Solicitors Regulation Authority

News

Trust Services sanctions

09 June 2023

HM Treasury brought the provision of trust services into its financial sanctions regime in December last year.

A number of questions have been raised about this approach since then. So the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI), which is responsible for enforcement of the sanctions regime, has produced a blog [https://ofsi.blog.gov.uk/2023/05/30/trust-services-sanctions-5-months-on/] to address such issues.

Examples include clarity on the term '*Persons Connected with Russia*' . OGSI have confirmed this does not include Russian nationals who are not ordinarily resident or located in Russia. The 'domicile' test only applies to a person who is not an individual (eg a company).

The General Licence [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1144418/Trust_Services_General_Licence_2023-2589788.pdf] applies to persons designated under the trust services sanctions, it does not apply to trust services provided to or for the benefit of persons connected with Russia.

It includes a reporting obligation [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sanctions-trust-services] to let OFSI know that you are winding down provision of a trust service.

[] Prior Obligations general licence

OFSI has also issued a new general licence covering prior obligations. Again, a blog explains [https://ofsi.blog.gov.uk/2023/05/24/prior-obligations-general-licence/] how the licence works.

The licence took effect from 22 May 2023 and expires on 21 November 2023.

OFSI's consolidated list [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-sanctions-consolidated-list-of-targets/consolidated-list-of-targets] provides details of designated persons.