



CONCILIATION
RESOURCES

SiSTREN
LEGAL COLLECTIVE



JUST ADVICE:

**A guide to getting legal advice on
sanctions and counter-terrorism
laws for charities and campaigning
organisations**



About Conciliation Resources and Sistren Legal Collective



Conciliation Resources is an international organisation committed to stopping violent conflict and creating more peaceful societies. Since 2012 we have worked with humanitarian organisations, government and financial institutions in the UK to reduce impediments to legitimate humanitarian and peacebuilding activity posed by sanctions and counter-terrorism laws.

SiSTREN LEGAL COLLECTIVE

Sistren Legal Collective is a community of lawyers working at the intersection of law, grassroots organising and movement building. We use our knowledge of the law as a tool to support the work of leaders, activists, changemakers and organisations, particularly those centring social and racial justice.

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Disclaimer

This guide is for information only. It isn't legal advice and we don't provide any legal advice in relation to sanctions and counter-terrorism in this guide. Conciliation Resources and Sistren Legal Collective cannot provide any legal advice in relation to sanctions or counter-terrorism laws. If you need legal advice, please refer to the resources signposted in the guide.

The information in this guide is based on the legal position under UK law and is designed for organisations operating under English & Welsh law, whether their activities are domestic or international.

Guide updated 2026.

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I. Introduction and purpose of this guidance



What is the aim of this guidance?

This guidance aims to help organisations working in peacebuilding, humanitarian and campaigning contexts to navigate sanctions and counter-terrorism laws with greater confidence. It is a tool to help you make informed decisions, by providing a practical, accessible guide to understanding when legal advice is needed, how to access legal advice, and where to go for support.

Why does this guidance exist?

Many charities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community organisations and campaigning groups operate in contexts shaped by conflict or political repression, where sanctions or counter-terrorism laws may apply.

For example: A charity planning to deliver programmes in an area where a proscribed group operates will need to assess the risks of doing so and ask questions about how active the proscribed group is, and whether it controls access or seeks to control partners or contractors or aspects of the local economy. The charity should carry out appropriate checks and consider whether activities required to deliver programme objectives – such as contracts, payments, agreements, community engagement or mediation – could be seen as directly or indirectly benefiting that group under counter-terrorism law.

Charities registered in England & Wales are advised by the [Charity Commission](#)¹ to seek 'independent legal advice' in making compliance assessments and decisions. It might also be necessary to consider the laws in other jurisdictions, such as the country where activity is taking place, the European Union (EU) or United States (US). However, sanctions and counter-terrorism laws are complex, guidance is often vague, and legal advice can be hard to access.

This guidance exists to help organisations understand when legal advice is needed, where to get it, what questions to ask and how to ask them. It also aims to provide practical clarity and reassurance – explaining key concepts, demystifying legal roles, and giving step-by-step guidance so organisations feel confident and well prepared when engaging with lawyers, whether for the first time or as a refresher.

Who is this guidance for?

This guidance is written with the following audience in mind:

- Organisations without internal ('in-house') legal teams or lawyers.
- Organisations, with or without in-house lawyers, that need external legal advice.
- Organisations seeking free ('pro-bono') legal support.

1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charities-and-terrorism/compliance-toolkit-chapter-1-charities-and-terrorism>



II. What is legal advice?

What is legal advice?

Legal advice is professional guidance given by a qualified lawyer to help you understand how the law applies to your activities and decisions. In the context of sanctions and counter-terrorism, legal advice can take different forms depending on what you need and the level of risk involved. The table below sets out the types of legal advice that may be relevant.

Not every situation requires the same type of advice. The right approach will depend on your activities, the level of risk, and how the advice will be used.

Type of advice	 Good for	 Not good for	 Cost level
Oral advice (e.g. a phone call with an email or note summarising the key points)	Initial guidance, understanding your options, deciding whether you need more detailed advice	Formal opinions you need to share with regulators or funders	Cheaper
Brief written advice	Confirming your understanding in writing, documenting advice for internal records, relatively straightforward issues	Complex or multi-jurisdictional questions, situations where you need detailed legal analysis	Cheaper
Formal legal opinion	High-stakes decisions, advice you need to share with trustees/funders/regulators, situations where you need to demonstrate you've taken proper advice or where an authoritative opinion is needed on a difficult point of law	Quick questions or situations where you're exploring options	More expensive
Ongoing advisory support	Complex projects with evolving legal issues, situations where you need regular check-ins	One-off questions or budget-constrained situations	More expensive

What is good legal advice?

Basic legal advice explains what the law says. Good legal advice explains how the law applies to your specific situation, taking account of your mission, constraints and the political and practical context of the jurisdiction you are working in.

Basic legal advice: “UK counter-terrorism law restricts the following forms of engagement with proscribed organisations.”

Good legal advice: “Taking into account your proposed public statements, meetings and advocacy objectives, this activity is unlikely to amount to a terrorism offence under UK counter-terrorism law, but there are specific risks around how the engagement is framed and documented, which we set out alongside practical steps to reduce exposure.”

Lawyers won't make a decision for you. But they can give you parameters and guidance on what's possible or risky within the confines of the law. Good legal advice will give you an opinion on the issue or question and the risks associated with the action or decision.

It can be particularly difficult to obtain definitive legal advice on sanctions and counter-terror legislation (or 'CT legislation') because:



→ **The law is often genuinely unclear.** Sanctions and CT legislation uses broad language like “reasonable suspicion” or “funds made available for the benefit of” – terms or phrases that don't have precise legal definitions. Lawyers can't always give you certainty because the law itself doesn't always provide it.

→ **Small changes in circumstances can completely change the legal analysis.** Often, lawyers will 'qualify' their advice (meaning, they will place limits or conditions on their advice rather than giving a simple or absolute answer) because they know the situation might evolve.

Section V provides some pointers on how to work with lawyers to get the clearest advice possible for your circumstances.

Why should I get legal advice?

Getting legal advice at the right time can provide reassurance to help decision-making. It can also help to demonstrate that you've acted reasonably in identifying and managing risks to your organisation, taking a decision or carrying out an activity. For example, if:

- A funder or bank requires assurance that you've taken proper advice on compliance.
- The Charity Commission is investigating, and you want to show you acted responsibly and reasonably.
- You're applying for a sanctions licence and need to evidence your legal analysis.
- You're responding to public criticism and want to show due diligence.
- You're making a payment to an organisation or government designated under sanctions, or engaging with an organisation for humanitarian or peacebuilding purposes that has been proscribed as a terrorist organisation.

For registered charities, the Charity Commission is concerned with charities' compliance with the law, including compliance with sanctions and counter-terrorism laws. Trustees must discharge their trustee charity law legal duties and ensure they fulfil any obligations under UK or international law.² Seeking legal advice can help to support the discharge of those trustee duties.

Sanctions regulators such as OFSI³ or OFAC⁴ who issue penalties will often look more favourably on organisations which have sought legal advice on an issue, even if OFSI or OFAC conclude that the transaction in question led to a breach.

Note: If you think you may have inadvertently breached the law then you should report this to the relevant authorities,⁵ including the Charity Commission⁶ if your organisation is a registered charity.

Lawyers and law firms have 'professional indemnity insurance'. This means that if a lawyer gives advice that is incorrect or careless and it causes you financial loss, you may be able to make a legal claim and seek compensation through their insurance.

Will the legal advice I get be confidential?

Communications between a client and their lawyer for the purpose of seeking or receiving legal advice is usually confidential and protected from disclosure to courts, regulators and third parties. Importantly, simply seeking advice about whether something is lawful, risky or potentially problematic does not in itself trigger reporting. Lawyers are accustomed to advising on sensitive and high-risk matters.



TERMINOLOGY:

'Legal professional privilege' (also known as 'legal privilege' or 'privilege' is based on the idea that people should be able to communicate with their lawyers freely and honestly, without fear of exposure or interference.⁷ Legal privilege usually applies to communications or documents between a lawyer and their client, or between lawyers working on the same case. In simple terms, this means:

- What you tell your lawyer for the purpose of obtaining legal advice is confidential.
- The lawyer cannot disclose that advice, or the information you shared for that purpose, without your consent.
- The protection belongs to the client (you), not the lawyer.
- It applies to both solicitors and barristers when they are acting in a legal advisory capacity.

'Disclosure' is the process of providing relevant documents or information to the other party or the court for inspection. Disclosure may be voluntary or compulsory in accordance with a court order, and is done to help the parties and the court understand the facts and evidence of the case.⁸

2 Compliance toolkit chapter 1: Charities and Terrorism: www.gov.uk/government/publications/charities-and-terrorism/compliance-toolkit-chapter-1-charities-and-terrorism#charity-law-duties-and-responsibilities

3 The Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (the UK government body responsible for implementing and enforcing UK financial sanctions)

4 The Office of Foreign Assets Control (the US Treasury office responsible for administering and enforcing US economic and trade sanctions)

5 www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-report-a-suspected-breach-of-sanctions

6 rsi.charitycommission.gov.uk/web/register/reporting-or-updating-a-serious-incident

7 Definition from *Words for Justice* by Systemic Justice: systemicjustice.ngo/community-toolkit

8 Ibid

Seeking legal advice gives the person seeking the advice the benefit of legal professional privilege. This means that courts, regulators, and even police cannot force disclosure of privileged legal advice (unless there is a specific legal reason requiring disclosure) and the law firm providing the advice will not and usually cannot disclose this information to a third party. This allows individuals or organisations to seek the advice they need without worry that they will then need to hand over that advice to a third party.

However, privilege does not protect communications made for the purpose of committing a crime or fraud. Lawyers are also subject to anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing regulations, which may require them to make a report if they *know or suspect* certain criminal conduct – although the interaction between reporting duties and privilege is legally complex and fact-specific. If you have doubts about confidentiality when seeking legal advice, you should ask about this.

Practical tip

How to raise confidentiality concerns

Lawyers do not routinely report clients for seeking advice about complex or high-risk situations. However, if your organisation is concerned about confidentiality or you'd like more confidence about whether your lawyer is required to make a report, it is absolutely fine to clarify this at the outset.

For example, you could ask:

We would appreciate some clarification regarding confidentiality and legal professional privilege. In particular, could you please confirm:

- Whether our proposed instruction falls within legal advice privilege.
- Whether there are any reporting obligations that apply or any circumstances in which you would be required to disclose information to authorities.
- Whether privilege would extend to calls, draft documents, internal notes, and communications involving third parties.
- Who within your firm would have access to our information.
- How our information will be stored and protected.

Given the sensitivity of the advice we're seeking, we are keen to ensure we fully understand the confidentiality position before sharing detailed information.

Privilege can also be 'waived' which means that you give up the right to keep certain information private and confidential between you and your lawyer, if you act in a way which no longer keeps the information confidential. For example, if you:

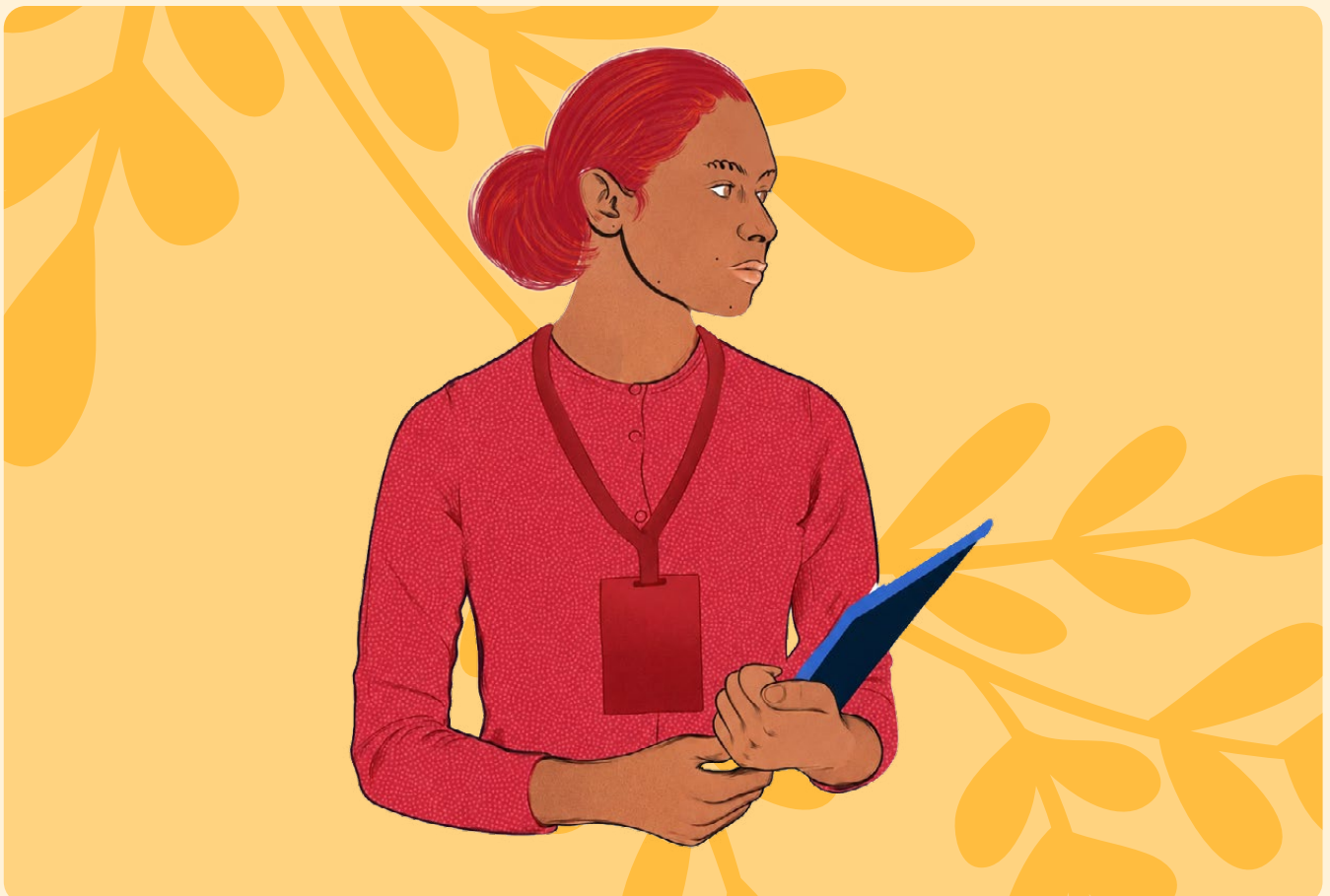
- forward your lawyer's advice to someone outside of the limited group of people who need to see the advice (the confidential circle).
- attach legal advice to an email to third parties.
- copy non-lawyers into confidential legal discussions.

Practical steps to help preserve privilege

- When contacting the law firm or lawyer, make it clear that you are seeking legal advice.
- Mark sensitive communications "Privileged and Confidential – Request for Legal Advice".

- Limit circulation of legal advice within your organisation to those who need to see it.
- Avoid forwarding privileged advice externally without legal input, as this can sometimes waive privilege.

Many charities work in partnerships or consortia. When multiple organisations need to share legal advice, that advice may be subject to '**common interest privilege**'. Common interest privilege allows multiple organisations to share legal advice on a matter of common interest without waiving privilege, as long as they all have a legitimate shared interest in the issue and it remains confidential to those people. A lawyer can advise if the legal advice provided is covered by common interest privilege.





III. Seeking legal advice on sanctions and counter- terrorism



When should I seek legal advice on sanctions and counter-terrorism?

It's not always necessary to seek legal advice if you have a question on sanctions or counter-terrorism laws. You might consider first researching information on the law and regulations

in available resources (see [Annex 2](#) for relevant resources on sanctions and CT legislation) or contacting the regulator (e.g. OFSI) for guidance on sanctions. Below are some common scenarios that might require you to seek legal advice on sanctions or counter-terror laws.

Situation	Scenario	Why you may need legal advice
<p>Before an activity, transaction or payment</p>	<p>a) You're not sure whether someone appears on a sanctions or terrorist list</p>	<p>Governments and institutions publish lists of individuals and organisations that are subject to sanctions or counter-terrorism measures, however it's not always straightforward to determine if the individual or entity you are dealing with is listed. Many people have the same name, businesses and organisations operate under different names, and there are often intermediary companies which obscure corporate structures. Law firms often have access to specialist screening tools which can help to identify individuals or organisations that are on sanctions or terrorism lists.</p>
	<p>b) You're unsure whether an activity would meet one of the criteria for a terrorism offence in the UK</p>	<p>Lawyers can give their view on the likelihood or risk of an activity (such as a funding arrangement or a public statement) amounting to a terrorism offence in the UK.</p>
	<p>c) You're not sure whether there is an exception or a licence that you can use</p>	<p>Some licences and exceptions exist for activities that would usually be prohibited or restricted under sanctions laws (e.g. humanitarian activities). Working with a lawyer can help you to understand whether any might apply to your circumstances.</p>
	<p>d) You're not clear on the rules around 'beneficial ownership' or 'ownership and control' for sanctions</p>	<p>Sanctions apply not only to a named individual or company, but also to other organisations they may directly or indirectly own. Working with a lawyer can help you to navigate these complex rules.</p>



Situation	Scenario	Why you may need legal advice
Before an activity, transaction or payment	e) You're not sure whether another jurisdiction's sanctions or counter-terrorism laws apply	Another country or jurisdiction's rules on sanctions and counter-terrorism may apply. For example, US sanctions and counter-terrorism laws may apply to some of your transactions if the transaction involves US dollars or a 'US Person'. Lawyers qualified in England & Wales cannot usually advise on any other jurisdiction's laws, so getting advice from a lawyer qualified in that jurisdiction will usually be necessary. Lawyers can usually facilitate the advice you need from lawyers in other jurisdictions.
	f) When undertaking academic or journalistic research, you're unsure about the implications of collecting information which may relate to terrorist activities or from people who may have been involved in terrorist activities, including victims of trafficking	Specific legal defences may apply if an organisation is undertaking academic and/or journalistic work which requires the collection of information that may be considered of use to terrorist organisations or might otherwise be considered as a form of support for terrorist organisations. Lawyers can help you to understand these legal defences and whether they apply to you.
	g) An area of your work involves legal or humanitarian support for individuals who are being investigated under counter-terrorism legislation in the UK or abroad	Depending on the jurisdiction(s) in which your work or projects operate, there may be groups or individuals who are proscribed as terrorists in one jurisdiction and not in another. Legal advice can help you make decisions about how to engage with or provide legitimate support to individuals or communities who have been proscribed as terrorists in one jurisdiction but not another.

Situation	Scenario	Why you may need legal advice
<p>Before receiving funding</p>	<p>a) You're receiving donor funding that comes with specific counter-terrorism clauses or compliance requirements you don't understand</p>	<p>Contractual clauses in donor agreements can be complex and wide-ranging. If you're not clear on what the clause means or whether it applies to your activities, you can sometimes ask the donor (who may use their lawyers to help provide clarity on the clause). If the donor's response is unclear or you'd like more clarity, it's advisable to get legal advice.</p>
	<p>b) You're not sure if receiving funding would put you in breach of sanctions or counter-terrorism law in the UK</p>	<p>Receiving funds from a sanctioned or proscribed organisation can put you in breach of the law. It's not a defence to say you didn't know the person/organisation was sanctioned or proscribed.</p>
<p>If a prohibited activity has been, or is suspected to have been carried out</p>	<p>a) You discover that you've been making payments to a sanctioned person or proscribed organisation and you are not sure whether or who to report this to</p>	<p>Breaches of sanction laws should be reported to the relevant authority, and there are specific legal obligations to report terrorist financing offences under the Terrorism Act 2000. If you are a registered charity, you should also report a breach to the Charity Commission. Lawyers can support you in understanding whether you have breached the law, how, and what to report to regulators, authorities or the police.</p>
	<p>b) You're facing reputational damage, media scrutiny or online attacks related to your work</p>	<p>Lawyers can often support with risk mitigation and crisis management.</p>

Situation	Scenario	Why you may need legal advice
	c) You've received correspondence or questions from a regulator such as the Charity Commission or your bank about transactions that might relate to sanctioned or terrorist entities	Lawyers can support you with robust responses to questions from regulators or banks.
	d) You're not sure whether you owe a duty of disclosure in respect of information you received about a person involved in terrorist financing	Legal advice can set out whether or not you have any statutory obligations to do anything with information that has come to your organisation's attention.
Exporting or purchasing goods or services	You're exporting goods or services to a country which is sanctioned, or you buy goods, or contract agents, consultants or sub-contractors in countries or contexts where terrorist organisations have historically operated and/or had a significant presence	Lawyers can support with understanding and compliance with the restrictions on the export or purchase of goods or services to or from sanctioned countries, or where you are buying goods or contracting agents, consultants or sub-contractors in a country where terrorist organisations do or have operated.
Due diligence policies and processes	You're are not sure whether your due diligence policies are sufficient	Lawyers can review and advise on due diligence policies to ensure they are sufficient from a legal perspective, and you are asking the right due diligence questions, as required by the regulator.

Jurisdictions and specialisms

Most counter-terrorism offences – for example under the Terrorism Act 2000 and the Terrorism Act 2006 – apply across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Counter-terrorism is largely a reserved matter, meaning the UK Parliament legislates for the whole UK.

However, while the offences themselves apply UK-wide, aspects of criminal procedure and prosecution differ between England & Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. If a matter involves prosecution risk, enforcement or court proceedings in Scotland or Northern Ireland, you may need a lawyer qualified in that jurisdiction.

A lawyer qualified in England & Wales:

- can advise on UK counter-terrorism legislation (because it is UK-wide law).
- is trained primarily in the England & Wales legal system and court structure.
- may not be qualified to conduct litigation in Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Within the UK, legal specialisms are also often divided between civil, criminal and international law. **Civil lawyers** typically advise on disputes, contracts, compliance, regulation, investigations and enforcement risk. **Criminal lawyers** often focus on criminal liability and offences, defences and exceptions, consequences of breach and enforcement. International lawyers advise on cross-border or multi-jurisdictional issues.

When seeking advice on sanctions and counter-terrorism regulations, organisations should consider (1) which jurisdiction(s) the legal advisers need to be able to advise on, and (2) what kind of specialism they might need, depending on your query. Be particularly alert to the criminal and regulatory aspects of sanctions and CT legislation and ensure you are getting advice from lawyers who understand when criminal liability can arise, for whom, and in what circumstances.



IV. Where to go for legal advice on sanctions and counter-terrorism

Types of legal advisers



TERMINOLOGY:

Solicitors: A solicitor is a lawyer who provides legal support and advice on a range of personal and commercial issues. Solicitors may work in law firms ('private practice' solicitors), with companies ('in-house' solicitors), in local or central government, as self-employed (or freelance solicitors) or in the court service.

Barristers: A barrister is a type of lawyer who typically represents clients in court and provides specialist legal opinions. Most barristers are self-employed and work in barristers' 'chambers' (collection of offices where barristers practise law together).

The legal system in the UK makes a distinction between lawyers who represent clients in court (barristers), and lawyers who provide advice and support outside of courts (solicitors). Barristers usually can't be hired directly by the public and are usually hired (or 'instructed') by solicitors for court representation or specialist advice.

Where to start

For most charities and community organisations, getting good legal advice on sanctions and counter-terrorism is not straightforward. These are highly specialised areas of law and are distinct from broader human rights, charity law, public law or international law expertise. Advising on sanctions and counter-terrorism compliance requires

detailed knowledge of specific statutory regimes, licensing systems, enforcement practice and rapidly changing government guidance. There is a real gap between needing specialist advice and being able to afford it. We have heard repeatedly that engaging a specialist law firm is simply out of reach.

One small charity told us they approached a well-known law firm to review their policies and procedures – but the costs were simply prohibitive.

A medium-sized organisation shared that they went to a respected charity law firm for help, only to be referred on to a specialist firm whose rates were even higher and well beyond their budget.

But the consequences of getting wrong advice can be serious, including criminal liability, regulatory action and reputational harm. And regulators often advise charities to seek independent legal advice where the law is unclear or risk is heightened. This creates a persistent Catch-22 for many organisations, who want to comply and move with confidence, but can't afford or access the advice needed to do so.

These barriers matter. When organisations can't access clear, affordable advice, it becomes harder to act with confidence. Legal uncertainty slows down or limits important humanitarian, peacebuilding and campaigning work at the very moment it is most needed.

This and the following sections set out practical options for finding appropriate legal support, including lower-cost and pro bono routes, and how to approach firms in a way that helps you get the right advice at a proportionate cost. Advice on minimising and managing costs is included in Sections [V](#) and [VI](#) and [Annex 2](#).

So where do you start?

Your first port of call will generally be finding a firm of solicitors (a law firm) with experience or expertise in sanctions and counter-terrorism work. A solicitor can advise you if a barrister will be more suitable for the type of advice or expertise that you need. You can find further guidance on how to identify the right law firm for your needs and practical steps to initiate contact in [Section VI](#).

What are legal rankings, and how can they help?

Legal rankings are independent directories that assess and recognise law firms and individual lawyers for their expertise in specific areas of law. They can be a useful starting point when looking for lawyers with recognised experience in specialist areas such as sanctions or counter-terrorism. These rankings usually list both **firms** and **individual lawyers** within those firms. Being listed does not mean that other capable firms are not doing this work; it simply means that those named have been publicly recognised for it, which can help you identify where relevant expertise sits.

In the UK, the main rankings people consult are [Legal 500](#),⁹ [Chambers and Partners](#),¹⁰ and [Lexology Index](#).¹¹ Alongside rankings, it is often invaluable to speak to other organisations in your sector who are dealing with similar issues and ask who they approached for legal advice, how they found the process, and whether they would recommend working with particular firms or lawyers.

Law firms with charity or not-for-profit expertise

Law firms that work with charities and non-profit organisations often understand the sector and the broader regulatory environment in which they operate. This includes the circumstances that might require you or your organisation to engage with a sanctioned entity or a terrorist organisation.

Not all charity law specialists will have a good understanding of sanctions of counter-terrorism laws, so it's important to check – through an initial consultation or an exchange of emails – whether they will be able to advise on the relevant issues. They will also tell you themselves if they don't have the required expertise and may be able to recommend someone who does.

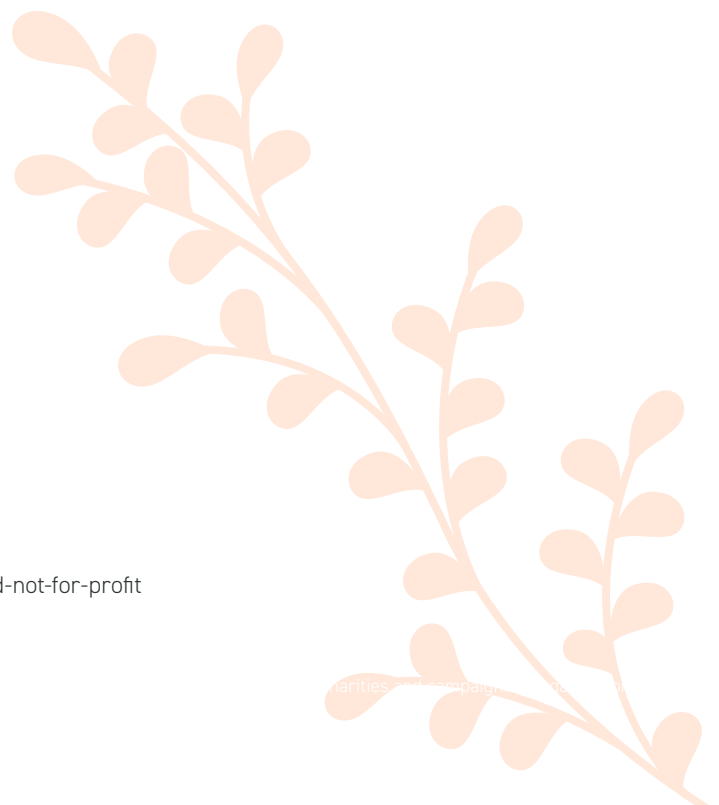
The Legal 500 provides a national and global ranking of charity and non-profit law firms, which is updated annually and viewable [here](#).¹² Many of the top ranked firms will *integrate both charity and compliance/risk advice* internally, others may have strong sanctions/export control teams that can work alongside charity specialists or be brought in when charity clients face those specific issues. Firms focused on charity law without a listed sanctions practice can also often broker specialist input if needed (e.g. via partner firms or barristers).

9 <https://www.legal500.com/>

10 <https://chambers.com/>

11 <https://www.lexology.com/>

12 <https://www.legal500.com/c/london/private-client/charities-and-not-for-profit>



Law firms with sanctions, counter-terrorism and export control practices

Many commercial law firms have specialist sanctions teams, often because they advise corporate clients on international trade and compliance. These firms often have deep technical expertise in sanctions law, up-to-date knowledge of listings, licensing, and enforcement, and experience dealing with OFSI and other regulators.

The downside is that they may not understand the charity sector or humanitarian context as well as charity law firms do, although some large commercial firms do have experience advising large non-profit clients. Additionally, their rates tend to be higher than the rates of charity firms. It is sometimes possible to request lower rates or pro bono support (see '[Pro bono support](#)' below for more information) from commercial firms, particularly if you are a registered charity, so it is worth asking if this is possible when you first make contact with a firm.

Chambers and Partners maintains a global and national ranking of law firms with expertise in sanctions work, which is updated annually and viewable [here](#).¹³

Legal advice on counter-terrorism laws is often most useful from criminal law firms. The Chambers and Partners ranking for law firms with an expertise in criminal law in London is [here](#).¹⁴ It is also possible to view rankings for criminal practice in other regions of the UK through the above link.

In-house legal support from membership organisations

Some network organisations are able to source legal support for their members, including:

- A4ID.¹⁵
- TrustLaw¹⁶ (Thompson Reuters Foundation).
- Lawyers in Charities.¹⁷
- INGO Lawyers Forum.
- Bond.¹⁸

While the membership organisation might not be able to provide you with advice directly, they can sometimes provide helpful resources or can help you to source pro bono or paid for legal support.

13 <https://chambers.com/legal-rankings/sanctions-uk-wide-1:2709:11805:1?l=en-GB>

14 <https://chambers.com/legal-rankings/crime-london-firms-1:347:11814:1?l=en-GB>

15 <https://a4id.org/>

16 <https://www.trust.org/trustlaw/>

17 <https://lawyersincharities.org.uk/>

18 <https://www.bond.org.uk/>

Pro bono support



TERMINOLOGY:

'Pro bono' is Latin for 'for the public good'. It refers to legal services that are provided voluntarily and without charge to people who cannot afford them, or to causes that serve the public interest. For example, a lawyer may work pro bono on a case involving human rights, environmental protection or social justice.¹⁹

Many large commercial law firms provide pro bono support, particularly to charities and non-profits, however this support is often more accessible to larger or well-known charities and international NGOs. Well-known organisations can benefit from name recognition and existing relationships, and lawyers may be more likely to offer pro bono support where they have a personal affinity or connection with the organisation's work or where the organisation has a strong public profile.

Larger, commercial law firms often have the resources to allow their lawyers to take on some work for free. By contrast, it may be not be sustainable or financially viable for smaller firms or law firms who already support a large number of charity clients to also provide a lot of pro bono support.

In principle, any law firm can provide pro bono support. In practice, lawyers offering pro bono work are doing so in addition to their paid work, which means:

- availability may be limited.
- response times could be slower.
- the scope of work may be restricted.
- it may not be appropriate for ongoing or complex matters.

More generally, access to pro bono support can be difficult to procure and often depends on who you know. Personal relationships, introductions through networks, or referrals from other organisations can make a difference – but this isn't always possible, especially for more niche or specialist legal areas such as sanctions and counter-terrorism.

You can access a list of firms and lawyers who are known to provide pro bono support through [The Pro Bono Recognition List](#).²⁰ Charities we've spoken to have referenced the pro bono legal support they've received on sanctions and counter-terrorism from:

- Freshfields
- Baker McKenzie
- Gibson Dunn
- Linklaters

If you're not able to secure pro bono support, it might still be possible to get a discount on fees. Always ask!

¹⁹ Definition from *Words for Justice* by Systemic Justice: systemicjustice.ngo/community-toolkit/

²⁰ <https://www.probonorecognitionlist.org.uk/Recognition-List>

Barristers



TERMINOLOGY:

Legal opinions are a form of legal advice given by barristers. It is a formal, reasoned piece of legal advice on a specific question or set of facts, usually given in writing. It is one of the most authoritative forms of legal advice you can obtain in England & Wales and used primarily by barristers who specialise deeply in particular areas of law. Legal opinions are used to analyse hard cases and unclear law.

Clerk: A clerk is a professional who supports a lawyer or a group of lawyers with case management, administration and client coordination. A barristers' clerk is responsible for managing diaries, handling instructions, negotiating fees, and acting as a key point of contact between clients and barristers.

Instructing a barrister is likely to be most appropriate for discrete legal questions or formal legal opinions, rather than ongoing transactional or case management support. Barristers can provide written advice, legal opinions, represent you in dealings with regulators, and advise on specific legal questions. If you can instruct a barrister directly, this can be more cost-effective than instructing a law firm, and they often offer highly specialised legal advice in a particular area.

It's usually not possible to instruct a barrister directly (i.e. without a solicitor) unless the barrister is part of the direct access Public Access scheme.²¹ If a barrister is not part of the Public Access scheme, you will need to go through a solicitor first (which can increase the cost) and they will instruct the barrister on your behalf.

If you are instructing a barrister directly, you will need to give background, instructions and questions. This will require a level of initial knowledge or understanding of the issues you are facing.

Barristers usually take instructions through their clerks, and so you'll likely need to find out who their clerk is first by checking their profile page on the Chambers website and speak with them directly. The clerk will pass on the request/instructions to the barrister and deal with you directly for invoicing, meaning you might have very limited involvement with the barrister yourself.

The Chambers and Partners Bar ranking for criminal barristers in London is here²² and for sanctions is here.²³

21 <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/for-barristers/public-and-licensed-access.html>

22 <https://chambers.com/legal-rankings/crime-london-bar-14:347:11841:2?l=en-GB>

23 <https://chambers.com/legal-rankings/sanctions-all-circuits-14:2709:11840:2?l=en-GB>





V. How much do lawyers cost?



The cost of legal advice varies widely and depends on the issue, the level of risk, the urgency of the advice and the seniority of the lawyer involved. There is no single 'standard' price, and costs are usually discussed and agreed in advance.

Common ways lawyers charge for their work

Quotes and estimates usually do not include VAT or disbursements, which are added on top. VAT is currently charged at 20%. Disbursements are additional out-of-pocket costs incurred during the work, such as specialist searches or payments to third parties (e.g. overseas counsel or expert advisers).

 Charging method	 Description
Fixed fee	Where a set price is agreed for a specific piece of work (e.g. reviewing a contract or providing written advice on a defined question).
Capped fee	A fee structure where the maximum total cost is agreed in advance and will not exceed a fixed amount, regardless of time spent.
Hourly rates	Often used for ongoing or open-ended work where the scope may evolve.
Fee estimates	Provide an estimate of likely costs based on an agreed scope of work, but are not a fixed price.
Blended or team rates	Work done by different lawyers is charged at a single agreed hourly rate rather than at each individual lawyer's rate (which would otherwise vary by seniority).

Indicative hourly rates

The hourly cost of a solicitor or barrister will depend on their experience. Hourly rates will usually increase for every year spent working as a lawyer and therefore more senior lawyers cost more per hour.

It is common for junior solicitors and barristers to work alongside their senior counterparts. Partners are the most senior lawyers in a law firm and Kings' Counsel (KC) are the highest professional distinction for a barrister in England & Wales. In law firms, often a junior solicitor or associate will carry out the bulk of the research or preparation of the advice, with supervision and guidance from a senior associate or partner. In more complex matters, a senior associate / barrister, KC or partner may provide all of the advice.

The figures below are illustrative only and vary significantly by firm, location

and specialism, particularly for sanctions and counter-terrorism work.

Solicitors (approximate UK ranges):

- Junior solicitor / associate: £200–£350 per hour.
- Senior associate / managing associate: £350–£900+ per hour.
- Partner: £500–£1000+ per hour.

Barristers (approximate UK ranges):

- Junior barrister: £150–£400 per hour or £1,500–£3,000 for a written opinion.
- Senior barrister / Kings' Counsel (KC): £300–£1,500+ per hour or £3,000–£10,000+ for a written opinion.

Some lawyers may offer the following types of rates:

 Rate terminology	 What it means
Reduced rates	Legal services provided at a fee lower than a lawyer's or firm's usual commercial rates.
Low bono	Legal advice provided at a significantly discounted rate to make specialist support more affordable for organisations with limited resources.
Pro bono	Legal advice or representation provided free of charge, usually where there is a clear public interest or charitable purpose.
Charity rates	Preferential fees offered to charities or non-profits, often lower than standard commercial rates but higher than low bono, reflecting the organisation's public benefit purpose.s

Managing costs

Lawyers will set out their hourly rates in an engagement letter. Time is usually recorded in short units (often 6-minute increments), meaning you are charged for all time spent on your matter, including calls, emails, research and drafting. Because time is rounded up to the nearest 6-minute unit (e.g. 14 minutes rounded up to 18 minutes), costs can increase quickly if work is unfocused or open-ended, especially if you're working on an hourly rates basis. Being clear about your budget at the outset can help avoid surprises later.

Questions to ask about fees

When speaking to a lawyer, it can be helpful to ask:

- How will you charge for this work? (fixed fee, hourly rate, estimate, or a mix).
- What is the estimated total cost for the agreed scope of work?
- How will you keep us informed if costs are likely to increase?
- Can you offer a capped fee arrangement for this scope of work?
- Can you provide a quote for us at reduced or charity rates?
- Are VAT and disbursements included in this quote, or added separately?
- Can the scope be limited or phased to manage costs?





VI. How to engage a lawyer and ask for legal advice





Step 1: Identify the lawyer you want to work with

You can get a list of potential options together by asking other organisations or contacts in your ecosystem which lawyers they'd recommend, or by reviewing publicly available legal rankings and testimonials about relevant lawyers, for example through Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners (see Annex 2: Guidance on finding a lawyer).

If you have the time to do so, contact a few different options first, through an introductory email and asking for an initial conversation. Many lawyers will offer a brief initial call for free to help you figure out whether you need their help. Following this you can discuss likely costs or alternative ways to source the advice you need.

💡 Practical tip

Here is an example of how you can request an initial consultation:

I'm writing on behalf of [organisation name], a [charity / NGO / community organisation] working on [brief description of work].

We have a question relating to sanctions and/or counter-terrorism law and are trying to understand whether we need specialist legal advice, and if so what kind. We were wondering whether you might be willing to offer a short initial call (e.g. 30–60 minutes) to help us assess this and discuss next steps.

We would of course be happy to explain our situation briefly in advance, and to discuss likely costs or alternative ways of sourcing future advice if it looks like more detailed support is needed.

Step 2: Provide initial details

You would usually do this in writing by email. Usually, lawyers have their email address on their profile page and you can contact them directly. Law firms often have practice managers or secretaries who will support their legal requests. Barristers usually work with clerks who manage their legal requests and so you will need to contact them first.

Practical tip

Example template email providing initial details:

Dear [Name/Firm/Team],

I am writing on behalf of [organisation name], a [brief description – e.g. UK-registered charity working on humanitarian programmes in X].

We are currently seeking legal advice to support a decision about [briefly describe the decision you are trying to make]. In particular, we would like advice on the following legal questions:

Questions

By way of background, the key facts and context are:

About the situation:

- What has happened so far.
- What you're planning to do.
- Who else is involved (partners, funders, beneficiaries).
- What you're concerned by.
- Any relevant history or context.

What you've already done:

- Due diligence you've conducted.
- Guidance you've already consulted.
- Advice you've received from other sources.

About what's at stake:

- How much money is involved and the flow of funds.
- The currency of payments and banking routes.
- What the risks are if you get it wrong.
- What obligations you have to funders, regulators, or other parties.
- What alternatives you've considered.

We are working to the following deadlines or constraints:

- [e.g. funding decision date, programme start date, regulatory deadline].

In terms of format, we are looking for

- [e.g. a short written note, an email response, or a call followed by written confirmation].

Please could you let us know:

- Whether you would be able to support us with this work.
- Your estimated fees (including whether you offer charity rates, capped fees or reduced rates), or whether pro bono support might be available for this work.
- When you would expect to be able to provide the advice.

Please let us know if you need any further information at this stage

Step 3: Receive a response

Once you've submitted your request for advice, it might take a few days or up to a week for the lawyer to come back to you with confirmation whether they can advise you and with a fee proposal.

Practical tip

The lawyer is likely to require some information from you at this stage to complete their 'know your customer' (KYC), 'anti-money laundering' (AML) and conflicts of interest checks before taking you on as a client, including:

- Organisation name, registration number (and charity number if you are a registered UK charity), legal form.
- Your main activities.
- All the countries in which you operate.
- Your governance structure, such as who your directors/trustees are, including ID documents for the some or all of the directors/trustees.

It is helpful to have this information readily available, as lawyers usually can't proceed with advising until these checks are completed.

Step 4: Decide whether to proceed

Consider whether you have enough clarity and confidence to proceed with formally instructing the lawyer. If not, you may want to consider reaching out to alternative options.

Practical tip

Ask for any clarifications on fees, such as how costs will be managed on an hourly rates basis, or whether a fixed fee can be agreed, when deciding whether you want to proceed.

Step 5: Agree terms and engagement

Once you've heard back from the lawyer and assuming you are happy with the fee proposal and format for the advice, you will receive an engagement letter from the lawyer or their PA or clerk. It's important that you read the engagement letter (terms and conditions) which will cover the agreed scope of work, any fees (note these may only be estimated unless you have agreed a fixed or capped fee), the firm's terms and conditions of work (usually including information on its insurance and complaints policy). You will be required to confirm your acceptance to the engagement terms and conditions before the lawyer will commence their work.

Practical tip

Remember that VAT and disbursements are usually not included in the fee, so you will likely need to budget an additional c.20% for VAT and disbursements.

Step 6: Advice is prepared

Once the lawyer starts on your advice, it's possible that they may have follow-up questions for you. If not, you will hear back from them once the advice is finalised, which could take between one to four weeks depending on how urgent your request is or how busy the lawyer is.

💡 Practical tip

It's best to have a discussion at the outset on timings to manage expectations on both sides. If you have a genuinely urgent request, lawyers can often accommodate this. If any key facts change during the time that the lawyer is preparing the advice, you should let them know as soon as possible.

💡 Practical tip

If you have follow-up questions, think about these carefully and how you frame them to minimise additional costs. For example, ask clarificatory questions, rather than questions that request a fresh analysis:

- "To confirm our understanding, if we were to proceed with Option B and apply the due diligence steps you listed at paragraphs 3–5, would you consider the risk of breaching UK sanctions to be low and which mitigation measure(s) would you recommend as the priority in our circumstances?"

Step 7: Receive and review advice

Once you've received the (written) advice, read it carefully. There are often a number of caveats included in the advice. Make sure you understand any caveats and ask if you're unsure.

💡 Practical tip

Go back to the original questions you had asked for advice on and check whether the advice you've received gives you the information and answers you need.

Step 9: Invoice and close

If you are happy with the advice and have no further questions, the lawyer will prepare their invoice and send it to you. The invoice should include a description of the work done and, in some cases, they will include a breakdown of the time spent (e.g. 30-minute call, one hour research, two hours drafting note). The invoice amount shouldn't be a surprise, but if it is you can query why the costs are higher than originally estimated or agreed. Sometimes it's possible to negotiate a discount or write-off if you feel the fees charged are unfair or too high.

💡 Practical tip

If you would like to see a breakdown of the costs involved, you can ask for this.

Step 8: Ask clarifying questions

Lawyers will usually leave some scope for clarification/follow-up questions within their quoted fees, but it's best to check. If you don't think the lawyer has answered your question sufficiently or provided clear or accurate advice, you should query this and ask for clarification or revisions as necessary. If a lawyer has made a mistake or not been sufficiently clear with their advice, they should not charge you any additional fees.

Asking the right questions

Before you make a request for legal support, think about what you want the advice to achieve. Do you need general information about an area of the law, are you trying to make a decision, are you experiencing a crisis and need guidance on what to do next? What you are hoping to get out of the advice will help frame how you ask the questions.

Provide **sufficient and specific information**, for example:

Instead of: “We need more information about the sanctions regime in Sudan”

Try: “We are a UK-registered charity delivering programmes in [country] and making monthly payments in [currency] through [banking route]. We’re considering a partnership with a local NGO in Sudan to deliver healthcare. We need to understand whether this partnership would breach [UK] or any other sanctions (e.g. could these payments be considered making funds available to a designated person), what due diligence we should do, and whether we need a licence.”

Ask **focused** questions, for example:

Instead of: “Can you advise us on sanctions compliance in Syria?”

Try: “Can you advise us on whether our proposed due diligence procedure for partners in Syria is sufficient to meet UK sanctions requirements? Specifically, we’d like you to review our draft due diligence procedure for partners in Syria (attached) and advise whether it meets UK sanctions requirements, particularly in relation to [specific concern]?”

Provide **context** wherever possible, for example:

Instead of: “Is our work compliant with counter-terrorism law?”

Try: “We operate in an area where we’re aware that a proscribed group is active, but we do not engage with them directly. The following are a few examples of the types of community engagement activities we are planning to carry out. Can you advise whether our proposed activities could raise risks under UK counter-terrorism law, and what steps we should take to reduce those risks?”

Give **real world or indicative examples** wherever possible, for example:

Instead of: “Do we need a licence to work in Yemen?”

Try: “We plan to make payments to local suppliers in Yemen for programme delivery. The following are indicative examples of the types of payments we would typically need to make. Can you advise whether these payments are prohibited under UK sanctions, whether any humanitarian exceptions apply, and if not, whether we need to apply for a licence?”

Top tips when instructing lawyers

Stage	Tip
Before contacting a lawyer	Be clear internally about why you need legal advice.
Initial approach	<p>Be as specific as possible about the legal questions you need answered rather than asking for general explanations of the law.</p> <p>Provide concise but complete factual context, including partners, locations, funding sources and timelines.</p> <p>Flag any urgency, deadlines or operational constraints at the outset.</p>
Scoping the work	<p>Bundle related questions together to avoid repeated re-familiarisation and extra cost.</p> <p>Think about (and ask, if needed) what format of advice is most appropriate for your needs (call, email, short note or formal opinion).</p> <p>Ask whether a fixed fee, capped fee or charity rate is available.</p>
Engagement stage	<p>Read the engagement letter carefully to confirm scope, assumptions, exclusions and fee structure. Note that VAT and disbursements are likely to be extra, and budget accordingly.</p> <p>Check how many rounds of follow-up or clarificatory questions are included within the scope and fees. Check if a follow-up call to discuss the advice is included in the scope.</p>

Stage	Tip
During the advice	<p>Respond promptly to follow-up questions to avoid delays and additional time costs.</p> <p>Inform the lawyer immediately if key facts or circumstances change.</p>
Receiving the advice	<p>Read the advice carefully, including any qualifications, assumptions and caveats.</p> <p>Check that it serves your purposes and answers your specific questions fully.</p>
After receiving advice	<p>Prepare focused follow-up questions rather than open-ended requests for clarification.</p>
Closing the engagement	<p>Review the invoice against the agreed scope and query anything unexpected or unclear.</p>



Annex 1:

Understanding sanctions and counter -terrorism laws



It's helpful to try and have a working understanding of sanctions and counter-terrorism laws and how they apply to your context before seeking legal advice. This will help inform the kinds of questions you might ask or the advice you need.

Here is a brief summary of sanctions and counter-terrorism laws in the UK and when they might apply. You can also access further resources and guidance in [Annex 2](#).

What are sanctions?



TERMINOLOGY:

The term '**designation**' is used to describe the listing of individuals or organisations under a sanctions regime.

Sanctions are a foreign policy tool and the legal mechanism through which a government or international body (such as the United Nations or the EU) will restrict or prohibit the making of funds, exports, or certain goods or services available to certain individuals, government departments or organisations on whom they have imposed one or more of these sanctions. The purpose of imposing sanctions is generally to try to change or constrain the behaviour of governments or individuals, and they can be lifted if they achieve their goal.²⁴

The UK Government has two forms of sanctions: 'country' sanctions which impose sanctions on individuals and entities in that country; and 'thematic' sanctions which impose sanctions on individuals and entities engaged in other forms of wrongdoing such as human rights abuses, terrorism or nuclear proliferation. The UK does not impose blanket sanctions on any country.

The [UK Sanctions List](#)²⁵ is the official government list that includes all individuals, organisations and ships that have been designated under the UK sanctions regimes and which may include:

- Members of government.
- Government ministries.
- Key political figures.
- Businesspeople and their organisations.
- Financial institutions such as banks.

Why might sanctions be relevant to your work?

All UK nationals and legal entities established under UK law, including individuals and organisations operating within UK territory and UK territorial seas, as well as their overseas branches must comply with the UK sanctions.

All UK citizens and UK-based businesses (including charities) that need to send or receive funds or goods or services to, enter into contracts or transactions, or establish projects and partnerships in a country subject to UK sanctions, will need to have an understanding of whether any individual or entity with whom they want to do business with in those countries are subject to sanctions or are 'owned or controlled' by a sanctioned or 'designated' person.

24 UK sanctions strategy (2024): <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65d720cd188d770011038890/Deter-disrupt-and-demonstrate-UK-sanctions-in-a-contested-world.pdf>

25 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-sanctions-list>

What are terrorism/ counter-terrorism laws?



TERMINOLOGY:

The term '**proscription**' refers to the legal process by which an organisation is formally listed as a terrorist organisation in the UK by the government, and a '**proscribed organisation**' is an organisation that has been listed as a terrorist organisation. Other jurisdictions might use terms such as '**designation**'.

Sanctions and counter-terrorism are not the same but are often discussed together as the offences under each set of regulations are similar – for example, 'making available funds' to a proscribed or designated person. In addition, some individuals or entities that are proscribed are also sanctioned, although this is not always the case.

Both sanctions and terrorism laws target particular groups and individuals. While sanctions most commonly involve financial restrictions or controls on goods and services, terrorism laws are broader in scope and carry more severe consequences if breached.

An organisation or group may be **proscribed** **s a terrorist organisation** if they are believed to be 'concerned in terrorism'.²⁶ Examples of terrorist organisations under UK law currently include Al Qa'ida, Boko Haram, ISIL, Hamas, Hizballah, and PLFP-GC.

Individuals can be convicted of terrorism offences. There are a range of terrorism offences that an individual or organisation can commit, including:

- **Belonging** to or being a member of a proscribed organisation.
- **Inviting support** for a proscribed organisation – material support, moral support or approval.
- **Expressing a belief** that is supportive of a proscribed organisation.
- **Arranging or assisting in arranging a meeting** that is to support or further the activities of a proscribed organisation.
- **Wearing clothes or displaying articles** in such a way or circumstances as to arouse reasonable suspicion that the individual is a member or supporter of a proscribed organisation.
- **Publishing an image or an item of clothing** such as a flag or logo in the same circumstances as above.
- **Encouraging** terrorist activities.
- **Collection of information likely** to be of use to a terrorist.
- **Dissemination** of terrorist publications with the intention of encouraging the commission of terrorist offences.
- **Terrorist financing offences**, including the use, possession or raising of funds for the "purposes of terrorism" or for "the benefit of a proscribed organisation".

Individuals and organisations can also carry out '**an act of terrorism**' which refers to use of violence and intimidation to achieve political, religious or ideological goals.

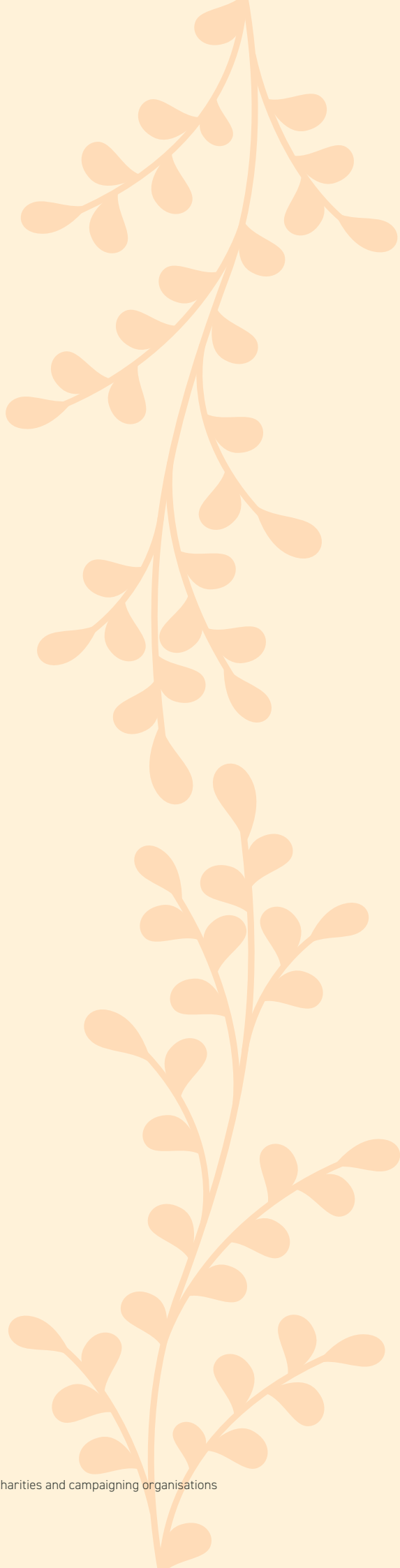
²⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/proscribed-terror-groups-or-organisations--2>

Individuals who are suspected of engaging in terrorist activities may be subject to heightened levels of surveillance under special investigatory powers which apply to these types of offences. If a person has been charged and convicted in the UK of a terrorism offence they will be subjected to specific sanctions – for example, being added to a notification register known as the Registered Terrorist Offender (RTO).

It's important to keep in mind that in the UK, many of these offences apply to acts which occur outside the UK. The legal term for this is 'extra-territorial application'. This simply means that activities undertaken anywhere in the world can ultimately be investigated by UK counter-terrorism agencies in certain circumstances.

Why might counter-terror laws be relevant your work?

- You might be delivering assistance to the civilian population in an area controlled by a group proscribed as a terrorist organisation.
- You might be working in a country where government and government ministries are controlled by a proscribed group and you may be required to pay fees for visas or utilities – which can engage sanctions and CT laws.
- You might be financially supporting or leading a mediation process between armed groups, one or more of which might be proscribed.
- You might be a political campaigning organisation in the UK trying to navigate what might constitute support for a terrorist organisation.
- A person in your organisation (e.g. staff or board members) may have made supportive statements of a proscribed organisation on social media or other public platform.
- A person in your organisation might have been arrested or charged for a terrorism offence in the UK.





Annex 2: **Further resources**



There may be circumstances in which you can't afford to access legal advice, or need supplementary information even when you have accessed legal advice. Not every decision requires you to instruct a solicitor or barrister. Some situations can be managed with:

- **Internal expertise** – if you have legally trained staff or trustees who understand sanctions and counter-terrorism regulations.
- **Peer learning** – talking to other charities who've navigated similar issues (while being mindful of confidentiality and the limits of informal advice).
- **Funder support** – some institutional funders have their own legal teams who can provide guidance on compliance requirements.
- **Sector guidance** – resources from the Charity Commission, FCD0, OFSI or sector bodies can help with straightforward questions.

Some resources that can provide additional guidance are below:

Government guidance on sanctions

- **The UK Sanctions List.** Available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-sanctions-list
- **UK financial sanctions guidance.** Available at: www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-financial-sanctions-guidance
- **UK Financial Sanctions FAQ.** Available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-financial-sanctions-faqs
- **Statutory guidance: Counter-terrorism sanctions.** Available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-sanctions-guidance/counter-terrorism-sanctions-eu-exit-regulations-2019-guidance
- **UK strategic export controls guidance.** Available at: www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-strategic-export-controls

- **Financial sanctions guidance for charities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).** Available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-sanctions-guidance-for-charities/financial-sanctions-guidance-for-charities-and-non-governmental-organisations-ngos
- **'4 things charities need to know about financial sanctions'** – OFSI blog (13 Nov 2020). Available at: ofsi.blog.gov.uk/2020/11/13/4-things-charities-need-to-know-about-financial-sanctions
- **Financial sanctions webinars and events.** Available at: www.gov.uk/guidance/financial-sanctions-webinars-and-events
- **An update on OFSI's licensing process and policies** – OFSI blog (27 Feb 2024). Available at: ofsi.blog.gov.uk/2024/02/27/an-update-on-ofsis-licensing-process-and-policies

Government guidance on counter-terrorism Terrorism Act 2000

- Legislation: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/11/contents
- Explanatory Notes available at: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/11/notes/division/2

Counter-Terrorism Act 2008

- Legislation: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/28/contents
- Overview available at: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-Terrorism_Act_2008

Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

- Legislation: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/contents
- Overview available at: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-Terrorism_and_Security_Act_2015

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) (previously DFID)

- Due diligence and counter-terrorism for grant-funded activity: assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7d6f48e5274a7b50ccef3c/Due-Diligence-framework.pdf
- For information note: operating within counter-terrorism legislation, counter-terrorism sanctions and export control: www.gov.uk/government/publications/operating-within-counter-terrorism-legislation/for-information-note-operating-within-counter-terrorism-legislation#introduction

Crown Prosecution Service

- Prosecution Guidance on Humanitarian, Development and Peacebuilding Work Overseas: www.cps.gov.uk/prosecution-guidance/humanitarian-development-and-peacebuilding-work-overseas

Guidance on finding a lawyer

- **Charity Law Association** – Directory of charity law specialists: www.charitylawassociation.org.uk
- **Chambers and Partners – Sanctions (UK-wide)**. Independent ranking of law firms and lawyers with sanctions expertise (advisory and litigation): chambers.com/legal-rankings/sanctions-uk-wide-1:2709:11805:1?l=en-GB
- **Chambers and Partners – Sanctions (UK Bar)**. Independent ranking of leading barristers' chambers specialising in sanctions matters: chambers.com/legal-rankings/sanctions-all-circuits-14:2709:11840:2?l=en-GB
- **Legal 500 – Sanctions (London Bar)**. Independent directory ranking top sets and counsel for sanctions law: www.legal500.com/c/london-bar/sanctions

Sector resources

- **Charity Commission of England and Wales** – Compliance toolkit chapter 1: Charities and Terrorism: www.gov.uk/government/publications/charities-and-terrorism/compliance-toolkit-chapter-1-charities-and-terrorism#charity-law-duties-and-responsibilities
- **Bond** – Resources on governance, due diligence and safeguarding partnerships: www.bond.org.uk/resources
- **Global Sanctions. Law, Practice & Guidance** – Global Sanctions. Law, Practice & Guidance. Website with full coverage of global sanctions regimes: globalsanctions.com
- **NCVO** – Governance and legal resources for charities and volunteers: www.ncvo.org.uk/help-and-guidance/governance/responsibilities-for-boards/helping-your-board-meet-their-responsibilities/how-to-manage-risk/
- **Norwegian Refugee Council** – Toolkit for Principled Humanitarian Action: Managing Counterterrorism and Sanctions Risks: www.nrc.no/globalassets/pdf/reports/toolkit-for-principled-humanitarian-action/managing-counterterrorism-and-sanctions-risks_2024-nrc.pdf
- **OpenSanctions**: – Supreme Data on Supreme Leaders. Free resource for sanctions screening: www.opensanctions.org

Conciliation Resources is an international organisation committed to stopping violent conflict and creating more peaceful societies. We work with people impacted by war and violence, bringing diverse voices together to make change that lasts.

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