

New Gorbals Housing Association Meeting for Ukrainian Tenants Wednesday 7th October 2026, Housing Office

Present: 6 tenants

In attendance: John Grady MP, Gregor McIntyre, Office of John Grady MP

Also attending: Susan Burn, Tenant Participation Officer, Eddie Robertson, Maintenance Officer, Martin Mcleod, Housing Officer, Kateryna, Interpreter

1. Welcome and introductions

Susan welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. We welcomed Kateryna again as interpreter and thanked John Grady for coming along. Everyone introduced themselves.

2. Actions from last meeting in August

2.1 As we had John with us this evening, we agreed to quickly run over the actions from the last meeting to allow time for other discussion. Susan advised there would be time at the end of the meeting for any other Housing or Maintenance issues.

2.2 Since the last meeting, all repairs reported completed and the repairs leaflet has been translated into Ukrainian and distributed. Copies were also available at the meeting.

3. Today's discussions with John Grady MP

3.1 The letter from John Grady addressing stability for Ukrainian nationals living in the United Kingdom to Jo White, Minister for Migration and Citizenship at the Home Office and her response had been translated by NGHHA and these were handed out at the meeting. John said he was proud to have a Ukrainian community in Glasgow and as MP he was interested tonight in hearing all concerns on any issues.

3.2 With regards to the Home Office position, he said it was a critical point that arrangements made for Ukrainians living here are fair. He understood it was a complicated issue for families with schooling and nursery for children, further education for children and adults, employment and English language courses provision.

3.3 Tenant asked about delays for visas. John acknowledged there were delays but that they were working to reduce these. He said he would be happy to write to the Home Office to ask about the delay. Tenant asked if she could email John directly with her concerns. His email address is john.grady.mp@parliament.uk

3.4 We clarified that anyone with individual concerns can make an appointment to see John.

3.4 Tenant asked about what preparation the UK government was making to protect local communities from war? She knows that other countries are prepared but feels that the UK is not. John will take away the question to ask in Westminster.

3.5 Tenant asked if the new arrangements for thank you payments to hosts from 1st January 2027, which will see a reduction from £350 to £100 per month, reflects a reduction in support from the UK government? Does it mean the Homes for Ukraine scheme is closing? John replied that he was not aware of this and will take that away to clarify. However, he did emphasise the commitment and scale of the overall cost and continued support from the UK.

3.6 Tenant said they were all very grateful for the help, however the uncertainty of the temporary position is very stressful. The only visa to remain temporary is the Ukrainian visa. This has a huge negative impact on mental health and wellbeing. The situation is very difficult, for example there are people who are qualified and trained individuals, doctors, nurses, but here they struggle to get any job. Uncertainty is a big factor. How long is temporary? John responded to say that on a human level nobody wanted this and he understands how stressful it must be. However, overall, the government is moving to a system of shorter-term visas for all. Other refugees have had longer term visas, but the wider politics of immigration have become harder.

3.7 John said we need to reflect on how we help Ukrainians settle in. It is a serious point for the Home Office to reflect and address. However, not to forget that the blame lies with Vladimir Putin ordering the invasion of Ukraine. There are lessons to be learned and practical questions to be addressed.

3.8 Tenant asked if there were any drafts on the changes to this temporary status? Has this question even been raised? The UPE scheme was extended to 24 months last year. What is to happen after this? John replied that there are no drafts, but that the UK government is looking at this very seriously.

3.9 Tenant stressed that Ukrainians cannot find jobs. If they have one year left on their visas, all employers know this. How can the government check that they are being treated fairly? They are being refused all the time. John said he will pick this up with the Home Office.

3.11 Tenant felt there was covert discrimination. Ukrainians were being blamed for going on holiday to Ukraine or back to Ukraine. There is anti-Ukrainian and anti-immigrant rhetoric. John agreed that there was a rise in anti-immigration protests which was a disgrace, including masked protesters which should not be allowed. There are parts of Ukraine you can and should go back to if you want. Tenant explained her own background of displacement. She would prefer to stay in Scotland, but she can't.

John encouraged tenants to report abuse to the police, or to him. Tenant shared her experience of being asked provocative questions by her doctor about when she was going back to Ukraine. This should not be relevant. She is a patient first and foremost. John agreed. He would be happy to write to NHS to highlight this if she follows up with him.

3.12 Tenant asked about her recent correspondence with him and when there would be action. Martin reported that NGHHA had received John's response today and the next step would be for them to follow up with the concerns.

4. Next steps

4.1 John said he would write to the Home Office and the DWP.

4.2 We thanked John and Gregor for coming. Tenants said it was good to have their voices heard and to have John keep raising their concerns at Westminster.

4.3 There was time at the end for a couple of individual follow ups.

Actions

- John Grady to write to Home Office
- John Grady to raise question at Westminster regarding preparing communities against war
- John Grady to write to DWP
- John Grady to follow up on changes to Thank You payments
- Follow up with tenant – housing/maintenance