
VENEZUELA SANCTIONS ORDER 2018

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Subsidiary
2018/001

Subsidiary Legislation made under s.3, 4, 5 6, 7 and 9.

VENEZUELA SANCTIONS ORDER 2018**(LN. 2018/001)**

Commencement **4.1.2018**

Amending enactments	Relevant current provisions	Commencement date
LN. 2018/015 2018/023	<i>Notice of Corrigendum</i> Sch. 2	25.1.2018

Implementing-

Regulation (EU) 2017/2063

Regulation (EU) No 2018/88

Regulation (EU) No 2018/899

Regulation (EU) No 2018/1653

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In exercise of the powers conferred upon him by sections 3, 4, 5 6, 7 and 9 of the Export Control Act 2005, section 23(g)(i) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Act and all other enabling powers, for the purpose of implementing Council Regulation (EU) No 2017/2063 of 13 November 2017 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Venezuela, the Minister has made the following Order-

Part 1 **Preliminary**

Title.

1. This Order may be cited as the Venezuela Sanctions Order 2018.

Commencement.

2. This Order shall come into operation on the day of publication.

Interpretation.

- 3.(1) In this Order-

“the Council Regulation” means Council Regulation (EU) 2017/2063 of 13th November 2017 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Venezuela, and a reference to Annex IV or V to that Regulation is to be construed as a reference to that Annex as amended from time to time;

“designated person” means a person, entity or body listed in Annex IV or V to the Council Regulation which is reproduced in Schedule 2;

“document” includes information recorded in any form and, in relation to information recorded otherwise than in legible form, references to its production include producing a copy of the information in legible form;

“Member State” means a Member State of the European Union;

“Minister” means the Minister with responsibility for finance; and

“relevant institution” means-

- (a) a person licenced or authorised under the Financial Services (Investment and Fiduciary Services) Act 1989 or the Financial Services (Banking Act) 1992 to carry on regulated activity; or

- (b) an undertaking that by way of business-
 - (i) operates a currency exchange office;
 - (ii) transmits money (or any representation of monetary value) by any means; or
 - (iii) cashes cheques that are made payable to customers.

(2) Any expression used both in this Order and in the Council Regulation has the meaning that it bears in the Council Regulation.

Part 2

Funds and Economic Resources

Freezing of funds and economic resources.

4.(1) A person (“P”) must not deal with funds or economic resources belonging to, or owned, held or controlled by, a designated person if P knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that P is dealing with such funds or economic resources.

(2) In subparagraph (1), “deal with” means-

- (a) in relation to funds-
 - (i) use, alter, move, allow access to or transfer;
 - (ii) deal with the funds in any other way that would result in any change in their volume, amount, location, ownership, possession, character or destination; or
 - (iii) make any other change that would enable use, including portfolio management; and
- (b) in relation to economic resources, exchange, or use in exchange, for funds, goods or services.

(3) Subparagraph (1) is subject to paragraph 10 (licences).

Making funds available to a designated person.

5.(1) A person (“P”) must not make funds available, directly or indirectly, to a designated person if P knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that P is making the funds so available.

(2) Subparagraph (1) is subject to paragraphs 9 (credits to a frozen account) and 10.

Making funds available for the benefit of a designated person.

6.(1) A person (“P”) must not make funds available to any person for the benefit of a designated person if P knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that P is making the funds so available.

(2) For the purposes of this paragraph-

- (a) funds are made available for the benefit of a designated person only if that person thereby obtains, or is able to obtain, a significant financial benefit; and
- (b) “financial benefit” includes the discharge, in whole or in part, of a financial obligation for which the designated person is wholly or partly responsible.

(3) Subparagraph (1) is subject to paragraphs 9 and 10.

Making economic resources available to a designated person.

7.(1) A person (“P”) must not make economic resources available, directly or indirectly, to a designated person if P knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect-

- (a) that P is making the economic resources so available; and
- (b) that the designated person would be likely to exchange the economic resources, or use them in exchange, for funds, goods or services.

(2) Subparagraph (1) is subject to paragraph 10.

Making economic resources available for the benefit of a designated person.

8.(1) A person (“P”) must not make economic resources available to any person for the benefit of a designated person if P knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that P is making the economic resources so available.

(2) For the purpose of this paragraph-

- (a) economic resources are made available for the benefit of a designated person only if that person thereby obtains, or is able to obtain, a significant financial benefit; and

- (b) “financial benefit” includes the discharge, in whole or in part, of a financial obligation for which the designated person is wholly or partly responsible.

(3) Subparagraph (1) is subject to paragraph 10.

Credits to a frozen account.

9.(1) The prohibitions in paragraphs 5 and 6 are not contravened by a person who credits a frozen account with-

- (a) interest or other earnings due on the account;
- (b) payments due under contracts, agreements or obligations that were concluded or arose before the account became a frozen account; or
- (c) payments due under judicial, administrative or arbitral decisions rendered in a Member State or enforceable in Gibraltar.

(2) The prohibitions in paragraphs 5 and 6 on making funds available do not prevent a relevant institution from crediting a frozen account where it receives funds transferred to the account.

(3) A relevant institution must inform the Minister without delay if it credits a frozen account in accordance with subparagraph (1)(b), (1)(c) or (2).

(4) In this paragraph, “frozen account” means an account with a relevant institution which is held or controlled (directly or indirectly) by a designated person.

Licences.

10.(1) The prohibitions in paragraphs 4 to 8 do not apply to anything done under the authority of a licence granted by the Minister.

(2) A licence must specify the acts authorised by him and may be-

- (a) general or granted to a category of persons or to a particular person;
- (b) subject to conditions; or

- (c) of indefinite duration or subject to an expiry date.
- (3) The Minister may vary or revoke a licence at any time.
- (4) On the grant, variation or revocation of a licence, the Minister shall-
 - (a) in the case of a licence granted to a particular person, give written notice of the grant, variation or revocation to that person; or
 - (b) in the case of a general licence or a licence granted to a category of persons, take such steps as he considers appropriate to publicise the grant, variation or revocation of the licence.
- (5) A person commits an offence who, for the purpose of obtaining a licence, knowingly or recklessly-
 - (a) provides information that is false in a material respect; or
 - (b) provides or produces a document that is not what it purports to be.
- (6) A person who purports to act under the authority of a licence but who fails to comply with any conditions included in the licence commits an offence.

Part 3 Offences

Contravention and circumvention of prohibitions.

11.(1) A person who contravenes any of the prohibitions in paragraphs 4 to 8 commits an offence.

(2) A person commits an offence who intentionally participates in activities knowing that the object or effect of them is (whether directly or indirectly)-

- (a) to circumvent any of the prohibitions in paragraphs 4 to 8; or
- (b) to enable or facilitate the contravention of any such prohibition.

Officers of a body corporate etc.

12.(1) Where an offence under this Order committed by a body corporate-

- (a) is committed with the consent or connivance of any director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate, or any person who was purporting to act in any such capacity; or
- (b) is attributable to any neglect on the part of any such person,

that person as well as the body corporate commits an offence and is liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(2) In subparagraph (1), “director”, in relation to a body corporate whose affairs are managed by its members, means a member of the body corporate.

(3) Subparagraph (1) also applies in relation to a body that is not a body corporate, with the substitution for the reference to a director of the body of a reference-

- (a) in the case of a partnership, to a partner;
- (b) in the case of an unincorporated body other than a partnership-
 - (i) where the body’s affairs are managed by its members, to a member of the body; and
 - (ii) in any other case, to a member of the governing body.

Penalties.

13.(1) A person guilty of an offence under paragraph 10 or 11 is liable-

- (a) on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months; or
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years or to a fine or to both.

(2) A person guilty of an offence under paragraph 1(5) or paragraph 4(1) of Schedule 1 is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.

Extra-territorial application of offences.

14.(1) An offence under this Order may be committed by conduct wholly or partly outside Gibraltar by-

- (a) a British person;

- (b) a body incorporated or constituted under the laws of Gibraltar.
- (2) In subparagraph (1) “British person” means –
 - (a) a British citizen, a British overseas territories citizen, a British National (Overseas) or a British Overseas citizen;
 - (b) a person who under the British Nationality Act 1981 is a British subject; or
 - (c) a British protected person within the meaning of that Act.
- (3) In this paragraph “conduct” includes acts and omissions.
- (4) Nothing in this paragraph affects any criminal liability arising otherwise than under this paragraph.

Proceedings.

15.(1) Proceedings against any person for an offence under this Order may be taken before the Supreme Court.

(2) An offence falling under this Order which is committed wholly or partly outside Gibraltar may for all incidental purposes be treated as having been committed within the jurisdiction of the Supreme court.

(3) An information relating to an offence that is triable by the magistrates’ court may also be tried if it is laid-

- (a) at any time within 3 years after the commission of the offence; and
- (b) within 12 months after the date on which evidence sufficient in the opinion of the prosecutor to justify the proceedings comes to the knowledge of the prosecutor.

Consent to prosecution.

16.(1) Proceedings for an offence under this Order (other than a summary offence) may not be instituted except by or with the consent of the Attorney General.

(2) Nothing in subparagraph (1) prevents-

- (a) the arrest of a person in respect of an offence under this Order; or

- (b) the remand in custody or on bail of any person charged with such an offence.

Part 4
Miscellaneous

Information provision.

17. Schedule 1 (information provisions) has effect.

Notices.

18.(1) This paragraph has effect in relation to any notice to be given to a person by the Minister under paragraph 10 (licences).

(2) Any such notice may be given-

- (a) by posting it to the person's last known address; or
- (b) where the person is a body corporate, partnership or unincorporated body other than a partnership, by posting it to the registered or principal office of the body or partnership concerned.

(3) Where the Minister does not have an address for the person, he shall make arrangements for the notice to be given to the person at the first available opportunity.

Crown application.

19.(1) This Order binds the Crown in the right of the Government of Gibraltar.

(2) No contravention by the Crown in right of the Government of Gibraltar of a provision of this Order makes the Crown criminally liable.

(3) Nothing in this paragraph affects Her Majesty in her private capacity.

Schedule 1

Information Provisions

Reporting obligations of relevant institutions and others.

1.(1) A relevant institution or relevant business or profession must inform the Minister as soon as practicable if-

- (a) it knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a person-
 - (i) is a designated person; or
 - (ii) has committed an offence under paragraph 10 or 11; and
- (b) the information or other matter on which the knowledge or suspicion is based came to it in the course of carrying on its business.

(2) Where a relevant institution or relevant business or profession informs the Minister under subparagraph (1), it must state-

- (a) the information or other matter on which the knowledge or suspicion is based; and
- (b) any information it holds about the person by which the person can be identified.

(3) Subparagraph (4) applies if-

- (a) a relevant institution or relevant business or profession informs the Minister under subparagraph (1) that it knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a person is a designated person; and
- (b) that person is a customer of the institution or relevant business or profession.

(4) The relevant institution or relevant business or profession must also state the nature and amount or quantity of any funds or economic resources held by it for the customer.

(5) A relevant institution or relevant business or profession that fails to comply with any requirement of subparagraph (1), (2) or (4) commits an offence.

(6) In this paragraph, a “relevant business or profession” means-

- (a) an auditor;
- (b) a casino;
- (c) a dealer in precious metals or stones;
- (d) an estate agent;
- (e) an external accountant;
- (f) an independent legal professional;
- (g) a tax adviser; and
- (h) a trust or company service provider,

operating in Gibraltar.

(7) For the purpose of subparagraph (6)-

“auditor” means any firm or sole practitioner who is a statutory auditor within the meaning of the Financial Services (Auditors) Act 2009 and carries out statutory audit work within the meaning of that same Act;

“casino” means the holder of a casino operating licence granted under section 3(1) of the Gambling Act 2005;

“dealer in precious metals or stones” means a person engaged in the business of making, supplying, selling (including selling by auction) or exchanging-

- (a) articles made from gold, silver, platinum or palladium; or
- (b) precious stones or pearls;

“estate agent” means a firm or sole practitioner, who, or whose employees, carry out estate agency work, when the work is being carried out;

“external accountant” means a firm or sole practitioner who by way of business provides accountancy services to other persons, when providing such services;

“independent legal professional” means a firm or sole practitioner who by way of business provides legal or notarial services to other persons, when providing such services;

“tax adviser” means a firm or sole practitioner who by way of business provides advice about the tax affairs of other persons, when providing such services; and

“trust or company service provider” means a firm or sole practitioner who by way of business provides any of the following services to other persons, when that firm or practitioner is providing such services-

- (a) forming companies or other legal persons;
- (b) acting, or arranging for another person to act-
 - (i) as a director or secretary of a company;
 - (ii) as a partner of a partnership; or
 - (iii) in a similar capacity in relation to other legal persons;
- (c) providing a registered office, business address, correspondence or administrative address or other related services for a company, partnership or any other legal person or arrangement; or
- (d) acting, or arranging for another person to act, as-
 - (i) a trustee of an express trust or similar legal arrangement; or
 - (ii) a nominee shareholder for a person.

(8) In subparagraph (7)-

“firm” means any entity that, whether or not a legal person, is not an individual and includes a body corporate and a partnership or other unincorporated association.

Powers to request information.

2.(1) The Minister may request a designated person to provide information concerning-

- (a) funds or economic resources owned, held or controlled by or on behalf of the designated person; or
 - (b) any disposal of such funds or economic resources.
- (2) The Minister may request a designated person to provide such information as the Minister may reasonably require about expenditure-
- (a) by or on behalf of the designated person; or
 - (b) for the benefit of the designated person.
- (3) The power in subparagraph (1) or (2) is exercisable only where the Minister believes that it is necessary for the purpose of monitoring compliance with or detecting evasion of this Order.
- (4) The Minister may request a person acting under a licence granted under paragraph 10 to provide information concerning-
- (a) funds or economic resources dealt with under the licence; or
 - (b) funds or economic resources made available under the licence.
- (5) The Minister may request any person in or resident in Gibraltar to provide such information as he reasonably requires for the purpose of-
- (a) establishing for the purpose of this Order-
 - (i) the nature and amount or quantity of any funds or economic resources owned, held or controlled by or on behalf of a designated person;
 - (ii) the nature and amount or quantity of any funds or economic resources made available directly or indirectly to, or for the benefit of, a designated person; or
 - (iii) the nature of any financial transactions entered into by a designated person;
 - (b) monitoring compliance with or detecting evasion of this Order; or
 - (c) obtaining evidence of the commission of an offence under this Order.

(6) The Minister may specify the manner in which, and the period within which, information is to be provided.

(7) If no such period is specified, the information which has been requested must be provided within a reasonable time.

(8) A request may include a continuing obligation to keep the Minister informed as circumstances change, or on such regular basis as the Minister may specify.

(9) Information requested under this paragraph may relate to any period of time during which a person is, or was, a designated person.

(10) Information requested under subparagraph (1)(b), (2) or (5)(a)(iii) may relate to any period of time before a person became a designated person (as well as, or instead of, any subsequent period of time).

Production of documents.

3.(1) A request under paragraph 2 may include a request to produce specified documents or documents of a specified description.

(2) Where the Minister requests that documents be produced, he may-

- (a) take copies of or extracts from any document so produced;
- (b) request any person producing a document to give an explanation of it; and
- (c) where that person is a body corporate, partnership or unincorporated body other than a partnership, request any person who is-
 - (i) in the case of a partnership, a present or past partner or employee of the partnership; or
 - (ii) in any other case, a present or past officer or employee of the body concerned, to give such an explanation.

(3) Where the Minister requests a designated person or a person acting under a licence granted under paragraph 10 to produce documents, that person must-

- (a) take reasonable steps to obtain the documents (if not already in the person's possession or control); and

- (b) keep the documents under the person's possession or control (except for the purpose of providing them to the Minister or as the Minister may otherwise permit).

Failure to comply with request for information.

4.(1) A person commits an offence who-

- (a) without reasonable excuse, refuses or fails within the time and in the manner specified (or, if no time has been specified, within a reasonable time) to comply with any request made under this Schedule;
- (b) knowingly or recklessly gives any information, or produces any document, which is false in a material particular in response to such a request;
- (c) with intent to evade the provisions of this Schedule, destroys, mutilates, defaces, conceals or removes any document; or
- (d) otherwise intentionally obstructs the Minister in the exercise of his powers under this Schedule.

(2) Where a person is convicted of an offence under this paragraph, the court may make an order requiring that person, within such period as may be specified in the order, to comply with the request.

General power to disclose information.

5.(1) The Minister may disclose any information obtained by him pursuant to this Order to any person for the purpose of facilitating or ensuring compliance with the Council Regulation.

(2) The power in subparagraph (1) includes but is not limited to disclosing information to the following persons-

- (a) a police officer;
- (b) any person holding or acting in any office under or in the service of the Government of Gibraltar;
- (c) the Gibraltar Financial Services Commission;
- (d) any other regulatory body, including those of Member States;
- (e) any organ of the United Nations; or

- (f) the Council of the European Union, the European Commission or the Government of a Member State.

(3) The purpose of facilitating or ensuring compliance with the Council Regulation referred to in subparagraph (1) includes but is not limited to the following-

- (a) monitoring compliance with, or detecting evasion of, this Order or the Council Regulation;
- (b) giving assistance or co-operation, pursuant to the Council Regulation; or
- (c) taking any action with a view to instituting, or otherwise for the purposes of, any proceedings.

(4) The Minister may disclose any information obtained by him pursuant to this Order to any person with the consent of a person who, in their own right, is entitled to the information or to possession of the document, copy or extract.

(5) In subparagraph (4) “in their own right” means not merely in the capacity as a servant or agent of another person.

Application of provisions.

6.(1) Nothing done under this Schedule is to be treated as a breach of any restriction imposed by statute or otherwise.

(2) But nothing in this Schedule authorises a disclosure that contravenes the Data Protection Act 2004.

(3) Nothing in this Schedule is to be read as requiring a person who has acted or is acting as counsel or solicitor for any person to disclose any privileged information in their possession in that capacity.

(4) This Schedule does not limit the circumstances in which information may be disclosed apart from this Schedule.

(5) This Schedule does not limit the powers of the Minister to impose conditions in connection with the discharge of his functions under paragraph 10.

(6) In this paragraph “privileged information” means information with respect to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

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Paragraph 3(1)

Schedule 2

List of natural and legal persons, entities and bodies

ANNEX IV

List of natural and legal persons, entities and bodies referred to in Article 8(3) of the Council Regulation.

Persons

Name	Identifying information	Reasons	Date of listing
Néstor Luis Reverol Torres	Date of birth: 28 October 1964	Minister for Interior, Justice and Peace; former Commander General of the Bolivarian National Guard. Responsible for serious human rights violations and repression of the democratic opposition in Venezuela, including the prohibition and repression of political demonstrations.	22.1.2018
Gustavo Enrique González López	Date of birth: 2 November 1960	Head of the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN). Responsible for serious human rights violations (including arbitrary detention, inhuman and degrading treatment, and torture) and repression of civil society and the democratic opposition in Venezuela.	22.1.2018
Tibisay Lucena Ramírez	Date of birth: 26 April 1959	President of the National Electoral Council (<i>Consejo Nacional Electoral</i> – CNE). Her actions and policies have undermined democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela, including by facilitating the establishment of the Constituent Assembly by failing to ensure that the CNE remains an impartial and independent institution in accordance with the Venezuelan Constitution.	22.1.2018
Antonio José Benavides Torres	Date of birth: 13 June 1961	Chief of the Capital District (<i>Distrito Capital</i>) Government. General Commander of the Bolivarian National Guard until 21 June 2017. Involved in repression of civil society and democratic opposition in Venezuela, and responsible for serious human rights violations committed by the Bolivarian National Guard under his command. His actions and policies as General Commander of the Bolivarian National Guard, including the Bolivarian National Guard taking the lead in the policing of civilian demonstrations and publicly advocating that military courts should have jurisdiction over civilians, have undermined the rule of law in Venezuela.	22.1.2018
Maikel José Moreno Pérez	Date of birth: 12 December 1965	President, and former Vice President, of the Supreme Court of Justice of Venezuela (<i>Tribunal Supremo de Justicia</i>). In these roles, he has supported and facilitated the Government's actions and policies which have undermined democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela, and is responsible for actions and statements that have usurped the authority of the National Assembly.	22.1.2018
Tarek William Saab Halabi	Date of birth: 10 September 1963	Venezuelan Attorney General appointed by the Constituent Assembly. In this role and previous roles as Ombudsman and President of the Republican Moral Council, he has undermined democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela by publicly supporting actions against opponents of the Government and the withdrawal of competences from the National Assembly.	22.1.2018
Diosdado Rondón Cabello	Date of birth: 15 April 1963	Member of the Constituent Assembly and First Vice President of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela	22.1.2018

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		(PSUV). Involved in undermining democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela, including by using the media to publicly attack and threaten political opposition, other media and civil society.	
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ANNEX V

List of natural and legal persons, entities and bodies referred to in Article 8(4) of the Council Regulation.