



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

17<sup>th</sup> August 2022

*Dear Anthony,*

**RE: PROSCRIPTION OF TERRORIST GROUPS**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of proscription of the Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). I have read your comments on this important issue with interest.

While it is Government policy not to comment on whether or not a group is under consideration for proscription or not, I thought it may be helpful to set out the legal basis on which proscription decisions are made.

Legislation allows for a group to be proscribed in the UK only if the Secretary of State believes it is currently concerned in terrorism, as defined in the Terrorism Act 2000. This means an organisation can only be proscribed if it commits, or participates in, acts of terrorism, prepares for terrorism, promotes or encourages terrorism (including the unlawful glorification of terrorism), or is otherwise concerned in terrorism.

Proscription sends a strong message that terrorist organisations are not tolerated in the UK and deters them from operating here. It is a criminal offence to be a member or supporter of the organisation, with a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison and/or an unlimited fine. It is also a criminal offence for a person to display, or publish an article, or item of clothing, in such a way, or in such circumstances to, arouse a reasonable suspicion that they are a member or supporter of a proscribed organisation. This could lead to up to six months in prison, and/or a £5,000 fine.

Organisations which cause concern are kept under continuous review. As and when new material comes to light, it is considered and the organisation reassessed as part of that process. The investigation and prosecution of proscription offences is a matter for the police and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*With best wishes,*

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
**CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**