

APPENDIX 1 Central Government information

The government is providing funding at a rate of £10,500 per person to councils to enable them to provide support to families to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into communities.

This funding (the tariff) is un-ringfenced, with a number of conditions attached, and matches the tariff offered under the first year of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), although the role of councils will be different. For example, councils will not be asked to source initial accommodation under this scheme as this will be provided by the sponsor.

The government is also providing funding (suggesting it is separate) for councils to administer the optional 'thank you' payments at the £350 per sponsoring household per month rate. The Government will allocate additional funding for these payments through a ring-fenced grant, and we expect councils to cover administration costs within the tariff.

Administering payments to sponsors

Sponsors are eligible for an optional 'thank you payment' of £350 per month, for as long as the guest remains in their accommodation for up to 12 months. This payment will be tax free and should not affect the sponsor's entitlement to benefits or council tax status.

Councils will administer these 'thank you' payments to sponsors. Central government will allocate funding for these payments but expects councils to cover administration costs from the tariff including costs of fraud prevention.

Payment mechanism

Authorities must ensure that they adhere to the following conditions of payment: Only the named lead sponsor is eligible for the £350 payment per month

Lead sponsors can claim for up to 12 months

Lead sponsors are only eligible for monthly payments for as long as the guest remains living in their accommodation

Only one monthly payment will be given per residential address, regardless of the number of guests being hosted, size, or location of the property

Payments must only be issued to those lead sponsors where it is confirmed that they have passed the necessary property and safeguarding checks. All 5 set checks within Foundry must have been completed before the council begins the process of issuing the sponsor payment

Fraud checks must be conducted in line with the councils anti-fraud processes

Lead sponsors are not eligible for the £350 monthly payment if they are charging the guest rent

Conducting an in person check at the 6-month mark as a minimum to verify that the guest is still residing at the accommodation

Whilst there is flexibility for how councils can deliver these payments, an example of how this might be conducted could include:

Confirming with the sponsor that they would like to receive the optional £350 monthly payments

Making sure the sponsor signs a self-declaration form confirming all details are correct, that they are not charging rent, and that they agree to notify the council of any changes

Conducting all safeguarding and property checks before administering the payment.

Conducting the necessary fraud checks, such as checking the sponsor's identity, cross-referencing this information against relevant council databases to confirm the correct name and address has been provided, requesting a bank statement from the sponsor, and seeking evidence of the guest's visa

Paying the sponsor monthly in arrears directly into their bank account

Conducting an in person check at the 6-month mark to verify that the guest is still residing at the accommodation

The onus is on the sponsor to notify the council of any changes during the 12-month period following the signing of the self-declaration form. Councils should make sure that this is clearly understood by the sponsor and that they understand who they should report any change of circumstances to. Councils should ensure at least one in person check is conducted at the 6-month mark at a minimum but may conduct more checks if they wish. Where other property or safeguarding checks are occurring, these can be combined with verifying that the guest still remains at the property. The following advisory sponsor declaration template form (ODT, 17.2 KB) can be used by councils if they so wish to seek confirmation that sponsors understand this requirement.

Where guests move out before the full 12-month period, the sponsor is eligible to claim the monthly payment if the guest has lived in their accommodation for at least half of the month of departure."

The Department will make regular payments to councils, each covering three months of the programme, in arrears. On 30 June 2022 DLUHC made the first payment to councils in England, to cover the months March to May and quarter two payments are being processed in Sept to cover June to August.

Payments are based on the actual number of Homes for Ukraine guests (for the £10,500 tariff) and the actual number of payments to sponsoring households (for the £350 'thank you' payments) within each area. DLUHC will conduct a reconciliation process at the end of the financial year to ensure that councils receive their correct entitlement for both the £10,500 tariff and £350 'thank you' payments. Future guidance will cover outstanding detail on this process, including the process by which we will account for movements of guests between sponsorships that cross local authorities."

Funding for the Homes for Ukraine grant payments for English councils has conditions attached, which are set out in grant determinations published on gov.uk.

Grant payments to councils are made in arrears, and are subject to confirmation that guests have arrived and all conditions have been met. Councils must undertake all necessary safeguarding checks in line with the Department's guidance. Relevant inputs, including whether safeguarding checks have been completed, should be entered on Foundry regularly, and at a minimum, weekly. In addition, it is a condition of funding that councils provide regular data returns in relation to the Homes for Ukraine scheme, as set out in guidance, including on the number of beneficiaries in their area.

Importantly, payments will not be made where the Department is not satisfied that councils are fully complying with relevant grant conditions, including the timely return of data in line with guidance. It is critical, therefore, that councils record all necessary information via the Foundry system. In

addition, whilst we will continue to collect data relating to the programme via the Foundry system, we also expect councils to maintain accurate records on the number of guests and sponsorship households in their area.

Please find below the conditions that the Department has attached to these grants.

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For the £350 thank you grant

"Pursuant to section 31(5) of the Local Government Act 2003, the Secretary of State determines that the grant will be paid subject to the following conditions:

1. Payments to sponsors should only be paid in accordance with circumstances set out in the Homes for Ukraine guidance for councils (linked at Annex C) and should not be released until:
 - a. a visit to the sponsoring household property, by the local authority, has been completed; and
 - b. the local authority has confirmed that the accommodation is suitable, that the guest is well and that there are no serious safeguarding or welfare concerns.
2. A recipient authority must ensure thank you payments to eligible sponsoring households who request them are made as soon as practicable.

For the £10,500 tariff grant

Pursuant to section 31(5) of the Local Government Act 2003, the Secretary of State determines that the grant will be paid subject to the following conditions:

1. A recipient authority must use the funding to carry out the activities, as set out in the Homes for Ukraine guidance, including completing all 5 safeguarding and accommodation checks, including DBS checks, on sponsors and the property in line with the Department's guidance as soon as practicable, and record these 5 checks on the Foundry system.
2. A recipient authority must commission or provide services that ensure guests and sponsors are provided with a source of advice and support to assist with registering for mainstream benefits and services, including where necessary specialist public health services and community integration.

3. In two tier areas, upper tier authorities must agree a plan locally to:

a. make payments to lower tier authorities in relation to all the services which they provide to guests under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, during the full duration of the scheme, including for services such as homelessness assistance for which lower tier authorities are responsible; and

b. make an immediate payment to lower tier authorities in relation to any upfront costs.

4. A recipient authority must provide regular data returns in relation to the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, as set out in guidance. For example:

a. Entering relevant data on Foundry regularly, and at a minimum, weekly; and

b. that Section 151 officers must sign off quarterly returns to the Department which include: MI data to indicate how many people are moving in/out of the area; the number of £350 'thank you' payments made to sponsoring households; and confirmation that conditions have been met.

For both the £350 thank you grant and the £10,500 tariff grant

Where the amount of grant paid to an authority exceeds the authority's actual pressures (based on either the number of legitimate payments to sponsorship households, or the number of guests resident in their area), the difference shall be repaid to the minister. In addition, if the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities is made aware that an authority is in breach of the grant conditions above, it reserves the right to recover funding. There will be a reconciliation process at the end of the relevant financial year."