



Clive Lewis MP
Member of Parliament for Norwich South
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
Sent via email

Friday 1 May 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

RE: Request for information regarding Lord Mandelson's role in UK policy on Ukraine

I am writing to request information and clarification regarding the Government's policy on Ukraine and, in particular, the role that Lord Mandelson has played in its development.

As you will recall, when Lord Mandelson publicly criticised the Ukrainian government for declining to support former President Trump's proposed "peace" plan, and suggested that Ukraine should enter a ceasefire without reciprocal action from the Russian Federation, the Government subsequently clarified that he had not spoken on its behalf.

In the context of the recent disclosures arising from the Epstein Files, a number of further claims have now emerged concerning Lord Mandelson's historic connections with Russian political and corporate interests. These include reports that:

- In 2004, while serving as EU Trade Commissioner, he travelled on undeclared private flights provided by Oleg Deripaska to a trade summit at which he met President Putin.
- In 2005, he held an unofficial and undeclared private dinner with the Russian Finance Minister, arranged by Mr Deripaska, and stayed at Mr Deripaska's dacha in Siberia.
- During his tenure as Trade Commissioner, the EU significantly reduced tariffs on imported aluminium, a change that materially benefited Mr Deripaska's business interests.

As you will be aware, Mr Deripaska was sanctioned by the United Kingdom at the outset of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine due to his connections with the Kremlin.



Further reports indicate that Lord Mandelson's consultancy, Global Counsel, sought work with Russian state-linked companies shortly after he left ministerial office.

The Epstein files also state that his business partner, Mr Benjamin Wegg-Prosser, met Mr Epstein to discuss potential Russian-related business, reportedly at Lord Mandelson's request, and that both men met Mr Epstein individually while Lord Mandelson was serving as Business Secretary.

These matters form part of a wider set of connections between Mr Epstein and various governments, including Russia, now coming to light. They may also represent only a portion of Lord Mandelson's historic links with Russian political and corporate actors.

The relevance of these issues to the United Kingdom's Ukraine policy is clear. Many in Ukraine, within the Ukrainian community, and among UK-based Ukraine solidarity organisations have long expressed concern that successive UK governments—including the present one—have adopted an approach that provides Ukraine with sufficient support to prevent a Russian victory, but not the level of assistance required to enable Ukraine to defeat and end the occupation of its sovereign territory.

One significant example is the Government's continued refusal to utilise frozen Russian state assets to support Ukraine's defence and reconstruction, despite the UK's ability to show leadership in this area.

It has been widely observed that Lord Mandelson's public position on Ukraine appeared to be influenced, at least in part, by his support for former President Trump. The emerging information concerning his links to Russian interests raises the possibility that these connections may also have informed his stance on the war. Further relevant information may yet emerge as the Epstein disclosures continue.

Although the Government distanced itself from Lord Mandelson's remarks at the time, important questions remain regarding what role - formal or informal - he has played in shaping the Government's wider approach to Ukraine and Russia, and whether his involvement has influenced or constrained the UK's support for Ukraine.



In the interests of transparency and public confidence, I therefore request detailed information on the following points:

1. Lord Mandelson's role

What official or unofficial role Lord Mandelson has played in shaping UK policy on Ukraine or Russia, particularly since 2024; and whether he has been appointed, consulted, or briefed in any advisory capacity, the Cabinet Office, the National Security Council, or other relevant bodies.

2. Communications and meetings

What meetings, calls, emails, messages or other communications Lord Mandelson has had with ministers, senior civil servants, or officials in foreign policy or defence relating to Ukraine or Russia; and whether records of these communications will be made available.

3. Policy advocacy while ambassador

Beyond what is publicly known, what policy positions Lord Mandelson advocated while serving as an ambassador to the USA, particularly in relation to Ukraine and Russia.

4. Relevant interests

What current or recent financial, corporate, consultancy or other interests Lord Mandelson holds that may intersect with UK policy on Ukraine or Russia.

5. Use of parliamentary position

Whether Lord Mandelson has used his position in the House of Lords to influence policy on Ukraine or Russia outside the established processes of parliamentary scrutiny.

As you will know, a significant number of Honourable Members have already called for a public inquiry into the relationship between Jeffrey Epstein and British public figures and institutions. The considerations outlined above add further weight to that call.



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In addition, I propose that the Government undertake a thorough investigation into the specific matters raised in this letter, including publication of a full timeline of Lord Mandelson's involvement, advice and interventions, and an assessment of how these may have influenced Government decisions.

Finally, and more broadly, it is essential that the United Kingdom's policy on Ukraine be free from any influence - real or perceived - arising from inappropriate relationships or conflicts of interest.

This moment requires a clear departure from any elements of that typified by Lord Mandelson that may have shaped past approaches, and a renewed commitment to providing Ukraine with the support necessary to end Russia's occupation. Transparency on the issues raised here would contribute meaningfully to that necessary re-orientation.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Clive Lewis', written in a cursive style.

Clive Lewis MP
Norwich South