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Russell King prevented from leaving Bahrain

Russell King's travel ban follows a plea from a Jersey-based firm, Close Finance, which is pursuing him for £2m

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Russell King, top right, at Notts County with Sven-Goran Eriksson on the left of the picture. Photograph Paul Redding/Action Images

Russell King, the businessman under investigation for fraud in [Jersey](#) whose powers of persuasion coaxed former England football manager Sven Goran Eriksson to join League Two Notts County last year, has been slapped with a travel ban preventing him from leaving his [Bahrain](#) base.

The embargo has been ordered by government officials in the kingdom, according to documents seen by the Guardian, and follows a plea from a Jersey-based company called Close Finance, which is pursuing the businessman for £2m in outstanding loans. The order also freezes assets King holds in the kingdom up to that amount.

The dispute between Close and King has already resulted in a judge freezing £2m of his assets on Jersey in 2008, when the finance firm believed the businessman was about to sell his house and leave the island, court documents show.

The sale of the property, called Carrefour au Clerq, is still viewed by Close as a possible source of funds to resolve the impasse but it is owned by a trust of which King is a beneficiary. The trust is managed by Barclays Bank, which is understood to be resisting efforts to use the property to settle the debt.

Barclays declined to comment on its client or the case, while King did not return emails sent to his Bahrain address.

As well as leading negotiations to buy Notts County by the investment vehicle [Qadbak](#) in July 2009, King was also involved with the recruitment of Eriksson as the then League Two club's director of football. Eriksson stayed with the club for just seven months.

It later emerged that Eriksson had been promised a paper fortune if he also worked for a separate company called Swiss Commodity Holding (SCH).

While few people in the mining industry had ever heard of SCH, it was then claiming to have raw material assets worth an astonishing \$1.97trn (£1.27trn) and said it was seeking a stock market listing.

King was pictured representing the company when visiting Kim Yong-nam, one of North Korea's most powerful officials, but SCH has since disappeared from view and changed its name to Coremin.

It emerged last week that Coremin owes £173m to First London, an investment bank with ties to King and which advised SCH and Qadbak.

The bank was once a public company and ran a Financial Services Authority-regulated division, First London Securities, which has now gone into administration.

King is under investigation by the Jersey Financial Services Commission for his role in the collapse of Belgravia Group, a financial services firm that once tried to buy Newcastle United.

King was a spokesman and shareholder in the group, which was on the verge of being acquired by First London before the Jersey authorities blocked the deal.

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