

# Scottish Government and The City of Edinburgh Council – MS Victoria – accommodation information

MS Victoria will no longer be used as accommodation from 11 July 2023. Please start planning your future accommodation with the matching teams on board as soon as possible. The team on board is here to help you find onward accommodation.

## Accommodation options

The matching team on board will work with you to find accommodation that meets your needs.

There are different options such as renting a property, social housing, hosted accommodation or further temporary accommodation.

Long-term accommodation options in Edinburgh and some big cities across Scotland are very limited.

There is high demand for rental properties and long waiting lists for social housing. This means availability is low and rents are expensive. You may wish to consider accommodation across Scotland where there is more availability, such as taking up an offer of hosted accommodation.

## Welcome accommodation

The best outcome for you is to find onward accommodation, either with a host or private rental. We strongly recommend you carefully consider all accommodation options put to you by the matching team.

If this is not possible, everyone on-board will be offered alternative welcome accommodation. This may be in hotels. We can only offer welcome accommodation where it is available through our accommodation provider contract. This may mean accommodation is offered to you outside of Edinburgh.

## Renting a property

You have the right to rent your own property in Scotland. Properties are available across Scotland and you can choose where to live. There is very high demand for properties in Edinburgh and you may wish to consider areas of Scotland where there is more choice and lower costs. The matching team can help you look for rented properties across Scotland. In some smaller towns it can be easier to find schools and cheaper accommodation.

For more information on private rental, please visit: [Housing options - Scotland for Ukrainians: a guide for displaced people - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultation-collections/housing-options-scotland-for-ukrainians-a-guide-for-displaced-people/)

# Scottish Government and The City of Edinburgh Council – Hosting information

Like many Ukrainians in Scotland, you can stay with a host family.

Staying with a host is a good way to get to know areas across Scotland and hosts will be able to support you to settle in the community. There are host families in the regions outside Edinburgh and across Scotland.

Hosting is a Scottish Government approved accommodation matching service which matches you with a Scottish household, known as a host. This is likely to mean sharing the host's home with them. Hosts are asked to provide accommodation for a minimum of six months. They do not have to provide accommodation after six months, but some choose to.

Hosts are located across Scotland and the majority of hosting placements are available outside of bigger cities.

If you are offered a place with a host, you might want to get to know your host before accepting their offer of accommodation. Matching teams can arrange for this to take place.

Any hosting offer will be discussed with you. If you decide it is not suitable, this could result in an extended stay in temporary welcome accommodation which may involve moving around Scotland.

Safety is very important. Under the Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme, safety checks will be carried out before you are matched with a host and move into their accommodation

The Scottish Government has published a guide for displaced people from Ukraine, it is available in English, Ukrainian and Russian. The guidance includes information on housing options and life in Scotland: [Housing options - Scotland for Ukrainians: a guide for displaced people - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/publications/2022/02/22-02-2022-housing-options-scotland-ukrainians-a-guide-for-displaced-people/)

The matching team on board can give provide you more information about hosted accommodation options for when you disembark MS Victoria.

The Scottish Refugee Council can provide advice and information on hosted accommodation. They offer a free and confidential helpline. Call 0808 1967 274, Monday to Friday from 09:00 – 17:00

# Hosting experiences

If you want to hear directly from other Ukrainians about their experiences of hosting, the Scottish Refugee Council has produced some videos:

- [Ukrainians in Scotland: Dollar \(UKRAINIAN SUBTITLES\) - YouTube](#)
- [Ukrainians in Scotland: Kingussie \(SUBTITLED IN UKRAINIAN\) - YouTube](#)

The Scottish Government spoke to Valeriia and Hugh who agreed to share their story and experience of hosting in Dumfries and Galloway.

## Valeriia (displaced person from Ukraine)

I am very grateful my family and I are in Scotland, in Dumfries and Galloway. When my family and I arrived in Scotland, we lived on a ship in Edinburgh for two and a half months and then moved to live in hosted accommodation.

When I arrived in Dumfries and Galloway, I was pleased for my family and I am happy to be here. I cannot express, in words the infinite feeling of gratitude for my stay here.

My host family have given me the opportunity to feel peace, happiness and family warmth again. With them, I am re-learning to live a normal life and I have again everything that the war took from me.

This is the most beautiful village in my life, I fell in love with every person, every sheep in this village. My children go to school in the village and the youngest goes to kindergarden. I am active in the community and treasurer of the community Gala Committee, and I also have a job just outside the village.

We are safe and this is the greatest happiness for me.

## Hugh (host)

We decided to host because we believe it was the right thing to do and because we had more accommodation than we needed. It has been the most rewarding thing we have ever done.

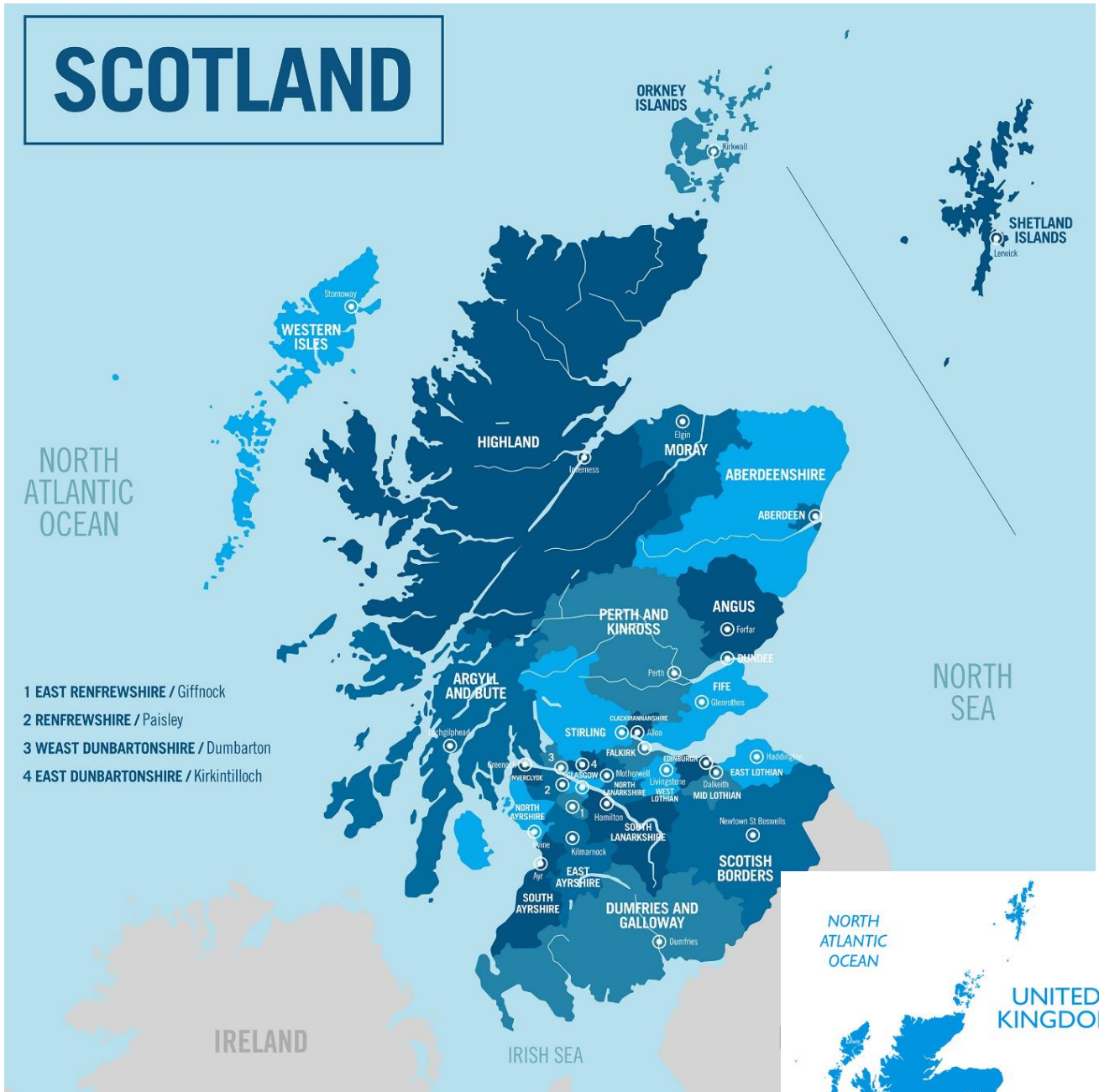
We have a house with a one-bedroom barn conversion in Dumfries and Galloway and we welcomed Valeriia and her family. Our community has gathered round to support the family with gifts, donations and visits and friendships have been formed.

The children have settled at school and attend local arts and crafts and drama groups in the village, and the youngest child is attending preschool.

We all dine together on a Wednesday night along with our friends. We take turns to cook and it's something everyone looks forward to. We shared Christmas dinner and more recently a Burns Supper. Valeriia and her family are learning about Scottish food and customs, and we are experiencing Ukrainian cooking and learning their history.

We have welcomed a family of strangers to share our home and in return gained some very good friends.

# Map of Scotland



- 1 EAST RENFREWSHIRE / Giffnock
- 2 RENFREWSHIRE / Paisley
- 3 WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE / Dumbarton
- 4 EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE / Kirkintilloch



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