

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

8 April 2022

Dear Huw,

You will be aware of people currently coming to the UK from Ukraine following the Russian invasion on 24 February. The UK Government has recently amended its Immigration Rules which will formalise access to public funds for people affected by the military conflict, which will include housing or homelessness assistance. Prior to this point, a discretionary power of the Home Office to grant leave outside the Immigration Rules has allowed Ukrainian nationals to access public funds. However, currently the Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (Wales) Regulations 2014 do not give British nationals or those not subject to immigration control, any exemption from the habitual residence test should they also wish to access public funds. This process can take one to three months to complete.

The Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 have been drafted for the purpose of giving people who have been affected by the war in Ukraine eligibility to housing and homelessness services in Wales and waive the habitual residence test, including for British nationals or those not subject to immigration control. Due to the urgency of this situation, I would be grateful if the Committee will give early consideration and reporting on the 2022 Regulations in time for a plenary debate on 26 April 2022.

I would like to thank the Committee in advance for their assistance in providing support to arrangements which will allow people fleeing the war in Ukraine an opportunity to seek sanctuary in Wales and make it their home.

Yours sincerely

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.