



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Dear Minister,

### **Supporting displaced Ukrainians in Scotland**

The Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee has been scrutinising the ongoing resettlement of displaced Ukrainians across Scotland. At our recent evidence sessions on [26 January](#), [2 February](#), and [9 February](#), several issues within the UK Government's jurisdiction were raised with the Committee, and we agreed to write to bring these to your attention.

#### **Funding for local authorities**

##### Year 1 funding

Concerns were raised with the Committee regarding the UK Government's recent [decision](#) to reduce the year 1 tariff that local authorities can claim for each displaced person arriving under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, from £10,500 to £5,900. The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) told us that this "significant cut" would have a "huge impact".

The Committee heard that this reduction in funding "significantly undermines the capacity of local authorities to provide the full range of services" necessary to support the resettlement of displaced Ukrainians, such as housing, education, social work, and trauma support.<sup>i</sup>

In the Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership's view, "the failure on the part of the UK Government to fully reflect the costs of integration support" is "likely to lead to an increased cost burden" on both the local authority and the health and social care partnership, and it feared that this would "further undermine the willingness of local authorities to engage in the scheme".<sup>ii</sup>

### Year 2 funding

Stakeholders further expressed concerns regarding the additional financial pressures that would be presented by there not being a year 2 tariff available for local authorities who will be continuing to provide support to displaced Ukrainians into the second year of their time in Scotland—unlike with the Syrian and Afghan resettlement schemes—and that the additional education tariff will also soon be ceased. COSLA viewed both issues as “key areas of concern” for local government.<sup>iii</sup>

The Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine, Neil Gray MSP, told the Committee that while this support had been replaced by a “one-off” [fund of £150 million across the UK](#), the Scottish Government’s “assumption” of its allocation of that funding would be “a tenth of the value of the year 1 tariff funding per person”.

The Committee heard that the £10,500 tariff already represented a “stretch” for local authorities to deliver the necessary services for supporting displaced Ukrainians. Therefore, we are concerned that these significant changes to funding levels for local authorities could constrain efforts to support Ukrainians resettling in Scotland.

### **‘Thank you’ payments for hosts**

The Minister Neil Gray also raised with the Committee the Scottish Government’s reservations with the [uplifted ‘thank you’ payment](#) of £500, which will be paid to the hosts of those who have been in the UK for over 12 months.

While the Minister recognised that the UK Government has “acknowledged” through this uplift that “more needed to be done to support our hosts”, he thought the “disappointing element” was that “when that support starts has been kicked down the road”. He stressed that while, for many hosts, the point at which they would receive the uplifted payment may not be “until long into the summer”, financial “pressure is being felt now” by hosts. The Minister’s view was that the uplift “does not meet the needs that we believe are involved in maintaining hosting arrangements or in encouraging new people to come forward” and should go “much further”.

We also heard that the scheme is “not intuitive”, with the uplifted payment following the individual, through different hosting arrangements, rather than the host. The Scottish Government expected that it would be challenging for local authorities to navigate this and track an individual’s progress through hosting arrangements, across potentially different local authority areas, “which will make implementation difficult”.

The Committee is aware of the challenges being faced in providing longer-term accommodation for displaced Ukrainians, with many still being housed in temporary accommodation in hotels or ships. Given the important role that hosts currently play in

providing accommodation to displaced Ukrainians, it is important that sufficient support is provided, so that hosting arrangements do not breakdown due to lack of affordability.

## **Other issues**

The Head of the Consulate of Ukraine in Edinburgh, Andrii Kuslii, informed us of further issues that some displaced Ukrainians in Scotland are facing, in relation to reserved matters, which we wanted to make you aware of.

### Employment

The Consul provided examples of displaced Ukrainians in Scotland being “offered jobs [at jobcentres] that do not match their experience or their expectations”. He recommended that “jobcentres should work closely with Ukrainians to inform them about opportunities, how to find a job, and how to submit effective CVs in order to open up opportunities to contribute to society in this country and to be effective in their local communities.”

Furthermore, on the matter of the recognition of professional qualifications, the Consul told us that “lots of Ukrainians who are fleeing our country as a result of the Russian aggression have qualifications in law and in the medical field, but they are not currently used as professionals here”. He asked for solutions to be found to “recognise Ukrainian qualifications in Scotland”.

### Car registration

Lastly, the Consul raised an issue with the registration of the private vehicles of displaced Ukrainians. Although “private cars should be reregistered within six months of being brought to the UK”, the Consul outlined that “under the visa schemes, Ukrainians in Scotland are temporary visitors”. He asked for a solution to be found “so that they can keep their vehicles with a Ukrainian registration plate for the period in which they are allowed to stay in the UK”.

We would welcome a prompt response on the matters above.

Yours sincerely,



Clare Adamson MSP, Convener of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee

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<sup>i</sup> [Written submission from Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership](#)

<sup>ii</sup> [Ibid](#)

<sup>iii</sup> [Written submission from COSLA](#)