Wed, November 16, 2005 7:18 am

Dear Professor Bowring

I was sorry to hear about this. I got the news last night, just as I was taking a senior FCO visitor, John Sawers, to a meeting with Sergei Prikhodko, President Putin's Foreign Policy Adviser.

John raised your case, and a similar recent one, at the meeting. Prikhodko took details, as did the Deputy Head of the Russian Foreign Ministry Department responsible for the UK, who was also present. I will follow up with the Foreign Ministry today.

Simon Thomas, Head of the Russia Section in the FCO, was also at the meeting here yesterday - he is back in London today, and either he or Steve Hickling will be able to advise you on what to do next. I will be in touch again when I hear more at this end.

I will also bring this to the Ambassador's attention when he gets back to Moscow next week.

Best wishes

Stephen Wordsworth Chargé d'Affaires a. i., Moscow

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