



Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## Meeting with Ambassador Grigoriy Logvinov [Log-VEEN-of]

28 March 2018

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

### Key messages

- Australia's decision to expel two Russian diplomats, under the Vienna Conventions, for actions inconsistent with their status
  - s 7(2A)
- This decision reflects the shocking nature of the nerve agent attack in Salisbury
  - a fundamental breach of international law prohibiting chemical weapons
  - there is no circumstance that justifies the use of such abhorrent weapons.
- This decision is not directed at the Russian people
  - it is about the actions of the Russian Government recklessly undermining international law and the rules-based order.
- The UK has presented a compelling case for Russia's culpability. Russia had the opportunity to respond constructively, but instead chose to follow a path of misinformation, obfuscation and contradictory explanations

Prepared by: s 22(1)(a)(ii) NCE

Cleared by: Kevin Magee, AS NSB

Date cleared: 28 March 2018

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- Russia has not offered any plausible alternative explanation
- if Russia was genuine, it should have responded constructively to the UK's questions and declare Novichok agents and production facilities, even those that existed during the Soviet period, under the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- We see the Salisbury incident as reflecting a broader pattern of reckless and deliberate conduct by the Russian State, s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d), s 47C

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d), s 47C

- Russia, as a permanent member of the UNSC, has a particular responsibility to uphold international peace and security.

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d), s 47C



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s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii), s 47E(d), s 47C

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