



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Felicity Buchan MP

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www.gov.uk/department-for-levelling-up-housing-and-communities

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1 March 2024

Dear Hosts,

SUBJECT: Homes for Ukraine – Thank You

As you may be aware, 24 February 2024 marked two years since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

We strongly believe that Ukraine will be safe again and that the people of Ukraine will be able to return home in the future, to rebuild their country. But whilst the war continues, we must continue to stand firm with the people of Ukraine in the face of Putin's aggression and show that those who need our help and a safe place to live are still warmly welcomed here in the UK.

From the beginning, the Homes for Ukraine scheme has been a key element of this support in getting Ukrainian citizens to safety as quickly as possible.

I am writing today personally to thank you for the crucial role that you, as a host, have played in making this scheme successful, as well those of you who have kindly offered to host and are awaiting matches. It is your generosity and support in welcoming guests, making them feel safe, and helping them to feel at home in your local communities, that has been vital to this success.

'Thank you' Payments

I also wanted to assure you of the UK Government's continued commitment to supporting Ukraine for as long as necessary and that we value your ongoing support for our Ukrainian guests. This is why we announced in November 2023 that we extended thank you payments for hosts into the third year of a guest's stay in the UK. Payments were confirmed at £350 for year one, and £500 for years 2 and 3, provided the guest has been in the UK for over 12 months.

[Guidance on thank you payments can be found here.](#)

Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme

We also acknowledge the need to provide certainty for you and our Ukrainian guests before the first visas expire in Spring 2025. I'm pleased to be able to say that the UK government announced on 19 February 2024 that existing Ukraine scheme visa holders will be able to apply for permission to remain in the UK for a further 18 months from the end date of their visa.

Applications will open from early 2025, and all guests who hold or have held permission to remain in the UK under the three original Ukraine Schemes, including Homes for Ukraine, will be eligible to apply. I am also pleased to confirm that the new permission scheme will provide the same rights and entitlements to access work, benefits, healthcare, and education that Ukrainian guests have benefitted from under the existing schemes. We will provide more detail on the Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme in due course and before the scheme opens.

STEP Ukraine

We are very grateful for all the additional support that hosts provide to their guests, helping them to adapt to life in the UK in lots of ways, and know that you will have already done so much. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight STEP Ukraine – an innovative and intensive 12-week programme - which provides Ukrainian guests with free online English language training and employment advice. We would value your support in encouraging guests to apply for this programme, if this would be helpful.

[Further information on STEP Ukraine can be found here.](#)

May I thank you again for your continued support to the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.
Slava Ukraini

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Felicity Buchan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Felicity Buchan MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Minister for Housing and Homelessness