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

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31 July 2023

Dear Convener,

I recently wrote to you regarding the successful disembarkation of MS Victoria and the announcement that the Scottish Government's Ukraine Longer-term Resettlement Fund is now funding the improvement of over 1000 void properties for rehousing Ukrainians across Scotland.

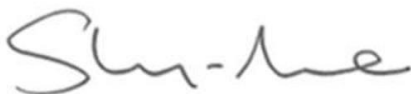
The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the outcome of the most recent review of the pause on the Super Sponsor Scheme. As you will be aware, on 13 July 2022 the Super Sponsor Scheme was temporarily closed to new applications. Mr Gray, the previous Minister with Special Responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine, instructed officials to conduct a rapid review of the Scheme with a focus on sustainability and longer-term accommodation, and to develop a set of criteria against which any plan to lift the pause on the Scheme could be objectively assessed.

An assessment of the pause on the Scheme against this criteria was conducted by officials in March 2023 and presented to Warm Scots Welcome Programme Board who unanimously agreed to maintain the pause and conduct a further review in June 2023.

The outcome of the most recent review in June 2023 has concluded that a continuation of the current pause should remain. With the Programme Board's endorsement, we now intend to review the pause on the Scheme every 6 months and we will inform the Committee of the outcome of that review in 6 months' time.

I hope you have found this information useful.

Yours sincerely,



**SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE**