

CONSTITUTION, EUROPE, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

4th Meeting, 2023, Session 6

2 February 2023

Ukraine

1. Between March and June 2022, the Committee scrutinised the humanitarian response in Scotland to the war in Ukraine, with a focus on the resettlement of displaced people from Ukraine across Scotland. It also held a roundtable on [links with and support for Ukrainian culture](#) in November 2022.
2. The Committee agreed to hold a further series of evidence sessions to follow-up on its earlier work on Scotland's humanitarian response. This will give the Committee the opportunity to receive an update on and scrutinise the current progress of the ongoing process of resettlement.
3. At its last meeting, the Committee heard from the Head of the Consulate of Ukraine in Edinburgh on some of the issues being experienced by displaced Ukrainians in Scotland.
4. At this meeting, the Committee will take evidence from—
 - Lorraine Cook, Policy Manager, COSLA
 - Gavin Sharp, Lead Officer, Ukraine Refugee Response, City of Edinburgh Council
 - Pat Togher, Assistant Chief Officer, Public Protection and Complex Needs, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership
 - Hazel Chisholm, Housing Policy Officer, Resettlement Team, Highland Council.
5. The following papers are attached—
 - **Annexe A:** Briefing from SPICe
 - **Annexe B:** Written update from COSLA
 - **Annexe C:** Written update from Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership
6. Next week the Committee will take evidence from the Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine, Neil Gray MSP.

CEEAC Committee Clerks
January 2023

SPICe

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Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture

4th Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), 2 February Supporting displaced people from Ukraine in Scotland

Visa schemes for displaced Ukrainians

The Committee will be aware that Russia's invasion of Ukraine resulted in large numbers of Ukrainians being displaced, both within Ukraine and across Europe. The [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates](#) that 5.59 million Ukrainians had been displaced within Ukraine and 7.83 million across Europe by December 2022.

In response to the unfolding humanitarian crisis, the UK Government established three visa schemes for displaced Ukrainians:

- a [Family Scheme](#) for those with family members in the UK;
- an [Extension Scheme](#) for those who held a valid UK visa on or after 1 January 2022; and
- a [Sponsorship Scheme](#) through which displaced Ukrainians are sponsored by hosts that offer them accommodation for at least six months. The Scottish Government [acted as a supersponsor](#) for the scheme but applications have been [paused since 13 July 2022](#).

The UK Government [provides data on the number of displaced Ukrainians with UK visas under the Family and Extension schemes](#), but no Scotland-specific information is available. 65,100 Family Scheme visas had been issued and 15,600 visas extended through the Extension Scheme by 24 January 2023.

The UK Government does [provide data on the number of arrivals of displaced Ukrainians through the Sponsorship Scheme](#) with a Scottish sponsor. By 24 January 2023, 37,579 displaced Ukrainians had been granted visas with Scottish sponsors of which 22,990 had travelled to the UK. This means that 14,589 displaced Ukrainians hold a visa through the Sponsorship Scheme but have not yet travelled. Of those that have arrived in the UK with Scottish sponsors, 18,710 were sponsored by the Scottish Government and 4,280 by individual hosts directly. However, displaced

Ukrainians with a Scottish sponsor are not required to stay in Scotland once they have arrived in the UK, so these figures may not reflect the actual numbers of displaced Ukrainians currently in Scotland.

Scottish Government review of the Supersponsor Scheme

The Scottish Government [paused its Supersponsor Scheme](#) in July 2022, primarily citing accommodation capacity issues, and said that it would revisit its position after three months. Since then, Neil Gray, Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine, has given updates to the Scottish Parliament on the Scottish Government's efforts to create additional capacity and speed up the matching process by which displaced Ukrainians in temporary accommodation are allocated longer-term accommodation.¹ [On 1 November 2022](#) he reported on the conclusions of the [Scottish Government's review](#) of the Supersponsor Scheme in a Ministerial Statement to Parliament. The review states:

“Even when taking into consideration a pause to applications from July, Scotland still reports the highest number of total applications, visas issued and arrivals per head of the population of any of the four nations [...]. A considerable achievement far beyond our initial commitment.”

However, the review confirms the need to reduce the length of time displaced Ukrainians are staying in temporary accommodation and to increase the availability of longer-term accommodation. In addition to confirming a range of sources of funding, it sets out:

- [16 interventions aimed at improving the operation of the scheme](#), including efforts to improve the matching process, increase access to the private rented sector, and strengthen employability support; and
- A list of [seven criteria for reopening the scheme](#), which centre on accommodation capacity, mitigating pressures on local authority services, and plans for meeting the costs and challenges associated with reopening.

The Scottish Government's budget for 2023-24 [includes £72.3m for Ukrainian Resettlement](#). The Government states that this is to ensure “that those displaced by the illegal war in Ukraine will continue to receive a warm Scots welcome, and are supported to rebuild their lives in our communities for as long as they need to call Scotland their home.”

The rest of this briefing provides an overview of key challenges in the delivery of support for displaced Ukrainians within the remit of local authorities in Scotland. It is primarily based on [data made available by the Scottish Government](#). In addition, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) conducted two UK-wide surveys in October and November 2022, [one of 3,148 displaced Ukrainians](#) and [one of 8,770 individual sponsors](#). The Ukrainian Consul in Edinburgh gave evidence to the Committee on 26 January 2023. He covered a range of issues facing displaced Ukrainians in Scotland, some of which are covered in this briefing. In addition to the key points

¹ Such updates were given on [8 September 2022](#), and [1 November 2022](#).

discussed below, he noted that language barriers and a lack of practical information and support were impacting on access to public services such as healthcare and that transport issues for displaced Ukrainians in rural locations were affecting their ability to keep in touch with Ukrainian communities in cities.

Key Issues

Accommodation

The Scottish Government provides accommodation for displaced Ukrainians it sponsors where required. This can be temporary 'Welcome' accommodation or longer-term accommodation which is available for at least 6 months. The ensuing pressure on the availability of both temporary and longer-term accommodation [was identified as the main reason](#) for the pausing of the scheme in the Scottish Government's review. To create temporary accommodation capacity, the Scottish Government [chartered two passenger ships](#) to provide Welcome accommodation.

As of 18 January 2023, [the Scottish Government estimated](#) that around 6,323 people were in Welcome accommodation – 4,062 in hotel rooms and 2,261 on the passenger ships. The Scottish Government also provides data on the number of displaced Ukrainians who have been [matched into longer-term accommodation](#). However, it caveats that the number of matches recorded does not provide a complete picture of the number of displaced Ukrainians in longer-term accommodation. Around 3,995 displaced Ukrainians were recorded as having been matched with and arrived in longer-term accommodation by 17 January 2023. The data also shows that around 2,190 individuals were still to be matched by the national matching service. The Scottish Government used to provide data on the number of property and disclosure checks needing to be carried out on potential hosts but has stopped including this information since its [December 2022 data release](#).

Concerns have been expressed to the Committee and during Parliamentary Debates about the number of displaced Ukrainians in temporary accommodation - in particular on the passenger ships - and the length of time it is taking to match them into longer-term accommodation.² In response, the [Scottish Government set out plans](#) to speed up the matching process and create additional longer-term accommodation capacity in September 2022. This included [announcing a £50 million 'Ukraine Longer Term Resettlement Fund'](#) for local authorities to refurbish properties not currently in use in addition to [previous resettlement funding for local authorities](#).

In the [ONS survey of individual Homes for Ukraine sponsors](#), 63% of hosts indicated that they were planning to provide accommodation for 12 months or less. Given that the numbers of Ukrainians arriving in the UK through the Sponsorship Scheme [peaked in May 2022](#) and displaced Ukrainians are continuing to be matched

² As expressed in this Committee's letter to Neil Gray based on [evidence it heard](#) from stakeholders. Questions about accommodation for displaced Ukrainians were also asked at [Portfolio Question Time on 26 May 2022](#), a [Ministerial Statement on 8 September 2022](#), a meeting of the [Social Justice and Social Security Committee on 29 September 2022](#), a [Ministerial Statement on 1 November 2022](#), and [Portfolio Question Time on 16 November 2022](#).

with hosts, significant numbers of displaced Ukrainians could be needing alternative accommodation over the next year. Answering questions following the Ministerial Statement on 1 November 2022, [the Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine said](#) that local authorities will be working to offer rematches or help displaced Ukrainians access other accommodation options. [The UK Government confirmed](#) in January 2023 it will continue to pay hosts £350 a month for displaced Ukrainians who have been in the UK for less than a year and an increased payment of £500 a month for hosting those who have been in the country between 12 months and 24 months. In last week's session, the Ukrainian Consul suggested that some displaced Ukrainians were confused about the status of accommodation they have been placed into, specifically whether it was temporary or longer term.

The ONS [survey of displaced Ukrainians](#) included questions about accommodation. When asked whether they experienced barriers to renting privately, 45% of respondents said they had, most commonly citing:

- not having a guarantor or references (59%);
- not being able to afford to rent (51%); and
- not being able to afford a deposit (41%).

During last week's Committee meeting, the Ukrainian Consul noted that even when displaced Ukrainians are employed a lack of bank history or guarantor can prevent them from renting privately in Scotland.

The Scottish Government's review of the Supersponsor Scheme includes [proposals for improving access to the private rented sector](#), including specialised housing advice, piloting a deposit guarantee scheme, and considering a national 'headleasing' scheme to incentivise private landlords offering accommodation. No timescale for these measures has been set out so far.

Education

The Scottish Government [publishes data on the number of displaced Ukrainian children and young people enrolled in Scottish schools](#). As of 25 November, 3,060 displaced children from Ukraine were recorded as enrolled in schools across Scotland, with the largest numbers in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The [ONS survey of displaced Ukrainians](#) asked about enrolment of children in UK schools. 20% of respondents with dependent children said that they had experienced difficulties registering their children at school. Respondents with dependent children were also asked about English language support at school. 21% of respondents with school-age children and 32% of respondents with pre-school age children said their children needed language support but it was not available. Last week the Ukrainian Consul highlighted the need for better language and pastoral support for displaced Ukrainian children in Scotland and suggested that some schools lack resources to meet these.

Local authorities have a duty to meet the additional support needs of pupils at their schools to enable them to get the most out of education. UNESCO's [Mapping host](#)

[countries' education responses to the influx of Ukrainian students](#) sets out some of the challenges of systems to integrate Ukrainian learners. It said:

“Teachers will need support in facing language barriers, how to slowly incorporate the international students into a welcoming classroom, how to discuss the war, and how to provide cultural and psychological support to incoming students.”

UNESCO also noted further challenges around:

- ensuring that credits achieved in Ukraine are recognised in Scotland; and
- how and to what extent the children and young people are supported to continue their studies under the Ukrainian curriculum, at least in their native language.

Answering questions following the Ministerial Statement on 1 November 2022 about funding for schools to cover the need for educational support for the children of displaced Ukrainians, [the Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine noted that](#) while funding is available from the UK Government for pupils who came to the UK through the Sponsorship Scheme, no additional funding is available for those who have come to the UK in other ways, including through the Family Scheme. He further stated that [‘welcome provision’ funding](#) to local authorities that has been provided by the Scottish Government can be used for educational support.

In answer to a [question on financial support to local authorities for Ukrainian displaced people](#), the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills said in August 2022:

“Local authorities can claim a general tariff of £10,500 per Ukrainian Displaced Person (UDP) arriving on the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Local authorities will also receive additional education funding for Ukrainian Children and Young People under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. The education tariff depends on the age of the child, to align with providing ELC, primary or secondary education. The agreed annual rates for this funding are as follows:

- early years (ages 2 to 4) - £3,000
- primary (ages 5 -11) - £6,580
- secondary (ages 11-18) - £8,755”

This funding is from the UK Government and more details can be found [on its website](#).

Employability

The [ONS survey of displaced Ukrainians](#) found that there was a significant increase in the proportion of respondents who were employed, 56% up from 19% in June 2022. However, 50% of respondents said that they had experienced difficulties in taking up work in the UK. The most common reasons given were that respondents’

English skills did not meet job requirements (56%), and that their qualifications were not recognised or valid in the UK (33%).³ At last week's Committee meeting, the Consul confirmed that these issues were amongst the barriers to employment for displaced Ukrainians in Scotland, including for those with legal or medical qualifications.

The Supersponsor Scheme review conducted by the Scottish Government [identifies a greater emphasis on employability](#) as one of the interventions that would improve the operation of the scheme in the short term. Its plans include "*Improved coordination with councils, third and private sectors, Skills Development Scotland and DWP to ensure arrivals can seek out and secure employment, including through job fairs.*" No timescale for these measures has been given so far.

Today's evidence session

Today's evidence session provides an opportunity for members to discuss with COSLA, Edinburgh City Council, Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership, and Highland Council how they are supporting displaced Ukrainians settling in Scotland.

Members may want to explore COSLA's view of the functioning of the national matching service it co-runs with the Scottish Government. This could include consideration of efforts to decrease the amount of time displaced Ukrainians are spending in temporary accommodation. The Committee may also wish to ask whether COSLA is seeing initial matches with hosts through the Supersponsor Scheme come to an end and if so, explore its views on longer-term housing options.

Members may also want to ask local authorities their views about the challenges they are facing in supporting displaced Ukrainians, such as in providing educational support to displaced Ukrainian children and young people. The Committee may also wish to ask what local authorities are doing to help displaced Ukrainians access private sector rented housing and to strengthen employability support.

Finally, the Committee may want to explore with local authorities what measures they could undertake to improve access to information for Ukrainians about how to access public services, which was identified as an issue by the Ukrainian Consul last week.

Annie Bosse, Researcher, SPICe Research

27 January 2023

Note: Committee briefing papers are provided by SPICe for the use of Scottish Parliament committees and clerking staff. They provide focused information or respond to specific questions or areas of interest to committees and are not intended to offer comprehensive coverage of a subject area.

The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP www.parliament.scot

³ Questions about barriers to employment were asked at the [Ministerial statement on 1 November 2022](#).



COSLA Update for the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee

27th January 2023

Introduction

This update follows on from our submissions to the Committee sessions held on [21 April 2022](#) and [16 June 2022](#). This briefing provides an update on the latest developments in relation to the ongoing partnership work between Local Government and Scottish Government to support Ukrainian Displaced Persons who arrive in Scotland under the Scottish Super Sponsor (SSS) scheme. In particular, it provides an update on the rapidly changing situation in the areas of accommodation and matching. It provides a summary of how COSLA and Local Government are supporting Scottish Government's [policy interventions](#) set out in the [policy review of the SSS scheme](#). It also highlights some of the key concerns facing Local Government.

As of January 2023, c. 22,750 displaced people from Ukraine have arrived in Scotland in total (of which c. 18,500 are sponsored by Scottish Government under the SSS and c. 4,250 are sponsored by individuals). In total, there are c. 44,750 visa applications linked to Scotland, c. 37,450 of which have been issued. A large number of people could therefore still travel to Scotland, notwithstanding the current pause in the SSS scheme, which was announced in July 2022. It is also worth noting that we are aware that some arriving under the SSS are applying under the Homes for Ukraine (HFU) Scheme to be hosts once they have been in the country post 6 months. This indicates that whilst the SSS scheme remains paused in Scotland HFU visas may increase as arrivals under SSS seek to support others fleeing Ukraine.

Partnership Agreement

As outlined in previous submissions, COSLA Leaders agreed a Partnership Agreement that sets out the role of, and partnership between, Local Government and Scottish Government in supporting Ukrainian arrivals who arrive in Scotland under the SSS scheme.

The Partnership Agreement sets out the responsibilities of Local Government and Scottish Government and details the approach that will be taken in terms of Welcome Hubs and Welcome Accommodation, matching, governance, and funding.

Local Government and COSLA's role in the response to the Ukraine Crisis

Local Authorities lead on many key areas of work, for example:

- Supporting Temporary/Welcome Accommodation in hotels and ships;
- Local matching of Ukrainian arrivals from welcome accommodation to appropriate short- or long-term accommodation;
- Carrying out integration and resettlement work to support people to rebuild their lives when they arrive in their new community;
- Safeguarding checks and property checks for Offers of Accommodation (host accommodation);
- Supporting Ukraine Longer Term Resettlement Fund (£50 million) programmes in their areas; and
- Responding to host/public/elected member/media queries.

Supporting Temporary/Welcome Accommodation in hotels and ships

Since our last update in June, the requirement for welcome accommodation has continued to increase. As of November 2022, there were c. 7,200 people in welcome accommodation; c. 4,750 people occupying hotel rooms and c. 2,450 people on-board passenger liners. Currently around 21 local authorities are supporting welcome accommodation in hotels in their area. As well as hotel provision, Glasgow and Edinburgh are supporting welcome accommodation on the MS Ambition and MS Victoria.

Matching

Matching is undertaken by the National Matching Scheme (Scottish Government/COSLA) and locally by Local Authorities. The purpose of matching is to move Ukrainian arrivals from Welcome Accommodation to short term accommodation (primarily host home accommodation but also supported, temporary or short-term occupancy) or long-term accommodation, so that the process of resettlement and integration can begin. It is acknowledged that local matching has been more successful than national/centralised matching.

As outlined in our June update to the Committee, we recognise the importance of good quality matching which will encourage resettlement and discourage host/Ukrainian arrivals breakdown, but we also acknowledge the challenges that this approach can bring. Matching is nuanced and there are many issues and challenges that can lengthen the time to get people

out of hotels/ships and into appropriate accommodation. In summary, the main challenges faced in the matching process are:

- Availability of suitable accommodation; and
- High rates of refusal of appropriate accommodation offers.

Rapid policy review interventions and new governance structures

The Senior Oversight Group (SOG) for the SSS scheme requested a rapid review in order that policy proposals were developed to improve the scheme. This was in recognition of the policy and practical challenges that we were facing with supporting the significant number of Ukrainian arrivals who required accommodation and support under the scheme.

By its nature, the review was carried out at pace, with analysis of the end-to-end process of the SSS scheme and the development of policy recommendations during a four-week period in July / August 2022.

The SSS rapid review document was published in November 2022 and outlines [16 interventions](#) that have been identified with the aim to improve the scheme and the support offered to displace people from Ukraine.

New governance structures were approved to deliver the 16 interventions set out in the policy review document. COSLA has ensured that appropriate local authority representation is embedded in the new governance structures. COSLA and Local Government are represented on both Boards and all 5 working groups. We will do our utmost to ensure that local authority expertise and knowledge is front and centre of discussions about potential solutions and the delivery of the scheme.

The new structures entail the Programme Board which has strategic oversight of the scheme, the Delivery Board, and five working groups which identify and deliver the approved solution for assigned interventions. The working groups cover:

- Welcome and Accommodation
- Matching
- Communication
- Long-term accommodation
- Safeguarding

There is also a Stakeholder Reference Group currently being established, a Financial Scrutiny Group, and a Welcome Hub Taskforce which continues from the previous structures.

Current key concerns for COSLA and Local Government

Some of the key areas of concern for COSLA and Local Government are:

- The need for assurance that welcome accommodation will continue for as long as Ukrainian arrivals are in the scheme and not in long-term accommodation, to ensure that we do not see a translation into homelessness demand.
- The need for continued funding particularly from both UKG and SG. UKG has set out reduced tariff funding and no Year 2 tariff funding. There is also no indication of education tariff funding beyond March 2023. We are also seeking commitment from SG for ongoing / flexible funding for Local Authorities and COSLA.
- It is important to place the Ukraine response within the context of wider pressures and particular resettlement / accommodation challenges currently being faced by Local Authorities, and to have coherence across those often competing demands. This includes significant pressures being faced by councils in managing homelessness demand and extant housing shortages, as well as councils' role supporting other humanitarian programmes, namely refugee resettlement through the UK Resettlement Scheme and schemes for people fleeing Afghanistan, the widening of asylum dispersal, and the provision of accommodation and support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC).

Conclusion

COSLA has provided an update on COSLA and Scottish Local Government's roles in response to the Ukraine crisis and raised some of the key challenges that we are facing in terms matching, accommodation and funding.

Purpose

This briefing note provides an overview of Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership's engagement with the Scottish Government's humanitarian assistance to Ukrainian Displaced Persons through the Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme. It also raises key areas of concern for Glasgow HSCP and the Council regarding the ongoing support arrangements for UDPs.

Background

As Scotland's only immigration dispersal area, currently supporting approximately 5000 asylum seekers, the city has a history of offering humanitarian assistance to people fleeing violence and persecution. In particular, Glasgow HSCP and the City Council have developed a robust approach to ensuring that refugees in the city access accommodation and support to build new lives here.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the commencement of the Scottish Government's responses, Glasgow HSCP and the Council have been working closely with the Scottish Government to ensure a humanitarian response to the war in Ukraine. In particular, assisting the Scottish Government's offer of accommodation and necessary support for UDPs who are seeking to come to Scotland to escape the conflict.

Since February/March 2022 Glasgow HSCP and the City Council has worked with the Scottish Government to support the operation of the Welcome Centres that have been established within a number of associated hotels. In addition, since the arrival of MS Ambition, in September 2022, we have ensured support to UDPs who have been accommodated on board the vessel.

Table 1 provides an overview of accommodation provision to UDPs (as of 25th Jan 2023)

UDP Households Accommodated in Glasgow		
Accommodation Type	Households	Individuals
MS Ambition	486	1137
Welcome Hubs	343	632
Private Host (Super Sponsor)	58	72
Private Host (Homes for Ukraine)	91	178
RSL (Matched)	78	169
Total	1056	2188

Whilst the City has significant experience of developing humanitarian responses over a number of years, the scale and speed of the response was unique and has required a significant resource commitment on the part of Glasgow HSCP, the City Council and other key Public and Third Sector partners within the city. This work has included ensuring that UDPs have:

- Initial Welcome and Integration support: Glasgow HSCP staff liaised with the Scottish Government to ensure that UDPs placed in the city accessed advice and practical assistance on arrival. HSCP staff are collocated at the main Welcome Centre in the City to facilitate advice and support to UDPs placed within the city. Referral Routes were also established

within the main transport hubs in the City to ensure that UDPs were assisted to get to the Welcome Hubs when they were not being placed in the city by the Scottish Government.

- Access to the full range of NHS services; with NHS outreach services being providing in the Welcome Hubs and MS Ambition to provide immediate access to NHS services and provide support to regularise engagement with the NHS, through GP registration and Health Visitor engagement. Vaccination and health screening programmes have also been a key feature of the HSCP's response.
- All children and young people were offered access to an educational placement; children and young people were supported into educational placements, with school transport put in place as appropriate. Currently, 557 Ukrainian children and young people have been registered in schools across the city. Additional support for learning was also stood up to assist the children and young people integrate into school communities and maximise their learning. Education Services have worked with their colleagues in Ukraine to secure remote learning arrangements for a number of children and young people resident in Glasgow.
- Support to ensure access to social security payments and employability advice; The DWP collocated staff within a Welcome Centre to ensure assistance. Partners have worked to create pathways into employment for UDPs, including regular employment fairs within Welcome Hubs and MS Ambition. Through this work 600+ UDPs have accessed employment, including with the HSCP.
- Council staff also administered inspections and disclosure checks for households applying to offer accommodation through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Alongside administering financial assistance to volunteer hosts. Welfare checks have also been undertaken by Council staff, in order to provide a level of assurance regarding the health and well-being of individuals involved in the hosting arrangements.
- The HSCP has worked with voluntary sector organisations to provide advice and assistance to UDPs. Ensuring that UDPs are empowered to access services and make informed decisions regarding their health and welfare and integrating into Scotland. Voluntary sector colleagues have provided active in-reach to the various Welcome Hubs and MS Ambition.
- Support to secure move on accommodation. We are working with housing associations colleagues in the city to mainstream tenancies for UDPs. However, given the scale of demand we are also working with the Scottish Government, COSLA and individual Local Authorities to secure offers of accommodation so that UDPs can move on from the Welcome Hubs and MS Ambition. The HSCP and Council has examined opportunities to utilise the Private Rented Sector in the city to accommodate UDPs. However, options are particularly limited given the pressures on the PRS. Advice has also been provided by third sector organisations in relation to accessing accommodation and housing rights.

The scale and pace in establishing humanitarian assistance has placed significant pressure on partners within the city. It is also fair to say that robust systems of support have been established in short order allowing for UDPs to have access to assistance they require.

Challenges Going Forward

Accommodation Supply

Glasgow currently faces significant challenges in relation to the alleviation of homelessness. This would be exacerbated in the event that a proportion of the existing UDPs accommodated through the humanitarian relief schemes, currently residing in Glasgow, translate into homeless demand.

The potential need to resettle over 1000 UDP households will lead to unprecedented pressures on the City's housing system. On average there are approximately 8500 social housing lets in the city each year. Of this figure approximately 3300 homeless households were rehoused in 2021/22. There are currently circa 4500 homeless households requiring settled housing in the city. At present homeless households wait an average of 44 weeks from assessment decision to being rehoused. The HSCP also has a reliance on bed and breakfast type accommodation to provide emergency accommodation for homelessness households. The HSCP is currently using approximately 600 bed and breakfast rooms each evening to provide emergency accommodation to homeless households.

There are also currently circa 5000 asylum seekers in Home Office accommodation in Glasgow. 75% of these households are likely to receive a positive decision to their asylum claim who will look to be rehoused within social housing in Glasgow.

The Private Rented Sector is also under significant pressures in the city due to the levels of demand from people wishing to access a private rented tenancy. High rent levels within the city calls into question the affordability of the PRS for low-income households and those reliant on Local Housing Allowance.

With the announcement of the departure of the MS Ambition at the end of March 2023 there is an acute need to secure alternative accommodation for UDP households. Given the social housing supply challenges and the wider housing market pressures, within Glasgow, it will not be possible to secure anything like the potential level of settled accommodation for UDPs leaving the vessel at this time. Beyond this it will be some time before all UDPs resident in temporary accommodation can secure settled accommodation at current resettlement rates.

Funding Levels

The funding by the Scottish Government has been vital in allowing the HSCP and Council to stand up the resources required to meet the urgent need for humanitarian assistance. The £50m fund to bring increase housing supply is also welcome. Individual housing associations within Glasgow have worked with the Council required to identify specific schemes that can be delivered in a relatively short timeframe. However, the accommodation being brought on stream through the funding will not all be available in time to provide accommodation for UDPs currently resident on the MS Ambition, at the point of departure. Whilst this will greatly assist there will likely be a phasing in as properties become available through this scheme.

The announcement, by the UK Government, of the reduction, in the funding received by Local Authorities to assist with the resettlement of refugees, from £10,500 to £5,900 per household significantly undermines the capacity of Local Authorities to provide the full range of services to UDP. The failure on the part of the UK Government to fully reflect the costs of integration support to UDPs is likely to lead to an increased cost burden on the Local Authority and HSCP. It is also likely to further undermine the willingness of Local Authorities to engage in the scheme.

In addition, it is critical, that there is an ongoing commitment to ensure that the Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme is fully funded by the Scottish Government and that individual Local Authorities do not carry the financial burden of this policy commitment and that there is a continued partnership approach to the accommodation needs of UDP.