



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Eastern Research Group (ERG)

Duncan Allan

Deputy Head of Foreign Office Research Analysts and Senior Principal Research Analyst, Eastern Research Group.

A member of the FCO's Research Analysts since 1989, I've spent my career following the countries of the former Soviet Union, in particular Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova. I've completed full postings and spells of temporary duty in Russia, Ukraine and Central Asia. I've also been seconded to FCO policy departments and the Cabinet Office.

I returned to the FCO in August 2011 after more than four years as Head of Political Section at the British Embassy, Kyiv. My analytical portfolio in London covers Russia's external relations (with a special focus on Russia's policy toward the other countries of the former Soviet Union); regional energy issues; and trans-regional political and economic trends.

Sarah Nurton

Research Analyst, Eastern Research Group.

Sarah began working as an analyst on Russia and the former Soviet Union in the Cabinet Office in 2009, covering a wide range of themes including the Russian leadership, Russian foreign policy, Ukraine and the South Caucasus. She moved to Eastern Research Group in the Foreign Office in 2013 and took up her current role as analyst on Russian security issues in March 2015, although she maintains an interest in wider Russian affairs.

About FCO Research Analysts

RA is a cadre of geographical and thematic experts who provide timely, high quality, evidence-based research and analysis to Ministers, Directorates, Posts and other government departments. RAs are an integral part of the policy-making process. There are nine research groups, each attached to a Directorate. RAs provide daily expert advice and analytical support on a wide range of activities, including briefings, submissions, country strategies, policy reviews and crisis response. RAs inform and challenge debate at the strategic level by writing more substantive forward-looking think-pieces on individual countries, regions and global issues. RAs develop networks of outside expert contacts, in the UK and abroad, to enable cutting-edge research to challenge and inform the policy making process.