



## Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

**Felicity Buchan MP and Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE  
Parliamentary Under Secretaries (Joint lead on Ukraine)  
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities  
4th Floor, Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF**

20 December 2022

Dear Felicity and Jane,

### **Homes for Ukraine: risk of homelessness this winter**

I am writing in relation to concerns my Committee has regarding the number of Ukrainian families in the UK who may find themselves homeless this Christmas.

The Government's latest statistics show that in November, the number of households presenting as homeless on the Homes for Ukraine scheme increased by nearly 50% in one month, as many sponsorships reached the 6-month mark.

At a recent public engagement event my Committee held with guests, sponsors, local authorities and charities, we heard that Christmas will be a cut-off point for many sponsors who are currently housing guests. We are concerned that this will cause a further spike in Ukrainian families presenting as homeless.

Following the Government's announcement on 14 December, we are aware of the Government's plans to support longer-term arrangements for Ukrainians: namely the rise in thank-you payments for sponsors, £500 million for 4,000 new homes by 2024, and £150 million next financial year for local authorities to help Ukrainian guests move into their own homes.

### **I would be grateful if you could write to the Committee on the following:**

- **Does your Department expect a spike in Ukrainian families presenting as homeless this Christmas?**
- **What is your Department doing in the immediate term to prevent Ukrainian families finding themselves homeless this winter?**



## Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

At our engagement event my Committee heard of several barriers to Ukrainians in accessing the private rented sector:

- In some cases, landlords being unwilling to offer viewings of properties to Ukrainians;
- Lack of a guarantor;
- Being unable to meet affordability checks due to being on Universal Credit, or, in some cases, being unable to provide large deposits such as 6-months rent.

I understand that you have both accepted an invitation to appear before my Committee on 16 January to discuss the Ukraine humanitarian schemes and I look forward to discussing some of these issues with you in more detail then.

Best wishes,

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