



Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Rt. Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Scottish Ministers
Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

26 April 2022

Dear Foreign Secretary and Scottish Ministers,

Public Monies Granted to Companies Owned by Yuri Lopatinsky

Further to Scamon Scotland's [letter dated 31 March 2022](#), could you please provide information on the amount of public money granted to companies owned by [Yuri Lopatinsky since he came to the UK and was awarded a British passport in the late 1990s](#) as well as other information on the 'Moscow broker' (see below for more specific details). Please consider this a formal request for information via the relevant FOI and Environmental Information regulations.



In particular, how can the Scottish Government justify awarding Associated Seafoods and Loch Fyne Oysters ([companies owned by Yuri Lopatinsky via Scottish Seafood Investments/Farm Originals](#)) [£177,452 of public money via Covid grants](#) to a [money launderer with links to Russian security agencies, dirty Russian money and dodgy deals involving Mohamed Amersi, Leonard Bogdan and other oligarchs?](#)



Scottish Government
Riaghaidh na h-Alba
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PUBLICATION - FACTSHEET

Seafood Producers Resilience Fund: beneficiaries

Published: 22 July 2021
Last updated: 27 July 2021 - [see all updates](#)

Details of awards made under the Seafood Producers Resilience Fund.

Aquaculture Fund

Business	£
Loch Fyne Oysters Ltd	27452

Scottish Seafood Business Resilience Fund (SSBRF)

Company	Grant awarded
Loch Fyne Oysters Limited	100,000.00
Associated Seafoods Limited	50,000.00

Note that Northern Link [transferred ownership of Scottish Seafood Investments in 2019 to Farm Originals](#):

Scottish Seafood Investments S.à rl Limited Liability Company

23, Rue Aldringen L - 1118 LUXEMBOURG

RCS Luxembourg N B 225369

EXTRACT OF TRANSFER OF COMPANY SHARES

It follows from a deed of transfer of shares signed under private signature that: **Northern Link Ltd** transferred, with effect from June 05, 2019, the 6,782,795 (six million seven hundred and eighty-two thousand seven hundred and eighty -fifteen) shares it held in Scottish Seafood Investments S.à rl in **LLF Farm Originals SA**, a public limited company under Luxembourg law, with registered office at 23, rue Aldringen in L-1118 Luxembourg and registered in the Register of Commerce and Companies of Luxembourg under the number B 218647.

Following this transfer, the shares are held as follows: **LLF Farm Originals SA** 6,782,795 shares
Scottish Salmon Company PLC 1,423,187 shares ===== **TOTAL 8,205,982 shares** For fair and compliant extract Luxembourg, the

Trade and Companies Register RCS number: B225369 Filing reference: L190095258 Filed and registered on 06/11/2019

Note that Farm Originals - [registered via Companies House](#) - is owned by Yuri Lopatinsky at an address listed as 10A Charlotte Square in Edinburgh. And [accounts for Farm Originals filed in Luxembourg](#) reveal that **Yuri Lopatinsky is the controlling owner**:

Name	Responsibilities		
LOPATYNSKYY Yuriy in FARM ORIGINALS PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANY	Current responsibilities		
	Responsibility	Start Date	Announcement Number
	Shareholder (50-75%) (Shareholder (50-75%))	Feb 21, 2017	14521798
Individual or entity with 50-75% of voting rights (Individual or entity with 50-75% of voting rights)	Feb 21, 2017	14521798	

Earlier this month (18 April 2022), \$camon \$cotland raised the issue of money laundering with the Royal Bank of Scotland who has bankrolled companies owned by Yuri Lopatinsky:

From: **Don Staniford** <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Apr 18, 2022 at 9:39 AM

Subject: Money laundering by RBS-funded Yuri Lopatinsky (owner of Associated Seafoods)

To: <James.Abbott@natwest.com>, <Claire.French@natwest.com>, <Rachael.neill@natwest.com>

Please pass onto your fraud/money laundering department and management team (including Eileen Tocher):

Does Natwest (owner of RBS) have a comment in relation to financial support by the Royal Bank of Scotland to Associated Seafoods and other companies owned by Yuri Lopatinsky?

[Press Release: Lopatinsky' Laundromat: How Dirty Russian Money Corrupted Scottish Salmon](#) (19 April 2022)

More details via: [Lopatinsky's Laundromat \(Part 1\): AVISMA - A Case Study in Corruption, Corporate Fraud & Money Laundering](#) (17 April 2022)

What money laundering checks did RBS perform on Yuri Lopatinsky before bankrolling his companies?

For example:

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/business/3482483/buckie-seafood-firm-creating-60-new-jobs-after-2-7m-investment/>

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/business/local/1593017/lossie-seafoods-aims-to-boost-exports-with-help-of-new-funding/>

The Herald featured a photo of Eileen Tocher of RBS with executives of Associated Seafoods in 2018: https://www.heraldscotland.com/business_hq/17003165.salmon-smoker-secures-bank-funding-amid-export-drive/



Is Natwest/RBS in the business of lending money and bankrolling money launderers?

A swift reply would be much appreciated.

Thanks,

Don Staniford

\$camon \$cotland

Neither Natwest nor the Royal Bank of Scotland has replied to \$camon \$cotland's reasonable questions.



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA



When @MarkWHerald @heraldscotland reported @asl_seafoods had secured £3.2 million funding @ETocher @RBS_Help where was the money laundering due diligence on owner Yuri Lopatinsky (outed as closely connected to Russian spies & dirty money)? heraldscotland.com/business_hq/17... @_KateForbes

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Salmon smoker secures bank funding amid export drive

24th October 2018

BY MARK WILLIAMSON
GROUP BUSINESS
CORRESPONDENT
[@MarkWHerald](https://twitter.com/MarkWHerald)

Share 0 Comments

Royal Bank's Eilheen Tocher and Louise Morris flanked by Victor West and Stephen Greeves of Associated Seafoods

9:27 AM · Apr 19, 2022



As background, \$camon Scotland [wrote last month \(31 March 2022\) to the UK Government and Scottish Ministers raising red flags about Yuri Lopatinsky](#) about his ongoing seafood business interests in Scotland via Associated Seafoods and Loch Fyne Oysters (letter re-enclosed in full below for easy reference).

The UK Government [swiftly replied on 1 April 2022](#):



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Don Staniford

salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com

FCDO Correspondence Team
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Email:
fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/fcdo

Our ref: CTO2022/10622

1 April 2022

Dear Don Staniford,

Thank you for your email of 31 March to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) about sanctions relating to Russia. Your correspondence has been passed to the Correspondence Team in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office for a response.

The [letter dated 1 April 2022](#) included:

We are working closely with other government departments to maximise the effectiveness of our sanctions. The Foreign Secretary has established an Oligarch Taskforce drawing on expertise from across Government, including the Home Office, HM Treasury, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and the National Crime Agency.

We have designed our overall sanctions package in such a way to maximise the impact on Russia while minimising the impact to the UK economy. Unlike other countries in Europe, the UK is not dependent on Russian gas supply. Less than 3% of our gas was sourced from Russia in 2020. The Government will do everything possible to safeguard our own people from the repercussions for the cost of living, and we stand ready to protect our country from any threats, including in cyberspace.

We are not giving a running commentary on which sanctions may or may not be in the pipeline, as it risks reducing their impact. That being said, nothing is off the table.

A new report – ‘[Lopatinsky's Laundromat \(Part 2\): Dishonour Among Thieves](#)’ – published today (26 April 2022) lifts the lid further on the dirty Russian money which has flooded into the ‘Scottish’ salmon farming and seafood industry via Yuri Lopatinsky’s secret web of companies.

	SIX SIS AG	Copeinca Interoil	Camposol	Rambler	Oleg Radnizky
Scottish Seafood Investments	Charlotte Square Collection			VSMPO-AVISMA	
Farm Originals	Fordell Estates	Indigo PR		Mikhail Khodorkovsky	
Associated Seafoods	Corran Properties			Vladislav Tetyukhin	
Loch Fyne Oysters	Angus MacMillan	Joli Vin		Viatcheslav Brecht	
RR Spink & Sons				Michael Matlin	Gabriel Partners
Scottish Salmon Company	Château De La Cômbe			- Roman Abramovich	
First Mercantile	Yuri Lopatinsky			Mohamed Amersi	
Northern Link				Leonard Bogdan	
Craig Anderson				Aleksandr Barunin	
Rafael Turkot				Ernst Stauffer	
Alex Christofis				MegaFon	
Jim Mullins				Bill Browder	Sidanco
Viacheslav Lavrentyev				Peter Bond	TMC Yukos
Victor West				Beny Steinmertz	
LLF Financial	Hennadiy Lopatinsky			Russian Federation	
Sopica	Matvey Lopatinsky			First Mercantile Fund	
AquaBounty	Alexandra Lopatinsky			Johan Kahm	Carl de Geer
Vext Science	Ardyne Estates			James Keyes	Sergei Skvortsov
	Ardyne Organic Farms			Tom Balestrery	Peter Hughes
				Arne Treholt	
				BAMI First Mercantile	

In addition to his ownership of a significant chunk of the ‘Scottish’ seafood industry via Scottish Seafood Investments/Farm Originals (Associated Seafoods, Moray Seafoods, Lossie Seafoods, ASL Buckie, Pride of Scotland, RR Spink & Sons and Loch Fyne Oysters), Yuri Lopatinsky is [the owner of the Charlotte Square Collection \(which owns 21 Georgian townhouses in and around Edinburgh’s New Town\) through offshore firms.](#)

“The Charlotte Square Collection is managed by CORRAN PROPERTIES Limited on behalf of Fordell Estates Limited,” [states the website of The Charlotte Square Collection.](#) The [website of Corran Properties lists one of Yuri Lopatinsky’s business deals at Ardyne Point in Argyll](#) (where The Scottish Salmon Company built their Toward processing plant):

←
Ardyne Point, Argyll & Bute



Working with a Client with a specific requirement for a deep-water accessed processing facility, we identified a landholding on the southern tip of the Cowal Peninsula which had previously been used as an oil rig fabrication plant in the 1970's.

Due diligence, both technical and legal, was complex given the former use and the land ownership structure deriving in part from reclaimed land. We worked with specialists to identify and mitigate all risks and coordinated all aspects of the acquisition. We then embarked on an extensive process of public consultation and engagement to build trust with the local community, stakeholders and statutory authorities. The financial viability of the scheme necessitated grant assistance from Scottish Enterprise with whom we worked closely to negotiate a multi-million pound support package.

A masterplan was required for the entire 450 acre landholding with strategies agreed for access and utility provision. This was adopted by Argyll & Bute Council as supplementary planning guidance. Planning permission for the phase 1 development extending to 70,000 sq ft with extensive infrastructure has also been secured.

Corran Properties [states on their website](#) that: "The financial viability of the scheme necessitated grant assistance from Scottish Enterprise with whom we worked closely to negotiate a multi-million pound support package".

Did the sale of such a key strategic property – [steeped in naval history](#) and [close to the bolt-hole of the “Son of Putin’s KGB comrade” at Knockdow House](#) (not to mention near the [Faslane nuclear submarine base – a "high priority target" for Russian "precision strikes" in the event of a war](#)) – not ring alarm bells with UK and Scottish Government security agencies?

When Scottish Salmon Watch [visited the Toward facility in September 2020](#) we saw at first hand [the ethically bankrupt nature of ‘Scottish’ salmon farming](#):



In November 2018, when Yuri Lopatinsky still owned The Scottish Salmon Company [via SIX SIS AG](#), [a whistleblower working at the Toward facility at Ardyne Point leaked photos of welfare abuse and hygiene failures.](#)



The [whistleblower told Scottish Salmon Watch](#):

From:
Sent: 11 November 2018 17:10
To: Dstaniford@gaaia.org
Subject: Scottish Salmon Pictures

Hi there Don,

I would like to provide you with pictures from The Scottish Salmon company. I have attached pictures to this email that I believe are welfare failures, and blatantly failures of health and safety, not even starting on food hygiene. These pictures were taken at work one night, and as can be seen is salmon are laying on floor that we were having to stand on to do our job, then after were loaded into a tanker to be sold. Please use as you see fit. I did have more pictures but I can't seem to find them. If I do come across them I'll let you know. Otherwise any other information you would like just let me know.

Regards

[DSC_0151.JPG](#)

[DSC_0153.JPG](#)

[DSC_0155 \(1\).JPG](#)

[DSC_0156.JPG](#)

It is an international disgrace that Associated Seafoods – [secretly owned by Yuri Lopatinsky via Scottish Seafood Investments/Farm Originals](#) – is still “[flying the flag for Scottish exports](#)” for ‘Team Scotland’ at Seafood Expo Global in Spain this week (as reported yesterday by [The Press & Journal](#)).

The Press and Journal
EveningExpress

Home > Business > Scotland business

Team Scotland ready to take on the world (of seafood) in Barcelona

By [Keith Findlay](#) April 25, 2022, 5:00 pm



Scottish seafood firms are going to be showcasing their products in Spain.



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How much public money has been used to send 'Team Scotland' to Seafood Expo Global and other trade shows around the world involving seafood companies owned by the ['Moscow broker' Yuri Lopatinsky](#)?

Please detail government grants, subsidies, investments and other monies received by companies owned by Yuri Lopatinsky since he came to the UK in the late 1990s.

Please also detail any correspondence including letters and emails in relation to Yuri Lopatinsky since 1997 ([the date he is believed to have taken up residence in Edinburgh](#)) – including details of his British passport, business interests and links to Russian spy agencies.

Please include any correspondence with the French Government in relation to [Yuri Lopatinsky's Château De La Cômbe 'organic' vineyard](#) including business dealings with [Angus MacMillan of Joli Vin](#).

Please include any information linking Yuri Lopatinsky to Roman Abramovich – including any meetings in 2015 aboard Abramovich's 'Eclipse' super-yacht and at Lopatinsky's Ardyne Estate/Farm – and other Russian oligarchs as well as businessmen such as Mohamed Amersi, Aleksandr Barunin, Leonard Bogdan and Ernst Stauffer who have had dealings in Russia.

As context, ['Lopatinsky's Laundromat \(Part 2\): Dishonour Among Thieves'](#) cites a business connection to Yuri Lopatinsky and Michael Matlin (named [last month by The New York Times as Abramovich's bag man](#) and [operated a network of shell companies](#)) via the [AVISMA fraud scandal](#).

The closest physical connection between Lopatinsky and Abramovich (that is in the public domain at least) came in 2015 when Abramovich's super yacht 'Eclipse' sailed close to [Lopatinsky's Ardyne Point](#) and the [Ardyne Estate](#). The Mirror [reported in July 2015](#):



The image shows a screenshot of a news article header from the Mirror website. The top navigation bar is dark red with the 'Mirror' logo in white. Below it, a secondary navigation bar lists categories: NEWS, POLITICS, FOOTBALL, CELEBS, TV, MONEY, and TRAVEL. The main headline is in large, bold, black text: 'EXCLUSIVE: Scruffy entourage accompanying Roman Abramovich on Scottish walk revealed to be world's richest men'. Below the headline is a sub-headline in smaller black text: 'Despite being dressed in casual jeans and fleeces, the men accompanying Roman Abramovich are in fact some of the richest in the world'. At the bottom left, the author is listed as 'By Martin Fricker, News Reporter & Ruth Halkon' and the date is '14:09, 7 Jul 2015'. On the bottom right, there are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp.



Mistaken identity: It is no wonder these scruffy men were taken for bodyguards (Image: SWNS)

1. David Davidovich (foreground left) - Millhouse project manager. The 52-year-old billionaire is one of Abramovich's main lieutenants. A married father-of-two, he first worked with the Chelsea owner at Runicom in the mid-1990s. He was also main oil trader at Abramovich's Sibneft, which was sold in 2005 to Gazprom. According to Forbes, he is worth more than £1 billion.
2. Eugene Shvidler (background in jeans) - Millhouse Chairman. Shvidler, 52, is Abramovich's best friend and business partner, who has a net worth of £1.6 billion. He made his fortune in oil during the privatisation of Russian industry in the 1990s, teaming up with Abramovich to found an oil-trading organisation. Father-of-five Shvidler eventually became president of the Sibneft oil company in 1998. He now owns a £22m house in Belgravia, an estate in Surrey, a chalet in Aspen, a French vineyard and chateau and mega-yacht Le Grand Bleu.
3. Alexey Polezhaev (left of Davidovich in green trousers) - son of governor of the Omsk region. Polezhaev's father is Leonid Polezhaev, former governor of the Omsk region of Russia. Polezhaev was an advisor to Abramovich when he was governor of the Chukotka region. Abramovich gave the £50m, 10,000 seater Omsk Arena to the Avangard hockey team as a present several years ago. Alexey, a close friend of Abramovich, is believed in the oil and gas business and a billionaire in his own right.
4. Alexander Yaroslavsky (in tracksuit behind Abramovich) - one of Ukraine's richest men. Father-of-five Yaroslavsky, 55, once worked as a police officer in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv. He transformed himself into a successful businessman following the fall of the Soviet Union. He is the former owner of football team Metallist Kharkiv and has a fortune estimated to be £600 million. Yaroslavsky invested £200 million in the city of Kharkiv in the run-up to football's 2012 European Championships.

The Daily Mail [reported in July 2015](#):



The £10million rat pack: Roman Abramovich was joined by his team of scruffily dressed oligarchs on the Isle of Arran this week

The Guardian [reported last month \(12 March 2022\)](#):

Why has Abramovich's billionaire friend been left off the UK sanctions list?

Eugene Shvidler has stepped down as a director of Evraz, the steel company accused of possibly supplying steel for tanks

● [Russia-Ukraine war: latest news](#)

Jon Ungoe-Thomas

Sat 12 Mar 2022 17:30 GMT



📷 Roman Abramovich with Eugene Shvidler at Stamford Bridge, home of Chelsea Football Club. Photograph: Nick Potts/PA

Shvidler was also chairman of Millhouse LLC, Abramovich's Moscow-based investment company, but stepped down last week after sanctions were imposed on the Chelsea owner. Shvidler has kept a low profile for most of his business career, but is now in the spotlight after being named in the sanctions documents over his "close ties" to Abramovich.



📷 Boris Berezovsky was found dead in his home in 2013.
Photograph: Misha Japaridze/AP

A private jet, a Bombardier Global 6500, suspected of being linked to him was impounded last week at Farnborough airport. Ministers are making it a criminal offence for planes owned or chartered by Russians to enter UK airspace.

Shvidler has been described as Abramovich's "right-hand man", and the pair have often been spotted together, including on a trip in July 2015 to the Isle of Arran in Scotland. While Abramovich can be urbane and charming, Shvidler is described as more blunt in business dealings. "He can be the bad cop to his good cop," said one person who has met him.

Asked last week whether Shvidler thought he might be at risk of sanctions, a spokesperson said: "Mr Shvidler is not, and has never been, a citizen of the Russian Federation. Mr Shvidler is not a public person and is not party to the current events. Mr Shvidler was born in the USSR and left in 1989 as a stateless refugee.

"He settled in the US and became a US citizen in 1994. Since 2010, Mr Shvidler has also been a citizen of the UK, having arrived under the UK highly skilled visa programme."

Shvidler is also previously a member of the investment advisory firm MC Peat & Co, which was set up by Sir Michael Peat's son, Charlie. He stood down in May 2013.

Bill Browder, the financier and critic of the Kremlin, said last week he welcomed the action against Abramovich and other oligarchs, but the sanctions now needed to be widened. He said there should be investigations into the "junior partners of these big oligarchs" and "family members of the oligarchy who may be holding assets on their behalf."

[Remember that [Sir Michael Peat and Charlie Peat are connected to Michael Matlin via the Regeneration Group](#)]

The Sunday Mail [reported last month \(27 March 2022\)](#) that Yuri Lopatinsky owns Ardyne Farm near Dunoon:

Another company based at 10a Charlotte Square is Ardyne Estates Limited. According to title deeds, the firm owns Ardyne Farm, near Dunoon in Argyll.

Neighbour George Young said his son had sold the farm in 2013 for £1.6million to a buyer called Yuriy.

The 82-year-old said: "I've never seen him and he's apparently only been here two or three times. There has been a lot of work done on it since.

"We have other people with links to Russia nearby. Along the road is Knockdow House, which is owned by the son of a former KGB agent."

A worker at Ardyne Farm, which was flying the Ukrainian flag last week, said he had made contact with Lopatynskyy but added "he is a very private man".

We told last month how Knockdow House is owned by the son of one of Russian leader Vladimir Putin's closest KGB comrades – Monaco-based Yevgeniy Strzhalkovskiy. Former Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich visited the area in 2016.

Despite being one of Scotland's most prominent businessmen, Lopatynskyy has never been pictured – until now.

Former business associate Bill Browder, who has exposed corruption in Putin's regime, had frequent dealings with Lopatynskyy in Moscow and identified him from an online video of a vineyard.

It is believed Lopatynskyy now lives mostly in the south of France where he has an award-winning organic wine range called Chateau de la Combe.



Please provide the information electronically.

Please provide a receipt for this FOI request.

Yours sincerely,

Don Staniford

Director, Scamon Scotland

Cc:

Scottish Ministers
David Davis MP
Liam Byrne MP
Chris Bryant MP
Paul Sweeney MSP
Sarah Boyack MSP
Willie Rennie MSP
Mark Ruskell MSP
Patrick Harvie MSP
Ariane Burgess MSP



Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
 Rt. Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
 King Charles Street
 London
 SW1A 2AH

31 March 2022

Dear Foreign Secretary,

Red Flag for Yuri Lopatinsky (owner of Associated Seafoods & Loch Fyne Oysters)

Further to the [comments by Liam Byrne MP in the House of Commons on 17 January 2022 naming Yuri Lopatinsky as a person “with close connections to the SVR and FSB” \(as well as Mr Amersi\)](#), please read a dossier outlining the shady business interests of the ‘Moscow broker’ (as Yuri Lopatinsky is called in [Bill Browder’s book ‘Red Notice’](#)) including his current ownership of Associated Seafoods and Loch Fyne Oysters (via [Scottish Seafood Investments](#) which is [owned by Yuri Lopatinsky’s Farm Originals](#)):

[Yuri Lopatinsky: The Spy Who Laundered \\$almoney for the Russian/Norwegian \\$almafia](#)

The Sunday Mail reported on Yuri Lopatinsky’s closeness to the First Minister of Scotland (his address is listed at 10A Charlotte Square and he also owns 4 and 8 Charlotte Square – Nicola Sturgeon lives in Bute House at 6 Charlotte Square – and the [Charlotte Square Collection](#)) via:

[“Mysterious millionaire oligarch with links to Russian spy owns property next to Nicola Sturgeon’s official residence” \(27 March 2022\)](#)

WAR IN UKRAINE MILLIONAIRE WITH LINKS TO MOSCOW OWNS PROPERTIES BESIDE NICOLA STURGEON'S B1

THE OLIGARCH NEXT DOOR

Gordon Blackstock
 #281959577
A neighbour of the First Minister is a millionaire oligarch with links to a Russian spy.

Nicola Sturgeon's First Minister's residence is a neighbour of a millionaire oligarch with links to a Russian spy. The oligarch, Yuri Lopatinsky, who made his fortune in Moscow after the collapse of the Soviet Union, is linked to a huge property empire and to Nicola Sturgeon's official Bute House residence in Edinburgh.

A Sunday Mail investigation has revealed the complex connections between Lopatinsky and the former First Minister. Our Edinburgh journalist from the Cabinet Minister's List spoke to call on the businessmen to explain his relationship with Russian intelligence agencies.

In 1998, Lopatinsky, 58, set up a Russian-based investment fund called First Manoeuvre Capital Group (FMC), which by 2000 had bought a controlling stake in media firm Bantek - Russia's answer to Google.

Eight years later, he launched a London-based firm, called First Manoeuvre Partners (FM), which in 2011, its first investment was at 10 Charlotte Square - a two-storey townhouse. The firm was named after the First Manoeuvre address - a two-storey townhouse which Lopatinsky's links to the desirable address have continued and the firm's name has been credited with helping to transform the formerly dilapidated square.

A spokesman for the Charlotte Square Collection, which owns 21 Georgian townhouses and an island in Edinburgh's New Town said it was owned by Lopatinsky through his firm.

Professor Anthony Glees, a

Who's got the keys in the square?

- 1-4 Charlotte Square** This double storey property was owned by Lopatinsky through his company Scott's Real Estate Limited until 2019.
- 5 Charlotte Square** Owned by National Trust for Scotland (NTS).
- 6 Charlotte Square** Built house, owned by NTS.
- 7 Charlotte Square** NT's office site. The Georgian House. Currently being renovated. Also owned by Sturgeon-based offshore company Lopatinsky First Manoeuvre Partners.
- 8 Charlotte Square** Part of Charlotte Square Collection, owned by firm linked to Lopatinsky.
- 10 Charlotte Square** Part of Charlotte Square Collection, owned by Nicola Sturgeon.
- 11-14 Charlotte Square** Part of Charlotte Square Collection.
- 15-22 Charlotte Square** Part of Charlotte Square Collection.

HOUSING SWEET
 Nicola Sturgeon lives at Bute House. Main picture: Nicola Sturgeon

The First Minister's official residence in same row as financier with powerful pals

The Ferret (27 March 2022) also [quoted Liam Byrne MP via an article headlined “Scots property investor Lopatinsky denies links to Russian security agencies”](#):

“As Britain throws wide its sanctions net, it’s now vital Yuri Lopatinsky explains any and every relationship with Russian intelligence agencies along with any and every connection to a web of Russian linked tycoons. Parliament will be ruthless in demanding our foreign secretary sanctions every single profiteer from Putin’s regime. So now is the time for Mr Lopatinsky to put his cards on the table or face MPs using parliamentary privilege to lay out the full dossiers of what we’ve received about his affairs”.

Even without access to the ‘full dossiers’ from [“well-placed sources in the Kremlin” \(as Liam Byrne MP phrased it in the House of Commons on 17 January 2022\)](#), Yuri Lopatinsky’s close connections to “dark money from dubious sources” are abundantly clear.

I encourage you to read a [prospectus for the Russian Federation First Mercantile Fund listed on the Bermuda Stock Exchange in 2006](#) which includes biography details for ‘President’ Yury Lopatinsky (his name is spelled in several different ways including Yuriy Lopatynskyy, Yuri Lopatinski and Yuri Lopatinsky) and provides a fascinating insight into the financial investment strategies of Putin’s new Russia and how Yuriy Lopatinsky’s Russian Federation First Mercantile Fund avoided tax in Cyprus.

An [audit report authored by KPMG Chartered Accountants in Bermuda in September 2009](#) detailed eye-popping assets of the Russian Federation First Mercantile Fund with over \$123 million in assets in 2008 and \$54 million invested in corrupt companies such as Gazprom, Lukoil and Rosneft in 2009:

RUSSIAN FEDERATION FIRST MERCANTILE FUND LTD.

Consolidated Schedule of Investments

March 31, 2009

(Expressed in U.S. Dollars)

Description	No. of Shares	Cost	Fair Value	% of Net Assets
Held by Russian Federation First Mercantile Fund Ltd.				
Common Equities				
Acron JSC ADR	350,000	\$ 1,281,350	\$ 490,000	1.50%
Aurado Energy Inc.	1,100,000	143,000	–	0.00%
Bank of Georgia GDR	12,848	231,031	30,193	0.09%
Chagala Group Ltd. GDR	232,815	1,929,196	209,533	0.64%
Gazprom ADR	457,300	18,018,450	6,790,905	20.72%
Kazakhgold Group Ltd. GDR	30,680	777,863	205,249	0.63%
Kazvedka Dobycha GDR	50,000	628,750	744,500	2.27%
KDD Group NV	100,000	395,500	7,149	0.02%
LSR Group OJSC GDR	27,500	398,750	22,000	0.07%
LUKOIL Holding ADR	292,000	14,695,157	10,906,200	33.28%
MECHEL ADR	20,000	400,000	84,200	0.26%
Mirland Development Corp plc	40,000	452,376	27,454	0.08%
JMC MMC Norilsk Nickel ADR	276,087	4,448,387	1,656,522	5.05%
RGI International Ltd	184,851	1,987,148	44,364	0.14%
Rosneft Oil Company GDR	658,000	3,741,540	2,822,820	8.61%
Sistema Hals GDR	200,000	2,111,600	90,000	0.27%
Tatneft GDR	10,000	348,795	460,500	1.41%
XXI Century Investments Public Ltd.	166,000	1,921,616	30,858	0.09%
Total common equities held by Russian Federation First Mercantile Fund Ltd.		53,910,509	24,622,447	75.14%

From the financial information detailed above, it seems that the [£17 million used to buy Lighthouse Caledonia in 2009](#); undisclosed investments in Associated Seafoods (Moray Seafoods and Lossie Seafoods) in 2011 and in Loch Fyne Oysters in 2012; and further injections of cash into Lighthouse Caledonia (renamed The Scottish Salmon Company in 2010) came from dirty Russian money.

All the published material – with the prospect of further evidence coming out in the wash via Liam Byrne MP’s [“well-placed sources in the Kremlin”](#) – raises serious question marks regarding the legitimacy of Yuri Lopatinsky’s status in the UK and the circumstances surrounding the award of his British passport (understood to be in the late 2000s). If Yuri Lopatinsky has acted on behalf of [‘Putin’s People’](#) and is still profiteering from Putin’s regime then sanctions must surely be brought swiftly against the neighbour of Nicola Sturgeon.

I must declare a personal interest here as a report – ‘Scottish Scamon’ - I [published in February 2019](#) triggered a [threat of legal action in May 2019 by Yuri Lopatinsky’s lawyers Woods Whur in Leeds](#). Mr Lopatinsky’s lawyers demanded removal of the report – which is still [publicly available online as I deemed it factually correct](#) – claiming it was “ill-founded”.

Moreover, in November 2021 it was [revealed via The Ferret and The Herald](#) that the [former chief executive of The Scottish Salmon Company and Managing Director of Salmon Scotland \(Craig Anderson\)](#) hired a private investigator in 2018 to write an ‘Intelligence Report’ on myself and Corin Smith (a [GPS tracking device was found under Corin Smith’s car leading to an investigation by Police Scotland](#)). Craig Anderson – [who worked in Russia for two decades](#) – is [currently the Chairman of Loch Fyne Oysters](#) (owned by Yuri Lopatinsky via Farm Originals/Scottish Seafood Investments) and [Company Director of Associated Seafoods](#) (also owned by Yuri Lopatinsky via Farm Originals/Scottish Seafood Investments).

Yury Lopatinsky was also [named in the ‘Panama Papers’](#) as [Director of BAMI First Mercantile in Cyprus](#) along with [convicted Russian spy Arne Treholt \(a Norwegian diplomat\)](#).

Following [Liam Byrne MP’s disclosure about Yuri Lopatinsky’s spy ties via Parliamentary privilege in the House of Commons in January 2022](#) (which I was only alerted to some 10 days ago), I found myself once again investigating the scam of Scottish salmon and, in particular, the involvement of Mr Lopatinsky who I [describe in my new report as a \\$almoney launderer acting on behalf of the \\$almafia](#).

The assertion that Yuri Lopatinsky is guilty of siphoning dirty money from Russia via a secret network of accounts and companies in Cyprus, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Norway, the British Virgin Islands and Scotland is well founded and grounded in published material and credible source documents. Please cross-reference with your own intelligence and the [“well-placed sources in the Kremlin”](#).

Of particular interest is an [‘Extended Company Report’ for Scottish Seafood Investments](#) and a [‘Company Report’ for LLF Farm Originals S.A.](#) (both published in Luxembourg by Dato Capital) which reveal the ownership of Yuri Lopatinsky. You are encouraged to explore Lopatinsky’s labyrinth more deeply via a [‘Director Report’](#) and [‘International Executive Report’](#)

[published via reports from Dato Capital](#) (I could not afford the £140+ fees but would welcome access to the reports – my email is salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com).

Yuri Lopatinsky's shell game - disguised via companies registered in Luxembourg, Jersey, the British Virgin Islands and the UK - can be summarised as follows:

Farm Originals (owned by Yuri Lopatinsky) owns Scottish Seafood Investments (formerly owned by Yuri Lopatinsky's Northern Link and The Scottish Salmon Company) which in turn owns Associated Seafoods (owner of Moray Seafoods, Lossie Seafoods and R. R. Spink & Sons, which was previously part of the Dawnfresh Group) and Loch Fyne Oysters.

Here's a visual representation of the web of companies owned and controlled by Yuri Lopatinsky at various points in his career (with web-links embedded in the graphics for reference):



FARM ORIGINALS LIMITED

Company number **SC521798**

LLF Farm Originals S.A.

Scottish Seafood Investments Limited

Scottish Seafood Investments S.à r.l.

SCOTTISH SEAFOOD INVESTMENTS S.à r.l

SOPICA SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND LIMITED

FIRST MERCANTILE FUND LTD

FIRST MERCANTILE PARTNERS LLP

Company number **SO300953**

SOPICA PARTNERS LIMITED

Company number SC334531

**BAMI First Mercantile FM Asset Management
Sopica CIS Small Cap
Fund Ltd.**

Six SIS AG

ASSOCIATED SEAFOODS LIMITED

Company number SC361498

MORAY SEAFOODS LIMITED LOSSIE SEAFOODS LTD.

Company number SC409689

Company number SC145004



SIS SegalInterSettle

CHATEAU DE LA COMBE LTD

Company number 09110419

ARDYNE ORGANIC FARMS LTD

Company number SC517731

ARDYNE ESTATES LIMITED

Company number SC433931

MINAVEST HOLDINGS LTD Northern Link

THE SCOTTISH SALMON COMPANY LIMITED

Company number SC107275

LIGHTHOUSE CALEDONIA LIMITED

Russian Federation First Mercantile Fund

рамблер



THE
CHARLOTTE
SQUARE
COLLECTION

Previously, Yuri Lopatinsky's Northern Link Ltd - a global private equity investor advised by Edinburgh-based First Mercantile Partners (itself controlled by Yuri Lopatinsky) - bought Lighthouse Caledonia in 2009 (later renamed The Scottish Salmon Company in 2010) with a Swiss-based shareholding via SIX SIS AG which was sold in 2019 to Bakkafrost (whose largest shareholder is the Norwegian Government).

Salmon Business [reported in September 2019](#) that Yuri Lopatinsky's shareholding in The Scottish Salmon Company rose twelve-fold in value since 2011 and was valued at EUR 370 million. "Adjusted for dividends, most of the investment is pure profit," reported Aslak Berge. "However, this is not the first time Lopatinsky has made a big cut. He was the founder of Russia's answer to Google, Rambler. In selling this company, he earned somewhere between USD 500 and USD 600 million. He used these funds, among other things, to buy The Scottish Salmon Company."

Yuri Lopatinsky – via SIX SIS AG in Switzerland – is understood to currently own shares in Mowi, SalMar, Leroy, Grieg Seafood, Bakkafrost (parent company of The Scottish Salmon Company) and [GM salmon giant AquaBounty](#) (a company who trialed GM salmon on the shore of Loch Fyne at Otter Ferry in the 1990s).

All the evidence points to Yuri Lopatinsky using Lighthouse Caledonia and The Scottish Salmon Company as well as Associated Seafoods (Moray Seafoods and Lossie Seafoods) and Loch Fyne Oysters (bought via Scottish Seafood Investments – originally owned by Northern Link and The Scottish Salmon Company and more recently transferred to the ownership of Farm Originals – which was registered in Jersey and Luxembourg but is now registered in the British Virgin Islands) to clean dirty money: [millions of dollars of which was earned via investments in corrupt Russian companies](#).

The role of the Scottish Government in turning a blind eye and failing to investigate Yuri Lopatinsky's links to Russian intelligence and dark money must be seriously questioned. Back in 2010, [Environment Minister Roseanna Cunningham supported Lighthouse Caledonia's rebranding as The Scottish Salmon Company](#) (posing shamelessly between two flaccid farmed salmon held aloft by executives of the Yuri Lopatinsky-owned company).



Did the Scottish and UK Government support Yuri Lopatinsky's application for a British passport in return for a hefty injection of \$almoney into the salmon farming and seafood sector in Scotland? How did Yuri Lopatinsky slip through the net undetected for 15 years?

Indigo PR – who still act as Yuri Lopatinsky’s public relations team in Scotland – [used the word “safeguarding” in March 2009 in the context of “an inward investment deal worth £17m, safeguarding over 200 jobs in Scotland”](#) by Northern Link and First Mercantile (the latter was described as having “offices in Edinburgh, Moscow and Cyprus”). However, it is clear that the Scottish Government failed to safeguard the threat posed by the [“Mysterious millionaire oligarch with links to Russian spy \[who\] owns property next to Nicola Sturgeon’s official residence”](#).

It beggars belief that Scottish Ministers failed to notice the spy [connected to “a web of Russian linked tycoons like Aleksandr Barunin, Leonard Bogdan and Ernst Stauffer”](#) (as stated by [Liam Byrne MP on 25 March 2022](#)) living in plain sight in Charlotte Square.

As Scottish Labour MSP Sarah Boyack [told The Sunday Mail \(27 March 2022\)](#): “This is a worrying revelation. Every effort must be made to counter the influence of Russian and Russian-aligned millionaires in Scotland and the rest of the UK.”

“We will take any action we can within our current powers to ensure that those linked to the Putin regime do not use Scotland as a base for their assets,” a Scottish Government spokesperson [told The Ferret \(27 March 2022\)](#). The Ferret [reported further \(27 March 2022\)](#):

Calls for ‘urgent’ government Lopatinsky probe

On 28 February, Scottish Labour’s [Paul Sweeney MSP](#) [tabled a motion](#) in the Scottish Parliament calling on the Scottish Government to investigate and seize the assets of those in Scotland with links to the Kremlin.

“That call was supported by the Scottish Government and I believe a review of this is underway,” he said.

Lopatinsky has “apparent links to the Kremlin” and “owns a swathe of properties in Charlotte Square, a matter of metres from the First Minister’s official residence, via a company based in an offshore tax haven.”

“It is absolutely incumbent on the Scottish Government to investigate this urgently, and if these links are proven to be conclusive they should be seizing these assets.”

Sweeney said Scotland cannot allow anyone with apparent close links to the Kremlin “to operate and profit with impunity”. He added: “We must do all we can to ensure that those who appear to be linked to that regime are rooted out of Scotland’s economy.”

The Scottish Liberal Democrats echoed Sweeney’s point. Scotland “needs to do its bit to squeeze Putin’s regime and the oligarchs who have profited from it,” said Willie Rennie MSP, the party’s economy spokesperson.

“If there are documented connections between Mr Lopatinsky and Russian intelligence services, it is hard to see why his business empire including these Edinburgh properties are not on the sanctions list. Scotland needs to be much more transparent about who owns what.”

I can only echo the sentiments expressed above and hope that the UK Government as well as the Scottish Government closes the net on salmon spy Yuri Lopatinsky.

Yours sincerely,

Don Staniford

Director, Scamon Scotland

Cc:

Scottish Ministers
David Davis MP
Liam Byrne MP
Chris Bryant MP
Paul Sweeney MSP
Sarah Boyack MSP
Willie Rennie MSP
Mark Ruskell MSP
Patrick Harvie MSP
Ariane Burgess MSP