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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations amend the Syria (European Union Financial Sanctions) Regulations 2012 (S.I. 2012/129) (“the 2012 Regulations”). The 2012 Regulations make provision relating to the enforcement of Council Regulation (EU) No. 36/2012 of 18 January 2012 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria (OJ L 16, 19.01.2012, p.1) (“the first Council Regulation”). The measures include the freezing of funds and economic resources of designated persons and prohibitions on funds and economic resources being made available to them or for their benefit.

There are prohibitions in Article 25 of the first Council Regulation on credit institutions opening a new bank account with any Syrian credit or financial institution, opening a new representative office in Syria, or establishing a new branch or subsidiary in Syria. These prohibitions are reflected in regulation 12(1)(a) and (2) of the 2012 Regulations. Council Regulation (EU) No. 697/2013 of 22 July 2013 (OJ L 198, 23.07.2013, p.28) (the “amending Council Regulation”) amends the first Council Regulation by inserting Article 25a which enables derogations to these prohibitions to be authorised by Member State competent authorities in certain circumstances. These Regulations amend the 2012 Regulations by enabling derogations to the prohibitions to be licensed by the Treasury.

An impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no impact on the costs of business or the voluntary sector is foreseen. Further information is available from Financial Sanctions, HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ and on the HM Treasury website ([www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-treasury](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-treasury)).