Public Petitions Committee
Thursday 19 November 2026
6th Meeting, 2026 (Session 7)

PE2249: Open the Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme for Ukrainians to new applicants

Introduction

Petitioner	Mykhailo Uhyliant Vrozshuku
Petition Summary	Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to immediately open the Super Sponsor Scheme for displaced Ukrainians to new applicants, utilise its devolved housing and integration powers to resume state sponsorship under the UK Government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme and commit necessary funding to sustain safe, government-backed hosting, fulfilling Scotland's moral duty to protect vulnerable people fleeing war. Scotland must defend human dignity to secure a future of absolute safety for the oppressed.
Website	https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2249

1. This is a new petition that was published on 26 August 2026.

2. A full summary of this petition and its aims can be found at **Annexe A**.

3. Every petition collects signatures while it remains under consideration. At the time of writing, 1,019 signatures have been received on this petition.

4. A SPICe briefing has been prepared to inform the Committee's consideration of the petition and can be found at **Annexe B**.

5. The Committee seeks views from the Scottish Government on all new petitions before they are formally considered.

6. The Committee has received submissions from the Scottish Government and the Petitioner which are set out in **Annexe C** of this paper.

Action

7. The Committee is invited to consider what action it wishes to take.

Clerks to the Committee
November 2026

Annexe A: Summary of petition

PE2249: Open the Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme for Ukrainians to new applicants

Petitioner:

Mykhailo Uhyliant Vrozshuku

Date published:

26 August 2026

Petition summary:

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to immediately open the Super Sponsor Scheme for displaced Ukrainians to new applicants, utilise its devolved housing and integration powers to resume state sponsorship under the UK Government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme and commit necessary funding to sustain safe, government-backed hosting, fulfilling Scotland’s moral duty to protect vulnerable people fleeing war. Scotland must defend human dignity to secure a future of absolute safety for the oppressed.

Background information:

Scotland issued 32,601 visas under the Ukrainian Super Sponsor Scheme, claiming moral leadership. However, the "three-month pause" of July 2022 has lasted over four years. Sponsoring utilises fully devolved powers over housing, integration, and local funding; the UK merely provides the visa framework. Leaving the scheme paused while vulnerable individuals are forced to seek private hosts on unregulated social media platforms creates severe safeguarding risks. The Scottish Parliament must compel the Government to resume its institutional sponsorship role rather than using constitutional excuses.

The petition 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.

We must secure the safety of displaced families and a future for their children.

Annexe B: SPICe Briefing

Scottish Parliament Information Centre
Ionad Fiosrachaidh Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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

Courtney Aitken
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

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in petition briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

Published by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe), an office of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

Annexe C: Written Submissions

PE2249/A: Open the Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme for Ukrainians to new applicants

Scottish Government written submission, 5 October 2026

Does the Scottish Government consider the specific ask[s] of the petition to be practical or achievable? If not, please explain why.

Since the war against Ukraine began almost 30,000 people sponsored by an individual in Scotland or the Scottish Government have arrived in the UK. This is over twice as many per capita than any other part of the UK. Over 21,000 of these arrivals are through the Scottish Government's successful Super Sponsor Scheme – far more than Scotland's initial commitment of 3,000.

The difficult decision to pause the Scottish super sponsor scheme to new applications was taken in July 2022, to prioritise the safety and support of existing Ukrainian guests and the thousands of Super Sponsor visa holders yet to arrive. This decision has been reviewed at regular intervals against a set criterion, including existing pressure on local authorities and services, the availability of suitable accommodation, and the costs of operating the scheme. The most recent review in December 2025 concluded the majority of these criteria had not been met.

Although the Scottish Super Sponsor scheme remains paused, there is still a route to sanctuary in the UK through the Homes for Ukraine visa scheme.

What, if any, action is the Scottish Government currently taking to address the issues raised by this petition, and is any further action being considered that will achieve the ask[s] of this petition?

In 2025, Ministers asked Professor Linda Bauld, the Chief Social Policy Advisor, to lead a further review to comprehensively review the Scottish Super Sponsor scheme, make recommendations about its future, and recommend principles and processes to guide any future Scottish response to similar international crises in future. That work is currently underway, and the report will be published towards the end of this year. Policy decisions about the future of the Super Sponsor scheme will be made based on the findings and recommendations of Professor Bauld's review.

Is there any further information the Scottish Government wish to bring to the Committee's attention, which would assist it in considering this petition?

The Scottish Government set out the reasoning for pausing the super-sponsor scheme in a paper published in July 2022, available here: Scotland's Support for Displaced People from Ukraine

In November 2022, the Scottish Government published the findings of its first review into the pause and set out clear criteria that would need to be met for its reopening: Scotland's support for displaced people from Ukraine: Super Sponsor Scheme review - gov.scot

Refugees, Resettlement and Asylum Division

PE2249/B: Open the Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme for Ukrainians to new applicants

Petitioner written submission, 14 October 2026

The Government's response answers none of the petition's three demands. It cites past arrivals, claims criteria fail, points to a different route and defers to another review. It supplies no reopening date, funding plan or binding criteria. This is bureaucratic evasion: a review is not a decision; a promise is not a plan. Government response PE2249/A

1. Past success is not a reason for permanent suspension

The Government says more than 21,000 people arrived through its Super Sponsor Scheme, far above its initial commitment of 3,000. Home Office figures record 21,746 arrivals under Scottish Government sponsorship by 30 June 2026. That demonstrates the route operated at scale; it does not justify keeping it closed indefinitely. Home Office visa data.

The per-capita claim proves nothing about feasibility. If pressures make reopening unsafe, publish the evidence, exact shortfalls and costed remedies. The response provides none.

2. A temporary pause has become policy by inertia

Paused in July 2022 for three months, the scheme remains closed more than four years later: this is no longer temporary; it is policy. The Government says its December 2025 review found "the majority" of criteria unmet but provides no evidence against each criterion, thresholds or remedial actions. The 2022 review listed accommodation, services, council pressures and costs. Publish current assessments against every criterion. Scottish Government's 2022 review.

The response says a further comprehensive review is underway and expected towards the end of 2026. That is not a commitment to reopen. It does not explain why displaced people must wait through another review after years of delay. The Committee should require publication of the review, its evidence and a dated implementation plan—not accept another promise to consider the matter later.

3. A private route is not an equivalent answer

The Government says Homes for Ukraine remains available. But a private route is not the same as a Scottish Government-sponsored route. Under Homes for Ukraine, applicants need an approved sponsor able to provide accommodation. Recognised organisations can help find sponsors, but cannot guarantee a match in the applicant's preferred location. A route available to some people does not answer the petition's request for a state-backed option for people unable to secure a private sponsor. UK visa guidance; recognised provider guidance.

Private sponsorship does include Home Office and council safeguarding and accommodation checks; this petition does not ask that those checks be ignored. But vetting a proposed host does not remove the burden on displaced people to find one, nor make private hosting equivalent to the state taking responsibility for sponsorship

and onward support. The Government offers no evidence that the private route adequately serves people without a sponsor. Safeguarding and accommodation checks.

4. Reserved immigration powers do not erase Scotland's role

Visa decisions sit within the UK framework. This petition does not ask Scotland to issue visas unilaterally. The Scottish and Welsh Governments previously acted as sponsors within Homes for Ukraine, as the UK's own guidance confirms. Reopening requires cooperation with the UK Government; that is a task to pursue, not a reason to abandon the policy. UK visa guidance.

The Scottish Government's 2024 New Scots strategy, jointly led with COSLA and the Scottish Refugee Council, commits to supporting people arriving through resettlement and relocation within the full extent of Scotland's devolved powers. Yet its petition response does not say whether Ministers have formally asked the UK Government to reinstate the route, what reply they received, or what they are doing on devolved housing, integration and council support. The Committee should require those answers. New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy 2024.

5. The funding question remains unanswered

The petition asks for adequate devolved funding. The Government gives no reopening cost estimate, funding commitment, long-term housing plan or explanation of how councils would be resourced. The SPICe briefing records £231 million of Scottish Government support through Warm Scots Welcome in 2022–23, including £219.6 million for Welcome Accommodation, and a £50 million Ukraine Longer Term Resettlement Fund. These are historical figures, not proof of money currently available. They make an updated account of spending, remaining funds and future costs essential. SPICe briefing on PE2249 — figures only.

"Cost" is not a complete answer without a costed proposal. If capacity and funding are barriers, the Government must publish the figures and provide the resources to address them. Safe accommodation and support must be expanded to meet demand—not used to justify refusing new applications indefinitely.

Actions required from the Public Petitions Committee

The Committee is urged to take these three steps:

1. **Keep PE2249 open until its demands are met**. Do not close or dispose of the petition until the Scottish Government has reopened the Super Sponsor Scheme, committed adequate funding for safe accommodation and integration, and published clear, permanent operating criteria.

2. **Require the Scottish Government to reopen the scheme no later than 6 April 2027, with no numerical cap on the number of people who may arrive under Scottish Government sponsorship**. The Government should agree the necessary arrangements with the UK Government and scale accommodation, integration support and funding to meet demand, while retaining appropriate visa eligibility and safeguarding checks.

3. **Summon Simita Kumar MSP, Minister for Equalities and International Development, and Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and Housing, to give evidence in person**. Kumar's portfolio covers refugees and displaced people; Somerville holds the senior social justice and housing brief. Require them to explain how a three-month pause became more than four years of inaction, who authorised and maintained the closure, and who accepts ministerial responsibility. Another written update is unacceptable. Ministerial responsibilities; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and Housing.