



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

June 2022

*Dear Constituents*

Thank you for your email about the events unfolding in Ukraine.

My thoughts are with the Ukrainian people and President Zelensky, whose defiance, courage and patriotism in the face of foreign aggression is inspiring. President Putin has unleashed a full-scale invasion of Ukraine by land, sea and air. This is a premeditated and wholly unprovoked attack on a sovereign democratic state.

The UK and allies have been clear all along that there would be a severe cost for any further Russian military incursion into Ukraine. I commend the global leadership shown by the Prime Minister in support of Ukraine over these past months, and the leading role he has played in encouraging the West to impose the most severe and coordinated package of sanctions Russia has ever faced in response to Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine.

Our sanctions are not the only action we have taken. For a number of years now, The UK has worked to support Ukraine's security and defence. The UK has trained over 22,000 members of the Ukrainian army through Operation ORBITAL and, since 2019, assisted Ukraine to build up and sustain a naval capability. In the months prior to the invasion, the UK provided extra support in the form of 2000 anti-armour missiles, which the Ukrainians are now putting to good use. The UK has sent further military support (lethal aid in the form of defensive weapons, and non-lethal aid such as body armour and helmets) to Ukraine since the invasion.

More than 1,000 British troops have been made ready to support NATO and allies in the event of a humanitarian crisis. These troops are at readiness in the UK to support a humanitarian response in the region should it be needed. On his visit to Poland on 1 March the Prime Minister announced that the UK is committing another £80m in aid to Ukraine to save lives, protect vulnerable people inside the country and in the wider region and to tackle the growing humanitarian crisis. After the £100m economic package for Ukraine and £40m in humanitarian aid announced in February, this brings the UK's overall aid support for Ukraine during the current crisis to £220 million. Alongside this the UK is guaranteeing up to \$500 million of loans to Ukraine through Multilateral Development Banks.

The Prime Minister has rightly said that nothing is off the table when it comes to the UK's support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and indeed the desire of its people to live in peace, democracy and free from foreign bullying.

***Member of Parliament for Darlington***

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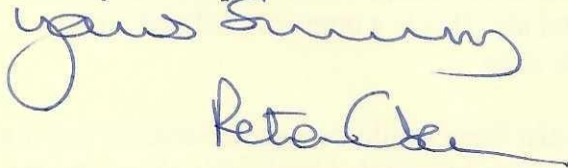


Putin's invasion of Ukraine must fail. I am assured that the UK Government, in partnership with our friends in Ukraine and our international allies, using all possible means at its disposal, is urgently engaged upon ensuring he does. Naturally this is a constantly changing situation, but please be assured that I am following all developments closely and supporting the Government in their actions to support Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> March the Ukrainian Ambassador visited Parliament, and on the 8<sup>th</sup> March President Zelensky gave an address to Parliament, it was a moving sight to see our Parliament unified in solidarity with Ukraine on both occasions.

Locally here in Darlington we have seen, just as we did with Covid, a fantastic community response. I will be working with groups and the Council in Darlington to help coordinate these efforts and promote ways you can help. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> March the Disasters Emergency Committee launched a fund which the Government has announced it will match. This fund can be found here: [www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal](http://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal)

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Gibson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

PETER GIBSON MP