

Briefing for the Public Petitions Committee on petition PE2249: Open the Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme for Ukrainians to new applicants, lodged by Mykhailo Uhyliant Vrozshuku

Relevant SPICe research

- SPICe Academic Fellowship: [A review of inter-governmental cooperation and communication during Ukraine resettlement efforts in Scotland, Dr Dan Fisher, Centre for Public Policy, University of Glasgow](#)

Brief overview of issues raised by the petition

On 24 February 2022, Russian forces launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The [UN Refugee Agency \(UNHCR\)](#) estimates that, as of February 2026, the invasion has displaced 9.6 million Ukrainian people: 3.7 million within Ukraine and 5.9 million outside Ukraine.

In response, the UK Government launched the [Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme](#) on 14 March 2022. Under the scheme, Ukrainian nationals can apply for a UK visa once they have secured sponsorship from a UK resident willing to provide accommodation. This sat alongside the separate [Ukraine Family Scheme](#), which allowed Ukrainians to join family already in the UK until it closed to new applicants on 19 February 2024, and an [Extension Scheme](#) for those who held a valid UK visa on or after 1 January 2022. The [Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme](#) now allows those already holding a visa under one of the Ukraine schemes to apply to extend their stay.

The [Scottish Government, together with the Welsh Government, proposed](#) a "super sponsor" arrangement under which it would act as sponsor for Ukrainian nationals applying for a Homes for Ukraine visa, so that applicants would not need to be matched with an individual host before a visa could be issued. Once a visa had been granted, the Scottish Government would arrange accommodation and access to services on the person's behalf. The [proposal, which initially committed to sponsoring 3,000 people](#), was agreed in principle with the UK Government, and the [Super Sponsor Scheme launched on 18 March 2022](#).

On 13 July 2022, the [Scottish Government paused the scheme to new applications](#), initially for three months, citing demand and pressures on accommodation capacity. It also announced a review of the scheme, [published in November 2022](#), which set out the criteria the Government said would need to be met before the scheme could reopen. The scheme has remained paused and the Scottish Government has confirmed on several occasions (most recently in [guidance updated in May 2026](#)) that the pause remains in place. In September 2023, the Scottish Government published a longer-term strategy for the resettlement and integration of displaced

Ukrainians in Scotland, [A Warm Scots Future](#), developed jointly with [COSLA](#) and the [Scottish Refugee Council](#).

Although the super sponsor route remains closed to new applicants, those who already hold a valid visa issued under the scheme can still travel to the UK at any point before that visa expires.

The petitioner, Mykhailo Uhyliant Vrozshuku, calls on the Scottish Government to:

1. Immediately open the Super Sponsor Scheme to new applicants under the existing Homes for Ukraine framework.
2. Allocate adequate devolved funding to sustain safe welcome accommodation and long-term housing integration.
3. Establish clear, permanent operational criteria for state-sponsored refugee resettlement.

Scottish Government Super Sponsor Scheme

When the Scottish Government proposed the Super Sponsor Scheme, it initially committed to sponsoring 3,000 Ukrainians. By the time the Scottish Government [paused the scheme](#) to new applications on 13 July 2022, 5,457 [displaced Ukrainians had already arrived in the UK under its sponsorship](#). The Scottish Government indicated that the pause was necessary to ensure accommodation could be provided for those who had applied for a visa and were still to travel to Scotland.

As of 30 June 2026, 21,746 [displaced Ukrainians had arrived in the UK under Scottish Government sponsorship](#). Table 1 sets out the data on visa applications, visas issued and arrivals in the UK for both individual and Scottish Government sponsorship in Scotland.

Table 1. Extract of [data from UK Government Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government](#). Please note that the number of arrivals into the UK for Scotland is not necessarily reflective of the persons having remained in Scotland because data on movements within the UK after arrival is not collected.

Sponsor	Visa applications		Visas issued		Arrivals in UK	
	12 Jul 22	30 Jun 26	12 Jul 22	30 Jun 26	12 Jul 22	30 Jun 26
Individuals	4,442	12,054	3,959	9,535	2,777	8,172
Scottish Government	28,244	38,299	20,605	32,711	5,457	21,746
Total	32,686	50,353	24,564	42,246	8,234	29,918

Providing Welcome Accommodation

On arrival in Scotland under the [Super Sponsor Scheme](#), displaced Ukrainians were brought to Welcome Hubs and then transported to temporary Welcome Accommodation. They remained there until [matched with longer term accommodation](#) (e.g., with a sponsor, an available council or Registered Social Landlord property, or accommodation in the private rented sector).

By the 11 July 2022, when the pause was announced, demand had surpassed the availability of Welcome Accommodation, prompting the Scottish Government to [charter passenger vessels](#) to provide additional Welcome Accommodation capacity. Alongside this, the Scottish Government worked with local authorities to [increase the supply of longer-term accommodation](#).

The Scottish Government published [data on Welcome Accommodation occupancy until 27 January 2025](#). It then stopped, on the basis that the number of people in Welcome Accommodation had fallen significantly from its peak and the response had "shifted from crisis management to a more stable state."

Resuming Scottish Government Super Sponsor Scheme

In addition to pausing the Super Sponsor Scheme to new applications in July 2022, the Scottish Government conducted a [review of the scheme](#) (published in November 2022). The scheme has remained paused since then. The Scottish Government periodically updated the [Session 6 Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee on its status](#); the most recent such update identified was [correspondence dated 14 February 2024](#).

The Scottish Government in its review of the Super Sponsor Scheme indicated that plans to reopen the scheme would be assessed against the following [criteria](#):

- Displaced people already in Scotland are in safe and suitable accommodation;
- Welcome accommodation is available for people who are yet to travel, with a pipeline of longer-term properties available;
- Displaced people can access information and advice about relevant services and support;
- Measures are in place to mitigate pressures on local councils and services;
- Clear understanding of the costs related to re-opening the scheme and confirmation funding is place to cover these;
- Clear understanding of the challenges of re-opening the scheme, and how these will be managed;
- Assessment of the current situation in Ukraine, including unexpected or unforeseen developments in the war leading to mass migration events.

Funding for welcome accommodation and housing integration

UK Government funding

The UK Government provides one year of funding, known as [tariff funding](#), for local authorities to provide support to individuals arriving under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. This includes those arriving under the Super Sponsor Scheme. Tariff funding is set at [£10,500 for individuals arriving on or prior to 31 December 2022 and £5,900 for those arriving on or after 1 January 2023](#).

Hosts separately receive ["thank you" payments](#) from the UK Government in recognition of providing free accommodation. The terms of these payments has changed several times as the scheme has evolved. As of April 2025, a single flat rate of £350 per month is available for all eligible sponsors, regardless of how long their guest has been in the UK. For guests who move onto the 18-month Ukraine Permission Extension visa, hosts can continue claiming the £350 monthly rate for that extension period.

The [UK Government Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government](#) (formerly the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) administers Homes for Ukraine funding after arrival and continues to publish tariff and "thank you" payment data by local authority. The [most recent published data, covering January to March 2026](#), shows £1,827,600 was allocated to Scottish local authorities in that quarter.

A one-off [£150 million fund](#) was made available across the UK in December 2022 to help local authorities move displaced Ukrainians into their own homes and reduce homelessness risk. Scotland's £30 million share was passed to the Scottish Government for [onward distribution to local authorities](#). A further £120 million was made available UK-wide in the [November 2023 Autumn Statement](#) for homelessness prevention, including support for Ukrainian households no longer able to remain in sponsorship arrangements. Scotland's [allocation of that funding](#) was £7.7 million.

Scottish Government funding

In the [financial year 2022-23](#), the Scottish Government contributed £231 million through its Warm Scots Welcome programme. Of this, £196.9 million funded free Welcome Accommodation for Super Sponsor Scheme arrivals. This was partially offset by £5.5 million the Scottish Government claimed from the UK Government in "thank you" payments. Local authorities could also use tariff funding to support or provide Welcome Accommodation.

A further strand of Scottish Government support was the [Ukraine Longer Term Resettlement Fund](#), which is a £50 million initiative that provides capital grants to local authorities and registered social landlords to bring empty, void properties back into use as temporary homes for displaced people from Ukraine. A list of [approved projects was published](#) in March 2026.

Establishing criteria for state-sponsored resettlement of displaced persons

Immigration and visa policy are [reserved matters](#) under the Scotland Act 1998. The approach whereby the devolved governments of Scotland and Wales sponsored Ukrainians arriving in the UK was an example of ad hoc intergovernmental cooperation and agreement.

Previous resettlement schemes operating in the UK – including [Afghanistan Citizen Resettlement Scheme](#) and [Syria Vulnerable Persons Resettlement](#) -- were each designed and administered by the Home Office, with funding and delivery instructions issued to local authorities, including in Scotland, on a scheme-by-scheme basis.

The Scottish Government supports displaced people's access to devolved services and integration through two strategies: the [New Scots refugee integration strategy](#), which applies to refugees generally, and [A Warm Scots Future](#), which addresses displaced Ukrainians.

Key Organisations and relevant links

- [Scottish Refugee Council](#)
- [COSLA](#)

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SPICe Research
4 September 2026

The purpose of this briefing is to provide a brief overview of issues raised by the petition. SPICe research specialists are not able to discuss the content of petition briefings with petitioners or other members of the public. However, if you have any comments on any petition briefing you can email us at spice@parliament.scot

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