

MS Victoria newsletter 1

MS Victoria will no longer be used as accommodation from 11 July 2023.

You need to leave the ship ahead of this date. Please start planning your future accommodation with the matching teams on board as soon as possible.

You cannot wait until the ship leaves to find alternative accommodation.

We know the next few weeks will mean changes for you. The team on board is here to help you find onward accommodation. Everyone on the ship will be offered onward accommodation.

MS Victoria was temporary accommodation for when you arrived and we want Scotland to be your home for as long as you need.

Next steps

Have you updated your information with reception?

- Thanks to those of you who have updated your information
- If you have not updated information yet, please make an appointment with the MS Victoria reception team. Please bring passport numbers and dates of birth for everyone in your immediate family as well as your visa number.
- The matching team will review your information, look at the accommodation options we have available, and arrange to meet with you to discuss them.

Meet with the on-board matching team

The team will [contact you](#) to arrange a time to speak about disembarkation.

Updates

- We will keep you updated and provide important information through this newsletter which will be issued regularly, messages on the on-board WhatsApp group and information on the ship's display screens. You can also get in touch with the on-board matching team at ukraine@edinburgh.gov.uk

Meet with the on-board matching team

The Scottish Government and the City of Edinburgh Council have a matching team on board to support you. They will now start contacting you to arrange a time to speak about disembarkation.

Finding out about living in other areas of Scotland

There are now many Ukrainian communities across Scotland that can support you to relocate. You could make your home in towns, cities and villages across Scotland. All have excellent public services and schools. Most have good transport links and shopping and employment opportunities.

Please speak with the matching team on board about the accommodation opportunities across Scotland. They will support you with your move and provide information on employment, schools and education.

Over the next few weeks, we will have other councils from across Scotland come on board to tell you about the accommodation options they have available in their areas.

We will let you know the dates - information will be displayed on the ship's screens and circulated via the WhatsApp group. We strongly encourage you to attend these information sessions.

Accommodation options

The matching team 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.

The matching team will consider your personal circumstances— for example if you or a family member has mobility needs or is currently undergoing hospital treatment for serious conditions.

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.

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.

Host accommodation

Staying with a host family is a very successful option for many Ukrainians in Scotland. 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 around the central belt of Scotland as well as in other regions. Please speak to the matching team on board and we will look to see if this accommodation might work for you.

Arranging your own move

If you are planning to go back to Ukraine or find alternative accommodation yourself, please make sure to tell both:

- the matching team on board – give them your new address and let them know your future plans
- the ship's reception team – give them your departure date and proof of departure, for example airline ticket or proof of other travel arrangement.

Your safety is important to us. If you find alternative accommodation yourself, the matching team can give you information and advice about checks you should make when looking at the different types of accommodation.

In the ship's code of conduct, which was issued by Landry & Kling on 12 April, we said if you leave your accommodation for more than 5 days then you may not be allowed back to the same accommodation, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Please let the team on board know if you plan on leaving the ship for more than 5 days so we can provide advice on your accommodation for when you return. If you have got tickets booked already then you need to let the matching team know as soon as possible.

Further information and resources

- 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: [Scotland for Ukrainians: a guide for displaced people - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultation-papers/collections/documents/Scotland-for-Ukrainians-a-guide-for-displaced-people.pdf)
- [Where to Live in Scotland](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultation-papers/collections/documents/Where-to-live-in-Scotland.pdf) provides helpful information on the different council areas across Scotland.
- Opora provides helpful information on housing, including on private rental: [Opora - Housing in the UK](https://www.opora.org.uk/)
- [Finding private rented housing: Shelter Scotland](https://www.shelter.org.uk/)