



Chris Heaton-Harris
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Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

I share your desire to ensure that communities across the country are supported in doing everything they can to support Ukrainians arriving in the UK to start a new life here. It is absolutely right that there are robust safeguarding checks, to prevent abuse of the sponsorship scheme.

I appreciate concerns about the process of sponsors and guests finding each other on social media. There are several ways in which matches can be made and the Government is working with charities and organisations who have a history of supporting community sponsorship schemes. For example, the charity Reset Communities and Refugees has recently launched a matching service to pair sponsors and Ukrainians, utilising experts in safeguarding to ensure that matches are suitable. The organisation will also be providing training for sponsors, local authorities and community groups. Such services draw on the national effort and spirit of collaboration that will be central to the success of the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

All adults in a sponsoring household will be subject to criminality checks by the Home Office before any visa is issued. Local councils are also required to conduct safeguarding and accommodation checks after receiving notification of a visa application for the scheme. This includes DBS checks - the level of which is determined by the needs and vulnerability of guests. Accommodation checks will ensure that the room or property provided is of a suitable quality. They will also give local authorities the chance to see the sponsor and guest in person and determine whether there are any safeguarding or welfare concerns.

Let me assure you that I fully support my ministerial colleagues in harnessing the extraordinary support from the British public to drive a sponsorship scheme that is welcoming and safe. I will continue to follow developments closely.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY