



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Samantha Dixon MP
Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

4 December 2025

Dear Minister Dixon,

Russia has a well-documented history of attempting to influence political systems in Europe, the US, and NATO allies with cyberattacks, disinformation, and financial leverage. Reports have highlighted targeted cyberattacks on UK institutions and think tanks, disinformation campaigns aimed at shaping public opinion, and financial manipulation.

In recent weeks, former Reform UK Wales leader Nathan Gill was convicted of accepting bribes from Kremlin-linked actors for promoting pro-Russian propaganda in the European Parliament and in the media. Court documents show Gill received at least £30,000–£40,000 to “promote Russia’s narrative” on Ukraine. Counter-terrorism authorities concluded that he abused his position as an MEP to advance Russian interests.

The Gill case illustrates how foreign actors may attempt to influence UK politics via covert financial inducements and friendly politicians. It raises questions about whether individuals or donors connected to Russia may be making donations to exert influence—a risk to our democracy and national security.

Notably, Reform UK’s policy chief recently refused five times to disavow Reform UK’s Leader Nigel Farage’s position that the West provoked the war in Ukraine. Indeed, the Leader of Reform UK Nigel Farage has publicly expressed admiration for Putin.

Given these documented threats, a thorough investigation is warranted. Such an inquiry would help safeguard the integrity of political processes, protect national security, and maintain public confidence in our democratic system.

I wish to draw attention to developments highlighting Russia’s ongoing threat to the UK:

- **Russian naval activity:** On 19 November, the Defence Secretary reported that the Russian intelligence vessel Yantar had operated near UK waters north of Scotland, directing lasers at RAF pilots while monitored by Royal Navy frigates and RAF P-8 aircraft. This is the second deployment of Yantar into UK waters this year.
- **UK-Norway defence cooperation:** On 4 December, the Prime Minister announced that British and Norwegian warships, including interchangeable Type-26 frigates, will patrol the North Atlantic to counter Russian submarines amid a 30% rise in Russian vessels near UK waters. The Lunna House agreement includes joint use of P-8 aircraft, advanced naval strike

missiles, sting ray torpedoes, unmanned mine-hunting motherships, joint exercises, and Royal Marines training in extreme conditions.

- **Ongoing Russian threats:**

- Russia continues its illegal war in Ukraine, causing widespread humanitarian suffering, infrastructure damage, and displacement.
- Cyber threats to the UK and NATO persist, including:
 - A 25% rise in Russian cyberattacks on NATO countries in 2025, with the UK among the most targeted.
 - Malicious activity by Russian intelligence groups (APT28/Fancy Bear) against political, media, and defence institutions.
 - Foiled spear-phishing attempts against the Ministry of Defence and breaches at sensitive military sites, including locations reportedly housing US nuclear weapons.
 - Attacks on critical infrastructure and supply chains, threatening public services and national security.
- Russian incursions into NATO airspace have increased, including provocative flights near the Baltic states and other European allies.
- State-sponsored poisoning on UK soil, such as the 2018 Novichok attack in Salisbury and the subsequent Amesbury incident, continues to demonstrate the threat posed by military-grade chemical agents.

Furthermore, BBC reporting shows that, following the roll-out of a new ‘account based in’ transparency feature on X (formerly known as Twitter) last month, “dozens of high-engagement accounts on X have been accused of misleading users,” by obscuring their actual location, and presenting themselves as domestic voices when they are most likely not.

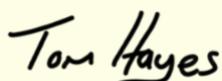
I recognise the demands these developments place on the UK’s defence and security services, and I commend the professionalism of our Armed Forces and security personnel who protect the nation in this complex, unpredictable environment.

The Russian threat underscores the need for sustained defence investment. By 2027, the UK will spend an additional £13.4 billion per year to modernise the Armed Forces, procure new equipment, and build critical infrastructure—strengthening national security while maintaining economic growth, low taxes, and efficient public services.

With our Labour government driving significant defence expenditure and national security preparedness, I believe we should now authorise a thorough investigation into Russian interference in our politics, for the good of our democracy.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Hayes MP

Member of Parliament for Bournemouth East