

Homes for Ukraine Information for Sponsors

This information sheet has been developed for sponsors who have been matched with a family or friend via the Homes for Ukraine scheme. We want to provide information to you about the checks that we will be carrying out as part of this scheme.

The role of Councils

As part of this scheme, Councils are required to undertake accommodation and DBS criminal record checks for all adults (16 and over) in the sponsor household. Councils also have a statutory duty to promote the welfare of adults and children at risk and reserve the right to check in on guests and inspect accommodation once they have arrived.

We have been informed by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities that being granted a visa is NOT contingent on these checks. However, we have clear statutory duties to ensure the safety and welfare of adults and children at risk.

What are we doing in Newham?

Here in Newham, we have set up a system so that we can carry out housing safety checks, DBS criminal record checks as well as safeguarding checks.

What will happen next?

If you are a sponsor on this scheme and have been matched with a family or friend, a member of the Council will soon be contacting you by telephone to arrange for a housing officer to visit your home to complete a home safety check. Once the check has been completed to a satisfactory standard, we will contact you to start the process for the DBS check.

Do I need to do anything?

If you live within the rented sector (if you are a tenant of any kind) – private tenant, social tenant or in shared ownership (part owned, part rented), we **MUST** have written permission from your landlord advising that they agree to the use of the property under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. We will not arrange a home safety check until this is received. Please ask your landlord to complete the attached consent form and send to welcome.newham@newham.gov.uk

What to expect from the housing inspection:

- Ensure that the information provided in relation to the Homes for Ukraine Scheme is correct
- Ensure that the Property meets required housing standards and is free from hazards
- Appropriate Fire Safety measures are in place

The following is additional government guidance on some of the conditions we will be checking to ensure your home is in a suitable condition and safe for you and your guests.

What do I need to do to make sure my home is suitable for my guest?

All accommodation will be different and while there is no set expectation, your accommodation needs to be free from serious health and safety hazards. You should make sure your home is safe for your guests and that it is in a suitable condition.

You should also consider how many people you can accommodate so they have sufficient space. Two people should not be in one room unless they are: adult cohabiting partners; a parent and child; two siblings of the same gender if aged over 10; two siblings regardless of gender if aged under 10. Individuals who didn't previously know each other should not be given the same room.

Further to this we ask that accommodation:

- be kept clean and in a reasonable state;
- have adequate kitchen and bathroom space;
- have access to drinking water;
- have a working smoke detector on each floor of the property and other fire safety precautions suitable for the building e.g. fire doors or escape routes as appropriate (further information on making a home safe from fire);
- have a working carbon monoxide detector in any room containing a solid fuel burning appliance (e.g. a coal fire, wood burning stove);
- have sufficient heating to keep the property at a comfortable temperature;
- have safe gas appliances, fittings and flues and have undertaken a Gas Safety check within the last year (see more information);
- have safe and working electrics, which a qualified electrician can help with if you are unsure;
- be almost entirely free of damp or mould;
- have doors and windows at entry level that lock properly;
- be easy and safe to move around in, without excessively steep staircases that may cause harm.

Further guidance and answers to frequently asked questions in relation to the homes for Ukraine scheme can be found by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions>

LANDLORD CONSENT FORM

Dear Welcome Newham Team

I write to advise that Mr/Mrs _____, the occupying tenant of address _____ has made enquiries to the Government, under the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme, to house (number of) _____ adults and (number of) _____ children at address: _____.

The Government has instructed all Councils that they must make suitability checks of accommodation in relation to various matters and in this regard the Council would require a letter from you (the landlord/property owner) authorising the use of your property for housing Ukrainian guests hosted by your tenant

Mr/Mrs _____.

Please be advised that for the requirements of this scheme landlords operating in Newham with a Selective licence to rent their property **will not** be required to obtain a HMO licence to accommodate the guests.

Should you consent to the occupation of address: _____

_____ by an additional Ukrainian (number of) _____ adults and (number of) _____ children please sign either declaration below and return this letter by emailing to welcome.newham@newham.gov.uk

If you do not consent to the occupation then you need not take any further action in the matter.

I(print name) being the landlord/property owner of [INSERT ADDRESS] consent to the occupation of the afore-mentioned property for the purposes of hosting guests in accordance with the Government's Ukrainian hosting scheme.

Or

I(print name) of(in sert company name and address) being the secretary/director (delete as appropriate) of the afore-mentioned company consent to the occupation of the afore-mentioned property for the purposes of hosting guests in accordance with the Government's Ukrainian hosting scheme.

Signed

Dated