

MS Victoria newsletter #3

MS Victoria will no longer be used as accommodation from 11 July 2023. You cannot wait until the ship leaves to find alternative accommodation. We expect all guest to leave the ship by 4 July at the very latest – that is just over six weeks' away.

All newsletters and information we have sent to you, as well as short videos on life in Scotland, accommodation options and upcoming events, are available on our website www.edinburgh.gov.uk/msvictoria

Next steps and actions

Meeting with the matching team

- If you have not had an appointment time, please [speak to the team](#) at the reception in the conference area on level 6.
- Missed your appointment? Please [rearrange it](#) now.

Find out if privately rented accommodation would suit you

[Read about renting your own home.](#)

Information sessions

Check when the next [visits from other councils and drop in sessions are.](#)

Matching team meetings

The team has met with most families on board. If you have not had an appointment time, please make an appointment at the matching team reception in the conference area on level 6 as soon as possible. It's very important that you do this quickly so that we can help you to find accommodation. The team will make an appointment at a time that suits you.

If you missed or cannot make your appointment time, or have any urgent concerns, please speak to the matching team at the reception in the conference area on level 6.

Accommodation

The best outcome for you is to find onward accommodation, either with a host or rental. We strongly recommend you carefully consider all accommodation options put to you by the matching team. You should consider locating outside Edinburgh so that you do not have to move to more temporary accommodation. Making this decision now might be better for you in the long term.

Renting your own home

Some guests from the ship have already found their own privately rented accommodation.

Our leaflet on privately rented accommodation in Scotland, attached with this newsletter, gives you information about renting in Scotland. It includes contacts for letting agents and websites which advertise homes for rent.

Some letting agents are flexible with deposits and references. Speak to your named person in the matching team to find out more.

Your safety is important to us. The matching team can give you information and advice about checks you should make when looking at privately rented accommodation.

Staying with a host

The [information leaflet on hosting](#) we sent to you on 4 May is also available on our website along with the newsletters and other information. There are opportunities all over Scotland. You can find out about these from the matching team and when councils from other areas visit the ship.

If you have family members who have newly arrived

As we are currently moving people off MS Victoria permanently, we will not be giving new arrivals temporary accommodation on the ship. If you have family arriving in Scotland and wish to re-unite with them, you will have to disembark the ship. You may wish to make your own accommodation arrangements - for example, renting privately - or we will provide you **all** with alternative temporary accommodation, for example in a hotel.

Information and drop-in sessions

We will advertise information and drop in sessions on the screens on board, through the WhatsApp group and on the website page.

Helpful resources and information

- Bank holidays: 22 and 29 May are public holidays in Scotland. Some organisations and public services will be closed such as schools, health centres and GP surgeries, pharmacies, and some government offices. For information on ordering prescriptions: [NHSGGC - How to order medication presentation in Ukrainian - YouTube](#)
- The Scottish Government has updated its [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.
- Scottish Refugee Council offers a free and confidential helpline for information – call 0808 1967 274, Monday to Friday between 09:00 to 17:00.
- [Crisis Skylight Edinburgh](#) offers advice and support to individuals and families who are currently homeless, or at risk of homelessness.

Things to remember - checklist

If you find your own accommodation

Make sure you tell:

- the matching team - give them your new address and let them know your plans, including tenancy or occupancy agreement if appropriate.
- the ship's reception team – give them your departure date and proof of departure, tenancy or occupancy agreement if appropriate.

Leaving the ship for more than 5 days

Remember:

- 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
- let the team on board know if you plan to leave for more than 5 days so we can advise on your accommodation for when you return.

When you move

Preparing to disembark

When you are matched with new accommodation or find your own, the matching team will give you information on what you need to do before disembarking. This includes speaking to the education team on board if you have children who need to move schools, contact details for the resettlement team in the area you are moving to and luggage storage on the day you move.

Moving GP surgeries

The resettlement team in the area you are moving to will give advice on finding and registering with a new GP practice. You can also [search for GP practices](#) all over Scotland on the NHS inform website.

Mail and parcels

Once your new accommodation address is confirmed, please avoid having parcels and mail delivered to the ship. After you have moved, the ship will not hold or forward mail and it will be returned to sender.

- The [Royal Mail redirection service](#) will help you redirect mail. There is a cost for this.
- Amazon has [collection points and hub lockers](#) that you can use for collecting online deliveries instead of having it delivered to the ship.