



Offer a Home, Offer **Hope**

Briefing information
November 2022

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Ireland's Ukraine response

Key government messages

- Ireland is resolute in our solidarity and support for Ukraine and we are honouring our commitment to help people who have been displaced by this horrendous war.
- We are working with our European and international partners to help the Ukrainian people.
- Ireland has never seen so many people arrive in such a short timeframe.
- Already thousands are receiving assistance.
- Government, civil and public servants, as well as volunteers across the country, are working hard to manage this humanitarian crisis by providing the necessary supports for those who are seeking shelter and other services.
- State services can and are being deployed to respond, but we will also continue to need the public's help and support.
- Over generations, Irish people have sought shelter and opportunities abroad.
- Throughout history, Ireland has also had a long tradition of supporting other nations in times of trouble. It is the right thing to do.

Full information on Ireland's response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine is available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/bc537-irelands-response-to-the-situation-in-ukraine/>

Local government's role in the Ukraine response

Local authorities have provided significant support to national government in responding to the accommodation and other needs of those arriving from Ukraine, in particular to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) which has primary responsibility for the integration and accommodation needs of Ukrainians.

Local authority support has included:

- Establishing rest centres and temporary accommodation centres
- Sourcing emergency accommodation in hotels/B&Bs
- Taking responsibility for assessing accommodation to agreed standards, pledged via the previous Irish Red Cross call, liaising with accommodation owners, matching and placing Ukrainian people into suitable pledged accommodation and working with implementing partners to move Ukrainian people to pledged accommodation.
- Identifying vacant properties within their areas with potential to be refurbished to provide short- and medium-term accommodation (and undertaking refurbishment once sanctioned)
- Coordinating other supports for Ukrainians including through the establishment of Ukraine Community Response Forums.

The appeal

More than 60,000 Ukrainian people have fled to Ireland and 45,000 are being accommodated by the State in emergency accommodation, hotels and B&Bs or in previously pledged accommodation.

As the war continues in Ukraine, we expect that more people will come to Ireland seeking refuge.

We need to provide safe and secure accommodation for these people who are facing an

unimaginable situation. It's the right thing to do.

That is why we are appealing for anybody with a property they're not currently using to offer it.

Think about what these people and families are facing:

- A truly terrifying situation in their home country
- A horrific choice to leave their homes, friends, family and everything they own behind in search of safety
- Arriving in a new country where they may not speak the language or have any support system and having to find a way to live here – with all that entails, particularly where children are involved.
- All the while, worrying about what is happening back in Ukraine, to their country and to their people.

It's not a situation many of us can even imagine.

The people arriving to Ireland from Ukraine are showing incredible bravery and resilience.

They need a safe and secure place to stay – somewhere to call home for a short time while they get settled, somewhere to bring some normality back to their lives.

We are appealing to anybody who has a property they're not using to offer that.

You'll be making a huge difference to people's lives, and you'll be playing a really important part in Ireland's welcome.

Your local authority will be there to support and advise you at every step and will keep in touch with you during the arrangement. The local authority will also keep in touch with the Ukrainian people or family staying in your property and will work to connect them with the community and services.

A tax-free recognition payment of €800 per month is available for properties offered.

About this call for properties

National and local government are collaborating in a call for property owners to offer unoccupied houses, apartments, and holiday homes for use by those fleeing war in Ukraine.

This call for properties is a new initiative from November 24th, 2022. It is not linked to the previous call for vacant and shared properties managed by the Irish Red Cross.

Background

More than 60,000 Ukrainian people have fled to Ireland and 45,000 have sought accommodation.

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) is responsible for the provision of accommodation and coordination of related services for Ukrainians. Local authorities have provided support to DCEDIY in this regard.

Short-term and emergency accommodation is being provided to Ukrainians.

Some of the accommodation currently provided is the result of a call for vacant and shared accommodation managed by the Irish Red Cross (IRC) – this is known as ‘pledged’ accommodation.

The local authorities are now managing a new call for offers of unoccupied properties, while the Irish Red Cross will continue to take offers of shared accommodation.

What the call for properties from November 2022 will involve

On behalf of government, local authorities are managing a call for unoccupied properties from November 2022, including mounting national and local awareness campaigns.

Local authorities will manage the process for all properties offered. Properties may be offered via a website or by direct contact to the local authority.

All property offers will be recorded and tracked via an online system. People who offer properties will be able to log in to the website to view the status of their offer at any stage.

Local authorities will contact those who offer properties to discuss the property available and make sure that the property owner is fully informed about what they can expect from the process. They may also ask for some additional details about the property and owner's expectations and limitations at this stage.

If the local authority believes the property will be suitable based on this initial conversation, they will arrange with the property owner to assess the property to make sure it meets the required standard.

Where the property does not meet standards or is not suitable, the local authority will make the property owner aware of this as soon as possible and will explain the reasons why.

Where the property meets the required standard and is suitable, the local authority will work to match the property to the most suitable people and families, working with other implementing partners in some cases.

The local authority or partner will notify the property owner of the proposed beneficiary and will ensure that contact information is provided to each of the parties for the other. The local authority will also provide the option of a licence agreement.

Via the LGMA, local authorities will report regularly to the Department of Housing and the Department of Children on the number of properties offered, the number of properties suitable for allocation and the number of people accommodated in properties offered through this initiative.

Local authorities will establish teams to manage the relationships between property owners and those availing of accommodation. The Community Response Forum in each local authority area can also assist in providing support in collaboration with relevant agencies, organisations and community and voluntary groups.

Key vocabulary

Ukrainian people – not refugees

‘Refugees’ is not appropriate to describe Ukrainian people, who have temporary protection status. Instead, we will use language such as ‘Ukrainians’, ‘Ukrainian people’, ‘Ukrainian families’, ‘Beneficiaries’, ‘People fleeing war in Ukraine’, ‘People displaced by war in Ukraine’, ‘People forced to leave their homes due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine’

Offers – not pledges

We are not using the word ‘pledge’ as we want to distinguish this initiative from the previous call. ‘Pledge’ also implies a level of obligation and gives the impression that if a person pledges a property, it will definitely be taken up.

Unoccupied properties / properties that are not being used – not vacant properties

The word ‘vacant’ has negative connotations and may imply lower standards than are required. Instead, we are looking for houses, apartments or holiday homes that are unoccupied or not being used.

Frequently asked questions

Who is managing this programme?

The 'Offer a Home' programme is being managed by local authorities on behalf of Government.

What kind of properties are needed?

This call is for offers of houses, apartments or holiday homes.

We are looking for properties that are **currently unoccupied** and could provide accommodation to those fleeing war in Ukraine.

We need standalone properties with the main facilities required for independent living.

A separate programme is being run by the Irish Red Cross seeking pledges of spare rooms or accommodation that would be shared with the owner or others – [find out more here](#).

If you previously pledged a property through the Irish Red Cross pledge appeal but your property is not currently occupied by Ukrainians or others, please do consider offering it through this process.

Is there any payment for the property?

Rent is not payable as you are offering the property but a **tax-free payment of €800 per month**, (from December 1st 2022) per property is available through the Government's Recognition Payment Scheme.

The payment is available to anybody who provides accommodation to Ukrainian people.

This scheme is managed by the Department of Social Protection, and you will have to apply for the payment separately.

The payment is tax-free and is disregarded for means-tested grants/payments.

An online or written application may be made to the Department of Social Protection for the payment where you have accommodated a Ukrainian national for the previous month. The payment is conditional on a commitment to provide the accommodation for a period of 6 months. If applicable, payments may be back-dated.

[You can find more details here.](#)

How do I offer a property?

This call for offers is being managed by local authorities so you can either:

- Offer a property via the website by [registering here](#).
- Contact the local authority in which your property is located – you can find [contact details here](#).

If you offer your property online, you will be able to log in to your account at any stage to update your details or to check the progress of your offer.

What can I expect if I offer a property?

We want to make this process as simple as possible for you and provide you with support if you need it.

You can expect that once you offer a property the local authority your property is in will be in touch with you quickly and will maintain contact with you throughout the process. If you offer your property online, you will also be able to log on to your account at any stage to check the progress of your offer.

Step 1

You offer your property through the website or by contacting the local authority for your property.

Step 2

The local authority will contact you to confirm some details, discuss the process with you and answer any queries you may have.

Step 3

If you are happy to proceed, and your property is suitable, the local authority will arrange with you to assess the property. This is because properties must meet certain minimum standards and the assessment also helps to ensure the local authority can find the best match for the property.

Step 4

The local authority will let you know if the property meets the required standard.

If not, they will give you further information on what the issues were and how they might be addressed.

If the property met the required standards, the local authority will begin work to match the

property to the most suitable people in need of accommodation, considering their needs and local services.

Step 5

When a suitable Ukrainian person or family has been identified and agreed that they wish to take up the offer, the local authority will notify you and they will facilitate contact between you and the beneficiary.

The local authority will also provide you and the beneficiary with a template licence agreement, which you can choose to adapt or sign with the beneficiary before they move in.

After move-in and during the stay

Throughout the arrangement, the local authority will maintain contact with you and with the Ukrainian beneficiary and offer support if necessary.

When it comes to the end of the arrangement, the local authority can support the Ukrainian person or family to find alternative accommodation through other offered properties or through the Department of Children, Equality, Disadvantage, Integration and Youth.

What are the standards required of offered properties?

Properties need to be habitable and must meet certain health and safety standards, which the local authority can discuss with you. These standards have been agreed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The local authority will assess your property to make sure it meets the standards. If the property does not meet the standards, the local authority will explain why and can discuss what could be done to bring the property up to standard.

Some properties may not be suitable for all those in need of accommodation, due to location or other reasons. However, every effort will be made by the local authority to ensure that offered properties are matched to appropriate beneficiaries.

How long will the property be required for?

The local authority will discuss with you how long you would like to make the property available for initially in order to match the property to the most appropriate person or family.

A time period for the arrangement will be agreed before move-in.

When the arrangement comes to an end, if you do not wish to extend, the local authority can support the Ukrainian person or family to find alternative accommodation through other offered properties or through the Department of Children, Equality, Disadvantage, Integration

and Youth.

Will there be any form of formal agreement?

There is no requirement to enter a formal arrangement. However, it is recommended that property owners and beneficiaries sign a temporary accommodation licence agreement to protect the rights of the property owner and the beneficiary, and to protect the property itself.

The local authority can provide a template agreement, which can be used or adapted as required. Ukrainian and Russian language versions of the templates are available.

The 'licence period' should be stated on the licence agreement. At the end of the period, the licence period can be extended with the agreement of all parties.

Who can I contact if I have any queries or difficulties during the arrangement?

Local authority staff will be available to support you and offer information and advice throughout the arrangement. You can find contacts [here](#).

Who pays utility bills for the property?

You should agree this with the beneficiary at the outset of the arrangement. It is reasonable that the beneficiary would pay or contribute to the bills.

Should the beneficiaries require assistance in transferring bills to their names, they may contact Citizens Information, Community Response Fora or other groups assisting Ukrainians in their area.

Do I need to be Garda vetted to offer accommodation?

No, as we are seeking stand-alone unoccupied accommodation, Garda vetting is not required of the property owner.