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Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson MP
Chair
Home Affairs Committee
Committee Office
House of Commons
London
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29 August 2023

Dear Dame Diana,

Update on necessary extensions in our Ukraine Schemes

I am writing to update the Committee that the Home Office has published a short update on GOV.UK to be clear that we have brought forward amendments in the July Immigration Rules package to extend the deadline for the Ukraine Extension Scheme for a further six months. This will ensure that those who are otherwise eligible, and who have been granted permission to be in the UK after 16 May 2023 and by 16 November 2023, can apply to the Scheme. All applications, therefore, must now to be made by 16 May 2024 and any future amendments will be kept under review.

The Home Secretary has also decided to extend the Ministerial Authorisation issued under Schedule 3, Part 4, paragraph 17(4) of the Equality Act 2010 and under Article 20C(3)(a) of the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997, dated 16 May 2022 until 16 May 2023, to cover the current extension of the Ukraine Extension Scheme. This will continue to allow Ukrainians, for example, with valid Ukrainian international passports, to apply under the Ukraine Family Scheme and the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, who are deferring the collection of their biometrics until after they arrive in the UK, to travel without the requirement to attend a Visa Application Centre in the region.

The decision to extend this Ministerial Authority has been made exceptionally, to ensure we can continue to support Ukrainians to seek sanctuary in the UK, and is being kept under review in line with latest developments.

I am placing a copy of this letter and the authorisation for this measure in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Minister of State for Immigration