

Debate Pack

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Potential merits of extending the Homes for Ukraine scheme

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1

Background

A Westminster Hall debate on the potential merits of extending the Homes for Ukraine scheme is scheduled for 6 February 2024 at 2.30pm. The debate will be led by Pauline Latham MP (Conservative).

[The Homes for Ukraine scheme](#) (sometimes known as the Ukraine Sponsorship scheme) is one of three visa routes introduced by the Government for people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. It allows [eligible individuals in the UK](#) to sponsor a named Ukrainian national or family to come to live in the UK with them, provided they have [suitable accommodation](#) to offer. Under the scheme, launched in March 2022, UK-based sponsors commit to providing accommodation for at least six months after the arrival of their Ukrainian guests.¹

The scheme has [enabled 142,600 Ukrainians to arrive in the UK](#), as of 1 February 2024.

Sponsors can claim ‘thank you’ payments of £350 per month for the first 12 months, and then £500 for the next 24 months. These are administered by the relevant local authority. As at the end of September 2023, the Government had provided £100 million to sponsors as ‘thank you’ payments, according to the National Audit Office.²

The local authority where the sponsor is based receives a one-off payment of £5,900 per arrival (previously £10,500 for all arrivals before 31 December 2022). The Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities had provided £1.1 billion in tariff funding to local authorities by the end of March 2023.³

The special Ukraine visa schemes offer a maximum stay of three years in the UK. They cannot be extended beyond three years, nor provide a pathway to permanent residency.⁴

The Government hasn’t yet confirmed whether or not it intends to extend immigration permission for people who have already arrived and been granted three years’ permission to stay under the schemes. The visas

¹ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, [‘Homes for Ukraine’ scheme launches](#), 14 March 2022

² National Audit Office, [Investigation into the Homes for Ukraine Scheme](#), 17 October 2023, p10

³ As above, p4

⁴ Typically, migrants in the UK qualify for permanent residency (formally known as ‘settlement’ or ‘indefinite leave to remain’) after five years.

belonging to the first arrivals under the schemes will begin to expire in February/March 2025.

1.1 Government position on extending the scheme

Broadly, the Government's position has been that it is keeping the question of extending the visa schemes under "consistent review", in consultation with the Ukrainian Government and other countries giving sanctuary to Ukrainians.⁵ It has not given a date by which any decision on extending the schemes will be announced.

The most recent Government statement about the future of the various Ukraine visa schemes (the Ukraine Family Scheme, Ukraine Extension Scheme and Homes for Ukraine) was given on 2 February 2024:

We are mindful that permission will start to expire, for the first arrivals under our Ukrainian schemes, from March 2025, and their need for certainty beyond that point to help them to plan ahead. We are keeping the need for a possible extension of permission to remain for those who are here on our Ukraine schemes under consistent review in line with the ongoing war.⁶

1.2 Related issues

Fees for future extensions

In November 2023, Patrick Grady (Scottish National Party) asked whether fees would be chargeable for "any extension to the Ukrainian visa schemes". The then immigration minister, Robert Jenrick, said the Government's consideration of the schemes' future "includes whether to require a fee".⁷

Aside from fees, other unresolved questions include whether any extension to the schemes would be automatic (as opposed to requiring people to apply) and allow eventual permanent residency (as opposed to allowing people to stay on time-limited visas with no pathway to settlement).

Permanent residency

An open petition on Parliament's public petitions website is calling on the Government to [provide permanent permission to stay in the UK to people under the Ukrainian visa schemes](#). It argues that this will "help to bring

⁵ PQ 202782 [on [Refugees: Ukraine](#)], 20 October 2023. See also PQ 7347 [on [Visas: Ukraine](#)], 11 January 2024; PQ 200878 [on [Refugees: Ukraine](#)], 18 October 2023; PQ 188361 [on [Visas: Ukraine](#)], 15 June 2023

⁶ PQ 11457 [on [Visas: Ukraine](#)], 2 February 2024

⁷ PQ 273 [on [Refugees: Ukraine](#)], 13 November 2023

stability to their lives, which is threatened by the time limit of the schemes and uncertainty of when the war is going to end.” The petition is open until 5 March 2024 and has attracted over 35,000 signatures so far.

The Government’s response explains why it considers it is appropriate at this stage to grant Ukrainians temporary permission to stay, and identifies some considerations which will be relevant to decisions about the future operation of the schemes:

We firmly believe that Ukraine will be safe again and recognise that the country of Ukraine will need the return of its citizens, from around the world, to help recover and rebuild their economy and infrastructure.

Therefore, the Ukraine schemes were created as routes for temporary sanctuary and are not routes for settlement. Ukrainians living in the UK on our Ukraine schemes can also apply for other types of leave, where they are eligible, for example study or work visas.

We are also keeping the need for a possible extension of permission to remain for those who are here on our Ukraine schemes under constant review. We do this while engaging closely with the Ukrainian Government, as well as with our counterparts globally, including governments within Europe who are hosting Ukrainians under the EU’s Temporary Protection Directive (or similar), which is currently confirmed until 4 March 2024, with the possibility of extension to March 2025.⁸

Even “in a future in which they feel it is safe to return to Ukraine” at least half of the Ukrainian refugees in the UK wish to remain here permanently, according a survey by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).⁹

Biometric requirements

Many people applying to come to the UK from Ukraine were issued with an official letter granting them permission to travel, instead of the normal visa in their passport. This avoided the need to attend a visa application centre to give ‘biometrics’ (fingerprints and a photograph). The biometric appointment was done on arrival in the UK instead.

This concession ended on 7 December 2023. As a result, “all new applicants are required to attend a visa application centre (VAC) to give their biometrics”.¹⁰

However, ministerial authorisation for biometric deferral in principle has been extended until September 2024, according to a letter from the immigration

⁸ [E-petition 642280: Provide Ukrainian refugees with settled status to enable a stable life in the UK](#), September 2023, Created by Volodymyr Holovachov

⁹ Office for National Statistics, [Visa holders entering the UK under the Ukraine Humanitarian Schemes: 27 April to 15 May 2023](#), 7 July 2023, section 3/figure 1

¹⁰ Home Office, [Ukraine Scheme: caseworker guidance](#), version 5.0, 7 December 2023, pp8-9

minister to the Home Affairs Committee.¹¹ This means the Home Office could revert to permission letters and biometric deferral should it become necessary.

Expiry of residence permits

Many Ukrainians in the UK are likely to have biometric residence permits with an expiry date of 31 December 2024. This may lead them to believe that their permission to be in the UK expires on that date. But the expiry date of someone's biometric residence permit is **not the same** as the expiry date of someone's visa. That is because physical residence permits are being phased out at the end of 2024 and therefore have been issued with a default expiry date of 31 December 2024.

Homes for Ukraine visas are typically issued for three years, taking people into 2025 or beyond. The exact expiry date should be confirmed in a decision letter from the Home Office.

The Ukraine Extension Scheme

The Ukraine Extension Scheme does not allow people here under Homes for Ukraine (or the other Ukraine schemes) to extend their stay in the UK beyond three years. It is designed for Ukrainians in the UK already (for example, on a work visa) to stay on under the same terms as people newly arriving under those other schemes.¹²

The total stay in the UK under any combination of Ukraine scheme visas is still three years. This is set out in the Immigration Rules:

The applicant will be granted permission to stay for whatever is the shorter of either:

1. (a) 36 months; or
2. (b) a period which would mean the applicant has been granted a maximum of 36 months under the Ukraine Scheme.¹³

In other words, if someone were to switch from Homes for Ukraine to the Extension Scheme, any time spent here under Homes for Ukraine would be deducted from the three years allowed under the Extension Scheme.

¹¹ Home Office, [Letter from Tom Pursglove MP to Diana Johnson MP regarding an update on necessary extensions permitting biometric deferral on the Ukraine schemes and the granting of leave to Ukrainian national](#) (PDF), 19 December 2024

¹² For instance, access to public funds or unrestricted work rights: Home Office, [Immigration Rules Appendix Ukraine Scheme](#), accessed 5 February 2024, para UKR 28.2

¹³ Home Office, [Immigration Rules Appendix Ukraine Scheme](#), accessed 5 February 2024, para UKR 28.1

Switching to another visa

People worried about the future can consider applying to switch onto a different visa type that does allow for long-term residence, such as a spouse or [work visa](#), or even claiming asylum. But there are often significant drawbacks to these options compared to the Ukraine schemes, so people considering this option may wish to wait and see what the Government announces, and/or seek legal advice.

1.3

Evaluations of the scheme

Recently, various stakeholders have produced evaluations of the Home for Ukraine scheme. Broadly, the long-term challenges identified in this work can be surmised as the supply of and support for potential hosts; housing; and welfare support.

Supply of and support for potential hosts

There is no cap on arrivals under the Home for Ukraine scheme. The future scale of the scheme, therefore, depends upon demand from Ukrainians, how many hosts volunteer, and the efficacy of the host-guest matching process.

Stakeholders have raised concerns about both the possible future supply of hosts, and the support available to those who volunteer for the scheme. As of July 2023, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities “assessed that there remained a medium risk that a shortage of sponsors would occur”, according to the National Audit Office.¹⁴

Other analyses have called on the Government to increase the support available to hosts. Krish Kandiah, director of the refugee support charity Sanctuary Foundation, said that there “remains a significant risk of the hosting scheme not being sustainable” due to the broader financial pressures faced by some hosts and guests.¹⁵ The University of Nottingham Rights Lab recommended that the hosting sector consider how to offer appropriate training and support for hosts, and work “to understand how to increase host retention”.¹⁶

¹⁴ National Audit Office, [Investigation into the Homes for Ukraine Scheme](#), 17 October 2023, p45

¹⁵ Krish Kandiah, “[The UK’s Homes for Ukraine scheme: a model for the future?](#)”, Forced Migration review, Vol 72, September 2023, p15

¹⁶ University of Nottingham Rights Lab, [Homes for Ukraine: learnings to inform and shape future hosting schemes](#), March 2023, p9

67% of current hosts say that the rising cost of living is affecting their ability to provide support to some extent.¹⁷

Government actions

[The Council Tax \(Discount Disregards and Exempt Dwellings\) \(Amendment\) \(England\) Regulations 2022](#) came into force on 12 April 2022. These regulations ensure that households do not lose council tax discounts or exemptions as a consequence of hosting a sponsored individual or family under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.¹⁸

In December 2022, the Government announced that hosts would receive £500 a month for ongoing support after their first 12 months of support.¹⁹ These payments were extended into a third year in the Autumn Statement 2023.²⁰

Long-term housing

Hosts are asked to commit to a minimum of six months. After this timeframe, the guests and hosts must consider what comes next: continue their current sponsorship, find a new host, or move into privately rented accommodation.

The Library's briefing [Homes for Ukraine: What happens after six months?](#) (published 20 January 2023) provides more information about the options available to hosts and sponsors after six months.

Stakeholders have pointed to the possible lack of available social housing or private rental properties available for guests seeking to move on. Krish Kandiah said that the “affordability and location of housing” were key obstacles.²¹ Similarly, the National Audit Office said that it had been told by local authorities that high house and rental prices in the areas where sponsors typically live mean that “many Ukrainians will struggle to move on to other homes”.²²

The ONS's latest survey found that 26% of hosts had helped guests look for “alternative or future accommodation in the UK”. 73% looked for private rented accommodation, during which 69% experienced barriers. The most commonly reported barriers were:

- guests cannot afford to rent privately (66%)

¹⁷ Office for National Statistics, [Experiences of Homes for Ukraine scheme sponsors, UK: 10 to 21 August 2023](#), 4 October 2023, section 4

¹⁸ [Explanatory Memorandum to the Council Tax \(Discount Disregards and Exempt Dwellings\) \(Amendment\) \(England\) Regulations 2022](#) (PDF), para 2

¹⁹ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, [New over £650 million support package for Ukrainians sees increased ‘thank you’ payments for longer-term hosts](#), 14 December 2022

²⁰ HM Treasury, [Autumn Statement 2023](#) (PDF), November 2023, para 4.107, p77

²¹ Krish Kandiah, “[The UK’s Homes for Ukraine scheme: a model for the future?](#)”, Forced Migration review, Vol 72, September 2023, p16

²² National Audit Office, [Investigation into the Homes for Ukraine Scheme](#), 17 October 2023, p46

- guests cannot provide a guarantor (50%)
- there are no suitable properties in my area (43%)
- guests cannot afford the deposit or other upfront payments (42%)²³

Concerns have been raised that these difficulties generate risks of homelessness or exploitation as guests transition out of the initial six-month period.²⁴

Government actions

In June 2023, the Government announced £150 million of homelessness prevention funding for 2023 to 2024. One of the aims of this funding is to support Ukrainian guests to move into their own homes. It is allocated “in relation to the proportion of Homes for Ukraine arrivals in each part of the UK”.²⁵ £120 million was allocated for the following year.²⁶

Round 1 of the Local Authority Housing Fund was also announced in December 2022. This provided £500 million of funding for local authorities to obtain accommodation for families who have arrived in the UK via the Ukrainian and Afghan visa schemes.²⁷

Welfare support

Integration support is provided by local authorities. This includes, for example, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision and education services more generally.

Evaluations of the scheme have highlighted the need to increase the types of welfare support available to sponsors. Krish Kandiah said that despite the “generous funding” provided to local authorities, the services available “varied considerably... and the burden often landed on hosts and community hubs”.²⁸ He recommended that any future schemes improve provision of welfare and employment support.²⁹

²³ Office for National Statistics, [Experiences of Homes for Ukraine scheme sponsors, UK: 10 to 21 August 2023](#), 4 October 2023, section 5

²⁴ See for instance, Local Government Association, [Debate on the potential merits of extending the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, House of Commons, 6 February 2024](#), 2 February 2024. Section 3 of the Library’s briefing [Homes for Ukraine: What happens after six months?](#) (published 20 January 2023) provides an overview of actions taken by the Government to address concerns about the risk of homelessness.

²⁵ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, [Homelessness Prevention Grant: Homes for Ukraine scheme support](#), 10 June 2023

²⁶ HM Treasury, [Autumn Statement 2023](#) (PDF), November 2023, para 4.107, p77

²⁷ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, [Local Authority Housing Fund: Round 1](#), 31 March 2023 (last updated 16 November 2023)

²⁸ Krish Kandiah, “[The UK’s Homes for Ukraine scheme: a model for the future?](#)”, Forced Migration review, Vol 72, September 2023, p16

²⁹ As above

Similarly, the University of Nottingham Rights Lab said that the Government should invest in “infrastructure to better equip participating hosts and guests with required tools”. For instance, centralised provision of language lessons, employment training, and support in Universal Credit applications.³⁰

Government actions

Primarily, additional funding for local authorities is provided through a one-off payment. The local authority where the sponsor is based receives a one-off payment of £5,900 per arrival (previously £10,500 for all arrivals before 31 December 2022).

In 2022-23 the Government gave additional funding to councils to provide “education and childcare services for children from families arriving from Ukraine”.³¹ This funding will not continue in the 2023-24 financial year.

The Government also announced £11.5 million to fund English language courses and employment support for up to 10,000 people (across the UK) under the three Ukraine visa schemes.³²

³⁰ University of Nottingham Rights Lab, [Homes for Ukraine: learnings to inform and shape future hosting schemes](#), March 2023, p43

³¹ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, [Funding for councils: Homes for Ukraine](#), 16 January 2023 (last updated 12 December 2023)

³² Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, [Language and employment courses for Ukrainians](#), 24 August 2023

2 Parliamentary Material

2.1 Debates

[Ukrainian Refugees: Homelessness](#) – HC Deb 14 Mar 2023 – 729 cc756-773

[Homes for Ukraine Scheme Anniversary](#) – HC Deb 01 Mar 2023 – 728 cc317-335WH

2.2 Statements

[Homes for Ukraine Scheme Update](#)

12 Jun 2023 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS840

[Homes for Ukraine Scheme: Update](#)

14 December 2022 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS447

2.3 Parliamentary questions

[Visas: Ukraine](#)

Asked by: Hanna, Claire

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has considered the potential merits of extending visas issued under the (a) Ukraine Family Scheme, (b) Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme and (c) the Ukraine Extension Scheme; and whether he has had recent discussions with Cabinet colleagues on the potential impact of such schemes on Government provision for (i) housing, (ii) education and (iii) employment.

Answering member: Tom Pursglove | **Department:** Home Office

We are mindful that permission will start to expire, for the first arrivals under our Ukrainian schemes, from March 2025, and their need for certainty beyond that point to help them to plan ahead. We are keeping the need for a possible extension of permission to remain for those who are here on our Ukraine schemes under consistent review in line with the ongoing war.

The Government is providing funding to councils at a rate of £10,500 per person for guests who arrived before 1 January 2023 and £5,900 for guests who arrived after 1 January 2023 under the Homes for Ukraine scheme to enable them to provide support to families to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into communities. The Government is also providing £150 million of new UK-wide funding in the 2023/24 financial year to local authorities and devolved governments to help support Ukrainian guests move into their own homes and reduce the risk of homelessness.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) are also working across government to identify other ways to unblock barriers, helping Ukrainians access employment, commensurate with their skill set, liaising with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). In addition, the Government announced £11.5 million in the Spring Budget 2023 to fund intensive English language courses and employment support for up to 10,000 eligible individuals (across the UK) under the three humanitarian Ukraine visa schemes.

02 Feb 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 11457

Date tabled: 24 Jan 2024 | **Date for answer:** 26 Jan 2024 | **Date answered:** 02 Feb 2024

[Homes for Ukraine Scheme](#)

Asked by: Sobel, Alex

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how many families are housed through the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Answering member: Felicity Buchan | **Department:** Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

The most up to date data on arrivals through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme can be accessed [here](#).

01 Feb 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 12081

Date tabled: 30 Jan 2024 | **Date for answer:** 01 Feb 2024 | **Date answered:** 01 Feb 2024

[Council Tax: Asylum](#)

Asked by: Penning, Sir Mike

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 15 January 2024 to Question 8376 on Council Tax: Asylum, if he will take steps to ensure that (a) refugees and (b) asylum seekers who do not hold a Homes for Ukraine immigration permission are disregarded when determining whether a discount should be applied to the council tax for their accommodation.

Answering member: Simon Hoare | **Department:** Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

The council tax disregard is one part of a bespoke package of support for those arriving on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, and their sponsors, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The Government does not plan to extend the council tax disregard to refugees or asylum seekers who do not hold a Homes for Ukraine immigration permission living in England.

18 Jan 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 9461

Date tabled: 15 Jan 2024 | **Date for answer:** 17 Jan 2024 | **Date answered:** 18 Jan 2024

[Immigration: Ukraine](#)

Asked by: Moran, Layla

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make it his policy to (a) extend the leave to remain and (b) offer a route to

indefinite leave to remain status for individuals on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

Answering member: Tom Pursglove | **Department:** Home Office

We are mindful that permission will start to expire, for the first arrivals under our Ukrainian schemes, from March 2025, and their need for certainty beyond that point to help them to plan ahead, for example if remaining in the UK, entering into rental agreements and living here independently.

In line with the situation in Ukraine, working closely with the Ukrainian Government, as well as our international counterparts, we keep the need for a possible extension of sanctuary in the UK, beyond March 2025, under consistent review.

The UK Government stands with Ukraine and firmly believes that Ukraine will be safe again. When it's safe to do so, Ukraine will need the repatriation of its citizens to help recover and rebuild their economy and infrastructure. Our approach therefore has been to provide 36 months sanctuary under our Ukraine visas which are temporary and do not lead to settlement or indefinite leave to remain.

12 Dec 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 5607

Date tabled: 06 Dec 2023 | **Date for answer:** 12 Dec 2023 | **Date answered:** 12 Dec 2023

[Homes for Ukraine Scheme: Homelessness](#)

Asked by: Amesbury, Mike

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of ending the Homes for Ukraine scheme on levels of homelessness.

Answering member: Felicity Buchan | **Department:** Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Since the start of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, we have provided over £1.1 billion in tariff funding to councils and the devolved administrations to enable them to support Ukrainian guests to settle in, integrate, and then move on from sponsorship at the right time. As we have set out previously, we always anticipated that a proportion of arrivals would end up relying on homeless prevention services and our

funding was designed to address this in part. Councils in England have also received a £109 million top up to the Homelessness Prevention Grant this year to reduce the risk of homelessness amongst Ukrainians. They will be able to use this funding to support other people at risk of homelessness. We have created the £750 million Local Authority Housing Fund for councils in England to buy or create housing stock to accommodate Ukrainian and Afghan families at risk of homelessness, and to ease wider homelessness pressures, seeking to ensure that those communities which have been most generous in welcoming new arrivals are not penalised with longer social housing waiting lists.

The vast majority of Ukrainians have been able to sustain housing without the need for homelessness support. The latest data indicates of those who have had a duty accepted, the majority have had their homelessness successfully prevented or relieved. Figures show only a fraction of all Ukrainian arrivals are in temporary accommodation. This demonstrates that councils have generally been very successful at preventing the need to place households in temporary accommodation.

We remain steadfast in our support for Ukraine, the Ukrainians now living in the UK and the local authorities supporting them. We continue to keep the scheme under constant review and will set out any updates in the usual way.

13 Nov 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 443

Date tabled: 07 Nov 2023 | **Date for answer:** 09 Nov 2023 | **Date answered:** 13 Nov 2023

[Homes for Ukraine Scheme](#)

Asked by: Duncan Smith, Sir Iain

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of reports that a Russian intelligence agent has entered the UK under the Homes for Ukraine scheme; and if her Department will review the security vetting process for people coming to the UK through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

Answering member: Robert Jenrick | **Department:** Home Office

These reports are misleading and inaccurate.

Since February 2022, Russian nationals applying for any UK visa route have been subject to robust additional security checks. The UK Government is proud of the support we have given to Ukrainians fleeing Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine, with over 200,000 Ukrainian nationals and their families either arriving, or extending their existing leave, in the UK to secure sanctuary on our Ukraine Schemes.

29 Jun 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 190999

Date tabled: 26 Jun 2023 | **Date for answer:** 29 Jun 2023 | **Date answered:** 29 Jun 2023

[Homes for Ukraine Scheme: Temporary Accommodation](#)

Asked by: Madders, Justin

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how many and what proportion of people on the Homes for Ukraine scheme are being housed in temporary accommodation.

Answering member: Felicity Buchan | **Department:** Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

As we set out previously, we always knew that a proportion of our arrivals on the Homes for Ukraine scheme would end up relying on LA temporary accommodation services and that's why we provided councils with a tariff for each arrival to allow them to plan appropriately.

Data on the number of Ukrainians, including those on the Homes for Ukraine scheme, in temporary accommodation is available [here](#).

19 Jun 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 188732

Date tabled: 09 Jun 2023 | **Date for answer:** 13 Jun 2023 | **Date answered:** 19 Jun 2023

[Refugees: Ukraine](#)

Asked by: Blake, Olivia

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps he is taking to ensure greater consistency in the support provided to Ukrainian refugees and their hosts across the two Visa Schemes; if he will extend the initial £200 interim payment to everyone arriving on the Ukraine Family Scheme in all UK nations; and if he will protect hosts on the Ukraine Family Scheme from increases in council tax bills as a result of hosting additional people.

Answering member: Felicity Buchan | **Department:** Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

As announced in December 2022, all Homes for Ukraine sponsors will receive an increased 'thank you' payment of £500 a month once guests have been in the country for over a year. Where sponsorships can no longer continue for the financial year 2023/24, all councils will receive help to house Ukrainians through a one-off pot of government funding worth £150 million. The guidance and breakdown of the £150 million funding by local authority can be accessed [here](#).

This money can be used flexibly to support Ukrainians into the private rented sector, amongst other things. For instance it can be used to provide deposits or rent advances, or to offer guarantees.

Ukrainians arriving under both the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and the Ukraine Family Scheme have the same entitlement to work, pensions, health provision, education, and access to benefits. These are effective from as soon as a Ukrainian guest has a valid visa and arrives in the UK. Both schemes provide a right to remain for three years.

12 Jun 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 187435

Date tabled: 02 Jun 2023 | **Date for answer:** 12 Jun 2023 | **Date answered:** 12 Jun 2023

[Homes for Ukraine Scheme](#)

Asked by: Cooper, Daisy

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 23 February to Question 148806 on Homes for Ukraine Scheme, whether he plans to update the How to rent guidance to include guidance for people leaving a Homes

for Ukraine scheme placement; and when he plans to publish existing guidance in Ukrainian and Russian.

Answering member: Felicity Buchan | **Department:** Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

We have already [republished guidance on renting in Ukrainian and Russian](#) to help households who wish to move on from sponsorship by accessing private rented accommodation: [How to Rent guide in Ukrainian](#) and [How to Rent guide in Russian](#).

We have made amendments to eligibility criteria to ensure arrivals from Ukraine under all of the Government's visa schemes are now eligible for housing assistance from day one of their arrival.

24 Apr 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 179863

Date tabled: 14 Apr 2023 | **Date for answer:** 18 Apr 2023 | **Date answered:** 24 Apr 2023

[Homes for Ukraine Scheme](#)

Asked by: Morgan, Stephen

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, with reference to the correspondence by his Department entitled Email to hosts: information on the Homes for Ukraine programme, published on 1 March 2023, what a reasonable contribution would be towards household bills.

Answering member: Felicity Buchan | **Department:** Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

As set out in published guidance, Ukrainian guests have full access to benefits and the right to work from their first day in the UK. Sponsors can ask guests to make a reasonable contribution towards food and other household expenses during their stay but this will depend on individual circumstances. The Government does not offer advice on the individual circumstances of sponsors and their guests.

09 Mar 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 156250

Date tabled: 01 Mar 2023 | **Date for answer:** 03 Mar 2023 | **Date answered:** 09 Mar 2023

[Homes for Ukraine Scheme](#)

Asked by: Kruger, Danny

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what information his Department holds on what use local authorities have made of the £10,500 per-person funding provided under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme; and whether his Department provided guidance to local authorities on how that funding should be spent.

Answering member: Felicity Buchan | **Department:** Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Information and guidance on grant funding allocations for local authorities under the Homes for Ukraine scheme can be accessed [here](#) and [here](#). DLUHC officials are in constant contact with counterparts in local authorities, and there are many examples of good practice and innovation by local authorities. Some have chosen to ‘top up’ the ‘thank you’ payments for hosts, others have extensive programmes to help arrivals into the private rented sector or employment. Inevitably, different locations will have differing specific needs, and have had particular successes or challenges.

03 Feb 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 132603

Date tabled: 25 Jan 2023 | **Date for answer:** 30 Jan 2023 | **Date answered:** 03 Feb 2023

[Homes for Ukraine Scheme: Homelessness](#)

Asked by: Johnson, Dame Diana

To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what recent estimate he has made of the number of former Homes for Ukraine participants that are homeless.

Answering member: Felicity Buchan | **Department:** Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

This information is available online and can be accessed [here](#) .

13 Jan 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 114614

Date tabled: 20 Dec 2022 | **Date for answer:** 09 Jan 2023 | **Date answered:** 13 Jan 2023

[Topical Questions](#)

Asked by: Ellie Reeves (Lewisham West and Penge) (Lab)

Last month, 51,000 people came to the end of their placement under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, leaving them desperately needing somewhere to live. However, with the private rented sector unaffordable and council waiting lists already overwhelmed, families are having to choose between returning to a war zone and being homeless. What will the Government do about it?

Answered by: Felicity Buchan | **Department:** Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

We are delighted to have welcomed more than 150,000 Ukrainians into this country. We thank all the sponsors. On homelessness, 1,720 homelessness duties were owed to households who arrived under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. That is a small fraction.

09 Jan 2023 | Topical questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | 725 c272

Date answered: 09 Jan 2023

2.4

Committee material

[Inquiry: Homes for Ukraine](#)

Parliamentary committees - House of Commons papers - Select Committee written evidence, oral evidence transcripts and correspondence

Corporate author: Committee of Public Accounts

[Correspondence from the Minister of State for Housing and Homelessness relating to expressions of interest in sponsors of the Homes for Ukraine scheme.](#)

03 Jul 2023 | Parliamentary committees - Unprinted papers - Select Committee written evidence | House of Commons

[Correspondence with the Minister for Development and Africa relating to the UK's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine](#)

24 Jan 2023 | Parliamentary committees - Unprinted papers - Select Committee written evidence | House of Commons

[Correspondence with the Minister for Housing and Homelessness and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Faith and Communities relating to Ukrainian refugees](#)

23 Jan 2023 | Parliamentary committees - House of Commons papers - Select Committee written evidence | House of Commons | HC 464 2022-23

3 Media

3.1 Articles and blogs

[Visa uncertainty adding to 'insecurity' for Ukrainian refugees, campaigner warns](#)

Independent

16 November 2023

[Homes for Ukraine funding halt could put thousands on streets, says watchdog](#)

Guardian

17 October 2023

[Changes to Ukraine Extension Scheme](#)

Davidson Morris

28 September 2023

[Ukrainian visa scheme set to be extended as refugees say they're living in limbo](#)

iNews

25 August 2023

[UK launches £150m fund to help Ukrainians into their own homes](#)

Guardian

10 June 2023

Potential merits of extending the Homes for Ukraine scheme

[Homes for Ukraine – One Year On](#)

UK in the Changing Europe

14 March 2023

[Most Britons think housing Ukrainian refugees is a good thing, study shows](#)

Guardian

12 March 2023

4 Further reading

[Debate on the potential merits of extending the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, House of Commons, 6 February 2024](#)

Local Government Association

2 February 2024

[Scotland for Ukrainians: a guide for displaced people](#)

Scottish Government

Last updated 12 December 2023

[Investigation into the Homes for Ukraine scheme](#)

National Audit Office

17 October 2023

[Displaced people from Ukraine in Scotland – what is the long-term plan?](#)

Scottish Parliament Information Centre

05 October 2023

[From Safe Homes to Sponsors: Lessons from the Ukraine Hosting Response for Refugee Sponsorship Programs](#)

Migration Policy Institute

October 2023

[“The UK’s Homes for Ukraine scheme: a model for the future?”](#)

Krish Kandiah

Forced Migration review

Potential merits of extending the Homes for Ukraine scheme

Vol 72

September 2023

[Homes for Ukraine: learnings to inform and shape future hosting schemes](#)

University of Nottingham Rights Lab

March 2023

[Fearing, fleeing, facing the future: how people displaced by the conflict in Ukraine are finding safety in the UK](#)

Red Cross

24 February 2023

[Ukraine schemes: visas, biometrics and passport renewals](#)

Northern Ireland Direct

Undated

[Support and information for people affected by the crisis in Ukraine](#)

Refugee Council

Undated

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