



Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

Lord Harrington
Minister for Refugees
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
4th Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

24 May 2022

Dear Richard,

Homes for Ukraine: checks

Owing to recent media reports relating to the Homes for Ukraine scheme my Committee felt it was necessary to write to you again to establish how the scheme is operating.

It has been reported that hundreds of Ukrainian refugees have been placed in temporary bridging accommodation because their sponsors were found to have criminal records or their accommodation was found to be unsuitable. It is our understanding that visas are granted after initial security checks by the Home Office, but that DBS and accommodation checks to be carried out by councils can be made after a visa has been granted or after the guests have arrived in the UK.

We understand that councils record the results of checks on the online Foundry system.

Can you inform us how many refugees have arrived before DBS and accommodation checks are completed and how many have arrived after the checks are completed?

We recently heard from the LGA about issues with the data being shared with councils that may be contributing to these delays to checks.¹ Among their concerns was that data is arriving too slowly, that councils are only being given the sponsor details and not the names of other adults in the household who require a DBS check, and that no information on the property such as the type of property or number of rooms is provided. The LGA also told us that information is sometimes missing or inaccurate, such as contact details and dates of arrival to the UK. **Can you outline what steps the department is taking to address local authorities' concerns about the data being shared with councils, in particular to speed up data sharing and ensure that data is accurate and complete?**

¹ [Cllr James Jamieson to the Chair re: Support for Ukrainian refugees](#), dated 4 May 2022



Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

One of the concerns that the LGA expressed to us in oral evidence was about legal cover for councils in a light-touch regime around safeguarding and accommodation checks. We understand that a light-touch regime is needed in order to bring Ukrainian refugees to safety in the UK as quickly as possible, but recognise that without legal assurance councils could have a perverse incentive to err on the side of caution. **What legal cover for councils is the department considering and how will the Government ensure this is in place as quickly as possible?**

Thank you for your engagement on this very important issue. Given how important that these matters are resolved quickly, I would be grateful for a response by 30 May 2022. I would also be grateful for a prompt response to my letter of [4 May](#).

With best wishes,

Clive Betts MP
Chair, Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee