuda and Gibraltar (which implement sanctions under their own legislative arrangements). It also implements in those territories the travel ban in respect of UN designated persons required by paragraph 1(b) of resolution 2255 (2015) adopted by the Security Council on 21st December 2015 (which in the United Kingdom is implemented by way of the Immigration Act 1971 (c.77) rather than the Afghanistan Regulations).

Section 63(3)(c) of the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018 (c.13) ("the Sanctions Act") provides that Her Majesty may by Order in Council provide for any provision of Part 1 of that Act, or any regulations under Part 1 of that Act, to extend with or without modifications to any of the British overseas territories. Section 63(4) provides that this includes the power to extend any regulations as amended from time to time.

Section 1 of the United Nations Act 1946 (c.45) provides that Her Majesty may by Order in Council make such provision as appears to Her necessary or expedient for enabling the effective application of certain measures where, under Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council has called upon Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to apply such measures to give effect to any decision of that Council. In accordance with subsection (2)

of that section, such Orders in Council may extend to the British overseas territories.

The Afghanistan Regulations were made under Part 1 of the Sanctions Act to establish a sanctions regime which, following the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union, implement the UN sanctions regime in relation to Afghanistan. Resolution 1988 established the UN sanctions regime in view of the situation in Afghanistan in respect of the Taliban and the threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan. That regime is now given effect by resolution 2255.

The Afghanistan Regulations, as modified and extended to the territories by this Order ("the modified Regulations"), provide that persons designated by the UN as associated with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan are designated for the purposes of the modified Regulations. Designated persons are subject to financial sanctions, including having their funds or economic resources frozen. The modified Regulations also impose trade restrictions on military goods and technology for persons designated by the UN as associated with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan

The modified Regulations provide for certain exceptions to this sanctions regime (for example to allow for frozen accounts to be credited with interest or other earnings and to allow acts done for the purpose of national security or the prevention of serious crime). The Governor of a British overseas territory to which the modified Regulations extend may, with the consent of the Secretary of State, issue a licence in respect of activities that would otherwise be prohibited under the modified Regulations. Schedule 2 sets out the purposes pursuant to which the Governor may issue a financial sanctions licence. The modified Regulations also require the Governor of the territory to publish an up-to-date list of designated persons.

The modified Regulations prescribe powers for the provision and sharing of information to enable the effective implementation and enforcement of the sanctions regime. The modified Regulations also prescribe enforcement powers in relation to suspected ships, aircraft or vehicles, or for the 19 issue of a search warrant. The modified Regulations make it a criminal offence to contravene, or circumvent, any of the prohibitions in the modified Regulations and prescribe the penalties that apply to such offences.

This Order also extends to the territories for the purposes of the modified Regulations specific provisions of Part 1 of the Sanctions Act, namely provisions relating to protection for acts done for purposes of compliance, Crown application and saving for prerogative powers.

This Order also provides that, subject to certain exceptions, UN designated persons must not enter, transit or remain in the territories.

An Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument: the territorial extent of the instrument and the modified Regulations is the British overseas territories listed in Schedule 1, and no, or no significant, impact is foreseen on the private, voluntary or public sectors in the United Kingdom.".