



Bailiwick of Guernsey Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme

Policy

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1. Overview and Purpose

The Bailiwick of Guernsey recognises the pressing humanitarian need created by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and is committed to providing support to the Ukrainian people.

The Bailiwick of Guernsey Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme¹ (the 'Scheme') has been launched to supplement the existing assistance provided by the Bailiwick's Ukraine Family Scheme and the Ukraine Extension Scheme which became operationally active on 11th April 2022. The Scheme provides a secondary humanitarian corridor for displaced Ukrainian residents that were ordinarily resident in the Ukraine prior to 1st January 2022 (including the case of a child born or adopted on or after this date). Ukrainian residents applying for this Scheme will need to be matched to an approved sponsor prior to applying for a visa.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Immigration (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Rules 2008, as amended, relating to the Scheme.

This document outlines the main features of the Scheme which has three high level aims:

- To ensure that Ukrainian beneficiaries who may come to the Islands under this Scheme are provided with a sponsorship arrangement that is safe, suitable and dignified;
- To promote a positive relationship between the approved sponsor and Ukrainian beneficiary; and,
- To ensure all Ukrainian beneficiaries travelling to the Islands under this Scheme have access to the appropriate community and public service support.

The Scheme will be delivered by the Ukraine Coordination Support Team and overseen by the Office *of the Committee for Home Affairs*. The support team will act as a single point of contact, managing sponsor approval, linking parties and signposting those travelling to the Islands to public services.

Considering the atrocities in the Ukraine it is expected that specialist support may well be required for some individuals. The Bailiwick of Guernsey is a small jurisdiction and needs to ensure appropriate provisions are available to offer the sanctuary and support that may be required.

¹ *This Bailiwick Scheme is separate from the UK scheme which is known as 'Homes for Ukraine'.*

2. Eligibility

The Scheme is open to Ukrainian nationals who were ordinarily resident in the Ukraine prior to 1 January 2022, and their immediate family (this includes spouse/partner and children under 18) who may be of other nationalities and have secured a visa under the Scheme. This will enable them to enter and remain in the Bailiwick for up to three years, housed by an approved sponsor.

The Scheme is unable to support unaccompanied children under 18 with no parent or guardian in the Bailiwick. Children must form part of an application as a family unit that includes their parent or legal guardian or must be applying to join their parent or legal guardian in the Bailiwick. The family unit would be expected to remain together in the same approved sponsor accommodation for the duration of the sponsorship arrangement.

Unaccompanied children who are under 18 are not allowed to be sponsored by, or reside with, unrelated sponsors, unless the sponsor is their legal guardian.

Beneficiaries of the family scheme will not routinely be accepted for transfer onto the sponsorship scheme.

Matching

The States of Guernsey will work in partnership with British Homes for Ukraine (BHUR), Humanitarian Aid Guernsey (HAG) and other suitable established agencies, charities and non-government organisations to provide an effective matching service between approved sponsors and those seeking refuge.

The process will include video calls between the Ukraine Co-ordination Support Team, BHUR, HAG, sponsors and beneficiaries to introduce them and allow relationships to be built ahead of moving to the Bailiwick.

Applications will be processed in the order they are received and matching can only be done with the involvement of the Ukraine Co-ordination Support Team.

3. Approved Sponsors

The sponsor will be an individual, group or organisation, approved by the States of Guernsey to accommodate an individual or family unit from Ukraine.

It is intended that sponsors will provide a welcome and act as facilitators for their guests introducing them to the Island.

Sponsors will be expected to:

- In the case of an individual, have residential status within the Bailiwick for the duration of the expected sponsorship relationship (exact requirements are set out in the Immigration (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Rules 2008, as amended);
- provide safe, suitable and approved rent-free accommodation, including utilities, to an individual or family unit for the duration of the expected sponsorship relationship (minimum of 12 months);
- allow, facilitate and co-operate with monthly welfare checks on approved sponsors and the Ukrainian beneficiary; and,
- in the case of an individual, be willing to undergo, and subsequently pass, the safeguarding checks as outlined below.

Sponsors will **not** be expected to:

- Provide food, other provisions, or financial support; or,
- Provide transport.

Sponsors should **not**:

- Have any form of formal agreement in place with the individual(s) they are hosting; or,
- Require the beneficiary to undertake any work in return for being provided with accommodation. (i.e. domestic help, babysitting services, acting as a carer for a relative). Applications will not be considered where there is any dependency on employment. This is to remove any additional pressures that may lead to a breakdown in the relationship between beneficiary and sponsor.

In considering applications from prospective sponsors, priority will be given to applicants:

- who are able to offer independent, self-contained accommodation and facilities;
- who know the Ukrainian beneficiary who they would like to support or have been matched with Ukrainian contacts using a matching service provided by an organisation approved by the States of Guernsey; or,
- whose circumstances are likely to support community integration and successful sponsorship.

Approved Sponsor Payment

Approved sponsors will be able to access a monthly payment of £349 to assist with 'out of pocket' expenses such as an increase in utility bills. The Approved Sponsor Payment is limited to one host payment, per month, per residential address. Payments will be applicable for the duration of the hosting arrangement and up to a period of 12 months.

Accommodation

To assess the safety and adequacy of the accommodation, officers will complete checks on the accommodation and living arrangements being suggested by a sponsor prior to approval being granted to the sponsor.

Accommodation must be furnished and available for a minimum of 12 months but sponsors must recognise that the scheme operates for up to 36 months.

Detailed criteria will be provided to individuals as part of the approval process.

Safeguarding

All individual's resident at a sponsor's address may be subject to security checks as part of the visa application process.

Sponsors, and other individuals aged 16 and over, who will also be residing in the accommodation being offered, will be required to undertake local pre-approval checks, followed by a full enhanced DBS check to ensure they meet the appropriate requirements.

Sponsors will not be expected to meet any costs associated with safeguarding checks.

These checks will be conducted before an individual can become an approved sponsor and detailed criteria will be provided to individuals as part of the approval process.

Welfare & Support

The Ukraine Co-ordination Support Team will be available at all stages of the process to provide support and guidance to potential and approved sponsors and Ukrainian beneficiaries.

Monthly welfare checks will be implemented in order to ensure a positive relationship between the approved sponsor and Ukrainian beneficiary is maintained and any emerging needs are identified and addressed.

4. Visa Applications

Before a visa application can be made under the Scheme, the individual (s) wishing to travel must have been matched to an identified and approved sponsor.

A person seeking to come to the Bailiwick of Guernsey under the Scheme must apply for entry clearance and, before arriving in the Bailiwick, must have been:

- granted formal entry clearance under the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme; or,
- given a letter from the Home Office or issued by or on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor confirming the applicant can travel to the Bailiwick under the Scheme.

As part of the visa application, the individual applicant will be required to reference the approved sponsor who will be providing them with accommodation in the Bailiwick.

The UK process all visa applications on behalf of the Crown Dependencies. All visa applications will need to be made by the Ukrainian national via the online visa application form on the UK Government website. Guernsey Immigration will be contacted by the Home Office before the visa is approved to confirm the application is appropriate and ties in with a locally approved sponsor.

Any visa applications where an approved sponsor has attempted to match without going through the Ukraine Co-Ordination Support Team will not be approved.

5. Access to Public Services and Support

The Ukraine Coordination Support Team will be responsible for managing the Scheme and, in particular, the following areas of work:

- Accept and manage expressions of interest from Bailiwick residents seeking to become an approved sponsor;
- Undertake or oversee the sponsor approval process and associated checks of accommodation and sponsor suitability;
- Co-ordinate support from Government services and the third sector; and,
- Offer advice and guidance to Ukrainian beneficiaries and their approved sponsors for the duration of the arrangements.

Ukrainian beneficiaries moving to the Bailiwick under the Scheme will be provided with access to appropriate public services and support including:

- Education
- Access to employment
- Income support (*if applicable, subject to circumstances*)
- Public healthcare services (This is for secondary care only which includes specialist referrals and hospital stays. Financial assistance for primary care, such as GPs visits and dental care, is only available to those on income support)

Regrettably, due to infrastructure restrictions, the Bailiwick of Guernsey is unable, at this time, to provide social housing.