

HED:

U.K. Sanctions Russian Billionaire Roman Abramovich, Freezes Assets Including Chelsea F.C.

DEK: Abramovich is one of seven high-profile Russian oligarchs hit by the sanctions which target individuals and entities linked to Putin's regime.

TOPLINE: The U.K. government on Thursday sanctioned Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich, freezing all his assets including the English Premier League soccer club Chelsea, as part of a broader sanctions effort that targets assets owned by several Russian oligarchs with close ties to Vladimir Putin's regime.

Key Facts

- According to a [notification](#) issued by the Treasury's Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation, Abramovich has been targeted for his association with Putin and his government.
- The Chelsea Football Club owner is one of seven [high-profile Russian oligarchs](#) targeted by Thursday's sanctions.
- In total, the U.K.'s updated sanctions list includes 65 individuals and entities linked to the Russian government.

Announcing the sanctions, U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: "There can be no safe havens for those who have supported Putin's vicious assault on Ukraine...We will be ruthless in pursuing those who enable the killing of civilians, destruction of hospitals and illegal occupation of sovereign allies."

Today's sanctions are the latest step in the UK's unwavering support for the Ukrainian people. We will be ruthless in pursuing those who enable the killing of civilians, destruction of hospitals and illegal occupation of sovereign allies.

The government's statement also noted that a new Economic Crime Bill will go into effect next week and will "significantly simplify" the process of imposing sanctions.

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also allow the UK to mirror allies' designations. The UK will keep going further, faster and deeper to punish Putin's regime for this callous war.

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The UK will continue to lead global efforts to provide Ukraine with economic, diplomatic, humanitarian and defensive support.

Given the significant impact that today's sanctions would have on Chelsea football club and the potential knock on effects of this, the Government has this morning published a licence which authorises a number of football-related activities to continue at Chelsea. This includes permissions for the club to continue playing matches and other football related activity which will in turn protect the Premier League, the wider football pyramid, loyal fans and other clubs. This licence will only allow certain explicitly named actions to ensure the designated individual is not able to circumvent UK sanctions. The licence will be kept under constant review and we will work closely with the football authorities.

This is a developing story.