

Layla Moran MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon. James Cleverly
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

23rd February 2024

Dear James,

I am writing to you regarding the review of the Tier 1 visa scheme.

I and the Liberal Democrats have been fighting a long campaign to clamp down on the kleptocrats and oligarchs who use the UK economy as a hiding place for their dirty money.

Tier 1 investor visas were the “blind eye turned” route straight into the UK; a golden ticket—quite literally—to come to the UK and launder money with barely any scrutiny or transparency.

We know this scheme was abused by oligarchs and others and just last year the Home Office admitted that 10 sanctioned Russian oligarchs had been given UK passports through the Tier 1 scheme. The Government promised a review in March 2018, once the scheme closed, and promised to publish the findings. Nearly six years on, the Government is still yet to publish that review.

I have been tirelessly campaigning for the Government to publish the review.

As Russia launched its illegal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, I stood in Parliament and named all 35 individuals on the Navalny list. I called for the review to be published then, but the government refused. My colleagues in the House of Lords tabled an amendment to the Nationality and Borders Bill forcing the review to be published, the Government voted it down.

At every available opportunity, I have asked the Home Office when the review would be published and every time I failed to receive a date.

I was hopeful when the government published a written statement in January 2023. But the statement was a bitter disappointment - only a summary of the findings of the review. This is woefully inadequate.

The Government has attempted to draw a line under the whole sordid affair, refusing to comment further. In a recent freedom of information request asking the Home Office for a copy of the Tier 1 visa review, the Government responded that the information is in the public domain. This is clearly not the case.

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I am deeply concerned that the Home Office's continued refusal to publish these findings demonstrates that nothing has changed in the government's approach to sanctioning Putin's cronies.

So, on the 2nd anniversary of Putin's invasion of Ukraine and following the death of Alexei Navalny at the hands of Putin, I am asking you yet again to publish the findings of the review, where they relate to economic crime, in full. The public have a right to know the truth about the Government's actions on Golden Visas.

I look forward to hearing your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Layla Moran".

Layla Moran MP