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NOTICE

THE YEMEN (SANCTIONS) (OVERSEAS TERRITORIES) ORDER 2020

SI 2020 NO. 1589

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NOTICE is hereby given that the Yemen (Sanctions) (Overseas Territories) Order 2020 No. 1589, was made on 16th December, 2020, was laid before Parliament on 23rd December, 2020 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/2020/1589/pdfs/ukSI_20201589_en.pdf

The Explanatory Note of the Yemen (Sanctions) (Overseas Territories) Order 2020 No. 1589 is as follows:

“EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order extends with modifications the Yemen (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1278) (“the Yemen 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 15 of resolution 2140 (2014) adopted by the Security Council on 26 February 2014 (which in the United Kingdom is implemented by way of the Immigration Act 1971 (c.77) rather than the Yemen 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 Yemen Regulations were made under Part 1 of the Sanctions Act to establish a sanctions regime in relation to Yemen for the purpose of promoting the peace,

stability and security of Yemen. Following the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union, the Yemen Regulations also implement the UN sanctions regime in respect of Yemen and replace the EU sanctions regime which is currently implemented via an EU Council Decision and Regulation.

The Yemen Regulations, as modified and extended to the British overseas territories listed in Schedule 1 by this Order ("the modified Regulations"), provide that a person named by the UN or designated by the Secretary of State for being, or having been, involved in certain activities, is a designated person for the purposes of the modified Regulations. Designated persons may be excluded from the territory and may be made subject to financial sanctions, including having their funds or economic resources frozen.

The modified Regulations also impose trade restrictions in relation to designated persons in respect of military goods and technology and restrictions on certain activities which enable or facilitate the conduct of armed hostilities in Yemen.

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 under 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 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 or remain in the territories.

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