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Foreign Office Minister condemns Russia for NotPetya attacks

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UK judges that the Russian government was responsible for the NotPetya cyber-attack of June 2017.

Published 15 February 2018

From:
> Foreign & Commonwealth Office (https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office),
> National Cyber Security Centre (https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/national-cyber-security-centre),
> and Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon (https://www.gov.uk/government/people/lord-ahmad-of-wimbledon)

Foreign Office Minister Lord Ahmad has today attributed the NotPetya cyber-attack to the Russian Government. The decision to publicly attribute this incident underlines the fact that the UK and its allies will not tolerate malicious cyber activity.

The attack masqueraded as a criminal enterprise but its purpose was principally to disrupt. Primary targets were Ukrainian financial, energy and government sectors. Its indiscriminate design caused it to spread further, affecting other European and Russian business.

Foreign Office Minister for Cyber Security Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon said:

> The UK Government judges that the Russian Government, specifically the Russian military, was responsible for the destructive NotPetya cyber-attack of June 2017.

> The attack showed a continued disregard for Ukrainian sovereignty. Its reckless release disrupted organisations across Europe costing hundreds of millions of pounds.

> The Kremlin has positioned Russia in direct opposition to the West yet it doesn't have to be that way. We call upon Russia to be the responsible member of the international community it claims to be rather then secretly trying to undermine it.

The United Kingdom is identifying, pursuing and responding to malicious cyber activity regardless of where it originates, imposing costs on those who would seek to do us harm. We are committed to strengthening coordinated international efforts to uphold a free, open, peaceful and secure cyberspace.

Notes to editors

The UK's National Cyber Security Centre (https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/) assesses that the Russian military was almost certainly responsible for the destructive NotPetya cyber-attack of June 2017.

Given the high confidence assessment and the broader context, the UK government has made the judgement that the Russian government – the Kremlin – was responsible for this cyber-attack.

Further information

- Follow Foreign Office Minister Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on Twitter @tariqahmadbt (https://twitter.com/tariqahmadbt)
- Follow the Foreign Office on Twitter @foreignoffice (https://twitter.com/foreignoffice) and Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/foreignoffice?ref=hl)
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Published 15 February 2018

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- Cyber security (https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/cyber-security)

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