

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a'r Prif Chwip
Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair, Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations
Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

13 December 2023

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter as Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee requesting an update on support for Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees plus further information regarding the cultural support to Ukrainian children.

The Welsh Government has continued to offer its support to Ukrainians following the full-scale invasion of Ukraine last year. As a Nation of Sanctuary, we aim to ensure all Ukrainians seeking sanctuary in Wales are welcomed from day one of their arrival and receive the necessary support to help them to settle within local communities. To date, sponsors in Wales have welcomed over 7,000 Ukrainians under the Homes for Ukraine scheme to the UK, including more than 3,200 under our super sponsor route.

For Ukrainians arriving in Wales, the priority remains supporting them to find longer term accommodation which can provide independence and opportunity to help re-build their lives within our communities. This includes using hosting offers, the private rented sector and other forms of good quality transitional accommodation which the Welsh Government is helping to support through our Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP). The programme was established to deliver more good quality accommodation at pace to help everyone with their housing needs.

The Welsh Government recognises the critical role local authorities play in supporting Ukrainians to settle and integrate into the community. The funding decision by the UK Government to reduce the year 1 Integration tariff was significant and the absence of year 2 integration and education tariffs, has placed additional pressures on local authorities to provide this support. The confirmed lack of a year 3 integration tariff will exacerbate these pressures during 2024/25.

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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.

To help address this, we have utilised the £8.22 million share of the UK Government's £150 million Homelessness Prevention Fund which Wales receives to provide funding for move on and integration support in areas such as education, language lessons and employability programmes.

We continue to work with our key partners in the public and voluntary sectors to support our Ukrainian guests to find employment. This includes ESOL provision through existing Welsh Government-funded programmes, as well as the time-limited STEP Ukraine intensive online opportunity. There is also support with the recognition of qualifications so they can utilise their skills to gain employment in their chosen vocation.

For Ukrainian students wishing to study a higher education course in Wales, we have amended the existing student support regulations so they can be eligible for student support, home fee status, and the undergraduate tuition fee cap when starting or continuing a course on or after 1 August 2022.

Ukrainians have access to the Welcome Ticket transport scheme which provides free travel on Transport for Wales services and local bus services in Wales until 31 March 2024. We also extended our existing Wales Sanctuary Service for 2022/23 and 2023/24 to ensure access to expert advice, support and advocacy provision.

We continue to provide updated information and guidance to Ukrainians residing in Wales via the Wales Sanctuary Service, a dedicated information pathway within the Sanctuary website and via monthly newsletters.

During my recent visits to Ukrainians in Caerphilly and the Safe Haven community group in Maesteg, I have been inspired by the willingness and effort of Ukrainians to integrate within local communities. While welcoming this, the Welsh Government also recognises the importance of Ukrainians to remain connected to their language and culture during their time in Wales. My officials have met regularly with social media group administrators to identify emerging issues and ensure they are able to access and disseminate the right information to our Ukrainian community.

Last November we marked the start of the 90th anniversary of the Holodomor and last month we held a commemoration at the Senedd led by the First Minister. An incredibly important date of remembrance for Ukrainians, it was attended by leaders from Ukrainian religious communities, the Deputy Ambassador of Ukraine, the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain, and many Ukrainian guests who have found sanctuary in Wales.

This is one of a number of important cultural dates or events for Ukrainians that we continue to raise awareness of through our social media channels and regular communications with guests and hosts across Wales.

For Ukrainian children arriving in Wales, we are engaging with both Plast (Ukrainian scouting organisation) and Scouts Cymru to see how they can join a recognised youth organisation and get support from them, without losing their own identity and culture.

We continue to work with local authorities to ensure Ukrainian children have access to schools and to offer the same high-quality education and support available to existing pupils. This includes resources related to the conflict which have been published on [Hwb](#) with the aim to support students understanding and manage their feelings about it.

We also acknowledge that Ukrainian families and pupils may also want to access Ukrainian learning materials. The Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) has published the [Ukrainian curriculum including educational materials](#). Schools may share this with

Ukrainian pupils and families to complement pupils' education either at home or in supplementary schools for example. However, they should not be used to substitute for schools' usual curriculum.

The MoES has also published [guidance](#) for learners to continue with Ukrainian Curriculum assessments outside of Ukraine. This includes learning and assessment options for school students from Ukraine, references to e-learning available via the All-Ukrainian Online School and the application process for parents to enrol their children in distance learning via the International Ukrainian School.

For students who are due to complete primary, basic secondary, or complete general secondary education, the guidance also offers advice on how graduates can obtain the relevant school graduation certificates from their Ukrainian educational institutions.

I hope this information provides the Committee with the necessary update on the support we are delivering to Ukrainians in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line above the first letter 'J'.

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