



JH/PO/0083/23

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Finance Committee
Senedd
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

16 March 2023

Dear Peredur,

During the Minister for Finance and Local Government's appearance before this Committee on 1 March, the Minister was asked a number of questions around the capacity of local authorities to support our Ukrainian guests and has asked me to provide you with an update on these matters.

During 2022-23 we have been able to make revenue funding of £112m available to support activities around our humanitarian response to the conflict in Ukraine. This included £20m through the first supplementary budget as well as a further £92m through our second supplementary budget.

During 2022-23 we have received £74.4m from the UK Government in the form of integration tariffs, education tariffs and thank you payments for time spent in Welsh Government Initial Accommodation to offset some of these costs. The balance (over £37m) has been met from Welsh Government reserves.

A large proportion of the costs we incur are in relation to accommodation and wrap around costs associated with our super-sponsor route. We set up the super-sponsor route because we wanted to reduce the safeguarding risks inherent in the individual sponsor route and reduce barriers for people from Ukraine – mostly women and children – who are fleeing this deadly conflict and seeking sanctuary here in Wales. We felt it was important to prioritise funding to support our Ukrainian arrivals to fulfil our Programme for Government commitment to be a Nation of Sanctuary (as included in the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan).

The allocation of £112m in 2022-23 is expected to be sufficient to meet all costs associated with our humanitarian response during this financial year. This allocation allows us to meet the costs of Welcome Centres, initial accommodation, arrival hubs and the contact centre

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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.

and also accounts for the integration and education tariffs due to local authorities hosting our Ukrainian arrivals which represent a large proportion of these costs.

We have worked closely with our partners in local authorities to deliver support to our Ukrainian guests. Local authorities claim via quarterly grant claim forms for the costs associated with guests in their areas. Where guests are accommodated within accommodation provided through our super sponsor route, local authorities are provided with an agreed allocation to meet wrap around support costs. All other costs including accommodation and food are met directly by the Welsh Government.

When Ukrainians move on from our initial accommodation (either into private rented sector accommodation or into hosted accommodation), local authorities are provided with a pro rata proportion of the integration tariff to support those individuals. Integration tariffs from the UK Government were £10,500 per person for 2022 arrivals but have reduced to £5,900 for all arrivals on or after 1 January 2023. Local authorities have discretion in how this funding is used. In some cases, it has been used to provide support for those entering the private rented sector for example by providing finance for the bond and up-front rental payments required. Some local authorities have also used this funding to top up thank you payments to hosts to encourage longer term hosting arrangements which reduce pressure on housing need.

In light of wider housing pressures and the need to bring forward more good quality homes at pace to support people into longer term accommodation where they can settle and start to rebuild their lives, the Minister for Climate Change has also established the Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme. This funding will support local authorities and registered social landlords to deliver 1,300 additional homes within the next 18 months for everyone in housing need, including our Ukrainian guests.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Justice

Cc Minister for Finance and Local Government and Minister for Climate Change