

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 06 July 2022 09:47  
**To:** [redacted] <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Ukraine Welcome Hub, Edinburgh Airport - Use of Cruise Ship at Leith Docks

Good morning [redacted]

**[redacted – not in scope]**

I now find myself working as part of the SG 'Warm Scottish Welcome' Ukraine programme, overseeing the national/local matching service, which seeks to move displaced persons from initial welcome hub accommodation to sustainable housing, both social stock and private property offers from members of the public, as quickly and as securely as possible.

You will no doubt be aware of the very significant infrastructure pressures Edinburgh City Council is facing in terms of both initial welcome hub hotel accommodation and longer term accommodation availability. As such, SG and partner Local Authorities, are exploring all options to identify alternative temporary and longer term accommodation options.

One of those options favoured by the Minister is the use of cruise ships. SG is looking to charter an Estonian flagged cruise vessel which will be docked in Leith (possibly within the next 10 days) to accommodate Ukrainian refugees as an extension of the Welcome Hub temporary accommodation. As I understand it, the deck and technical crew will be Estonian and the hotel crew will be international, including Asians and Eastern Europeans. Some crew will arrive with the vessel and others will be arriving and departing by air during the course of its berth. As yet, I have no information on likely crew changes, or detail of passports or seamans books.

Of course, this raises the question of GM control from BF's perspective, and *inter alia* the application of 'reasonable time' in the context of the vessel and crew operating within UK waters. Would you be free to have a quick chat [redacted]?  
**[redacted – not in scope ]**

Many thanks in anticipation, and I look forward to hearing from you

Best regards,

**[redacted]**

**Scottish Government | Ukraine Response – Long term integration**

Mob: [redacted] | [redacted]@gov.scot

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**From:** [redacted]< [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 06 July 2022 11:48  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]< [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted] (Border Force)  
<[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Ukraine Welcome Hub, Edinburgh Airport - Use of Cruise Ship at Leith Docks

[redacted]

Good to hear from you, [redacted – not in scope]

I've copied [redacted] and [redacted], they can link with you locally but fundamentally, it feels like all the crew will essentially be working in the UK whilst docked in Leith. In normal circumstances that would mean they would all require the correct visas. There is an option for us to apply for a variance to the Operating Mandate but sequencing and the application will be key – the application would ideally be made in the planning phases rather than when this is a done deal so the further on the front foot the SG are iro Immigration arrangements the better. We'd need to understand why visas couldn't be secured and a Variance was necessary.

So if you can link with [redacted], they'll work through the immigration requirements with you and if there is a necessity to seek a Variance, we can progress that – I know you will understand why it would be best have all this sorted pre-arrival rather than at the last minute.

Regards

[redacted]  
Director  
Border Force North

2/32 Almond House, Edinburgh Airport, EH12 9DN

Tel: [redacted] Mobile: [redacted] Web: [www.gov.uk/border-force](http://www.gov.uk/border-force)

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 06 July 2022 14:17  
**To:** [redacted] (IND-IS) <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted]< [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [redacted] (Border Force) <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: Ukraine Welcome Hub, Edinburgh Airport - Use of Cruise Ship at Leith Docks

**[redacted – not in scope ]**

**[redacted]** - do you have time to discuss this today? The vessel is due to arrive imminently, thus I think we are in the space of seeking a level of variance or exemption from Home Office, at least for those crew members arriving onboard initially.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

**[redacted]**

**Scottish Government | Ukraine Response – Long term integration**

Mob: **[redacted]** | **[redacted]**

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**From:** **[redacted]**< **[redacted]**@homeoffice.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 06 July 2022 14:55

**To:** **[redacted]**< **[redacted]**@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** (IND-IS)  
<**[redacted]**@homeoffice.gov.uk>

**Cc:** **[redacted]** (Border Force) <**[redacted]**@homeoffice.gov.uk>; **[redacted]**  
<**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**  
<**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; **[redacted]** <**[redacted]**@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**  
<**[redacted]**@homeoffice.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Ukraine Welcome Hub, Edinburgh Airport - Use of Cruise Ship at Leith Docks

Hi **[redacted]**

Please can you provide some initial information and why discretion is needed so we can understand the request better.

- Number of people:
- Nationalities:
- Length of Stay:
- Job roles:

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

Points Based System and Economic Migration  
Migration Policy Unit  
Migration & Borders Group

Home Office

M: [redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 07 July 2022 12:17

**To:** [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk; [redacted] (IND-IS)

<[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>

**Cc:** [redacted] (Border Force) <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>;

[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;

[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]< [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>;

[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@socialsecurity.gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;

[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: Ukraine Welcome Hub, Edinburgh Airport - Use of Cruise Ship at Leith Docks

Morning [redacted],

We are still awaiting the final crew list being submitted by the ship agents, Columbia. It's anticipated this will be provided by tomorrow morning. The vessel, **Victoria I** is due to be at flag by Friday evening, expected to dock in Leith, Edinburgh on **Monday 11 July**. (timings tbc)

We understand the crew to be nationals of the following countries; Ukraine, Romania, Poland, Lithuania, Germany, Honduras, India. We understand all to have valid and current seafarers books and are otherwise fully documented.

The vessel will be used as an immediate extension of temporary welcome hub accommodation provided to displaced Ukrainians arriving in Scotland under the 'Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme', which operates in parallel with the UK Homes for Ukraine Visa scheme. The vessel will serve as welcome hub temporary accommodation until longer term and voluminous accommodation needs are addressed through expeditious and effective assimilation of displaced persons into sustainable accommodation. I would estimate this will be for a period upwards of 12 weeks initially.

The reason the Scottish Government is seeking this variance to your OM (or Home Office Ministerial discretion) is as follows;

**The Scottish Government is doing all it can to support people fleeing Ukraine. As part of this, Scotland has established the Super Sponsor Scheme which allows displaced people to obtain a visa without first having a host. The number of arrivals under this scheme are increasing exponentially as the crisis in Ukraine deepens. Providing temporary accommodation to displaced persons is becoming increasingly challenging. Due to this, and to ensure every displaced person arriving into Scotland has a safe place to stay, we have decided to increase our temporary accommodation capacity through the use of the 'Victoria I' cruise vessel. Officials have worked tirelessly in exploring all viable temporary accommodation options. Having exhausted all options, Scottish Ministers have exceptionally approved the use of this cruise vessel.**

**We must, however, ensure this passenger ship is available to operate in this capacity as early as possible in order to accommodate the anticipated number of arrivals. In light of this, we seek an urgent discretionary ruling on humanitarian grounds.**

**We fully recognise the importance and need for ensuring effective and legal migration routes to the UK. As displaced persons require immediate safe and secure accommodation, the Scottish Government must respond urgently. As such, there has been no opportunity for the arriving crew on-board to consider or apply for any appropriate visa or entry clearance permissions that would ordinarily be expected of seafarers arriving into the UK in such capacities. The Scottish Government is fully cognisant of the requirement that future crew joiners or crew changes will require the appropriate pre-clearances.**

**We have sought, where possible, to source local engaged workforce for this vessel, particularly on the hospitality and catering side. This has proved impossible due to the prevailing labour market conditions.**

I would be most grateful for your urgent considerations as noted in the foregoing. I will of course provide you with a comprehensive crew list at the very earliest opportunity, and do please let me know if there is anything additional required at this stage.

Kind regards,

**[redacted]**

**Scottish Government | Ukraine Response – Long term integration**

**Mob: [redacted] | [redacted]**

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**From:** [redacted]< [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 07 July 2022 12:36  
**To:** [redacted]< [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]< [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [redacted]< [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Ukraine Welcome Hub, Edinburgh Airport - Use of Cruise Ship at Leith Docks

Hi [redacted]

Do you have a rough estimate of the number of people without permission to work in the UK? Any concession would need ministerial approval, given the timeframe you need to plan to push back the date from Monday.

**[redacted – not in scope]**

Thanks  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
Points Based System and Economic Migration  
Migration Policy Unit  
Migration & Borders Group

Home Office  
M: [redacted]

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**From:** [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 07 July 2022 12:54  
**To:** [redacted]< [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [redacted]< [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Ukraine Welcome Hub, Edinburgh Airport - Use of Cruise Ship at Leith Docks

Thanks [redacted],

I think it's in the region of around 80 to 100 total crew. At this stage, I have no reliable idea of what visas they may hold, so my base assumption is they don't have one.

**[redacted – not in scope]**- I would say however we only seek this discretion for those crew initially arriving, Subsequent arrivals will be required to arrive fully documented

[redacted]

**Scottish Government | Ukraine Response – Long term integration**

Mob: [redacted] | [redacted]

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**From:** [redacted] <[redacted]>

**Sent:** 07 July 2022 13:00

**To:** [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>

**Cc:** [redacted] <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Ukraine Welcome Hub, Edinburgh Airport - Use of Cruise Ship at Leith Docks

Hi [redacted]

Thank you for the clarification. Please can you expand on the crew arriving, will the crew stay aboard the ship and service the ship for a period of time? Or will they be 'dropping off' the ship then leaving.

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

Points Based System and Economic Migration

Migration Policy Unit

Migration & Borders Group

Home Office

M: [redacted]

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**From:** [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 07 July 2022 13:09

**To:** [redacted] <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>

**Cc:** [redacted] <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Ukraine Welcome Hub, Edinburgh Airport - Use of Cruise Ship at Leith Docks

Thanks [redacted]

As I understand it, the crew will remain on-board the vessel throughout and will conduct maintenance and service as is normal for a vessel in berth. There will be the additional catering and hospitality angle though, considering this will in effect be a

welcome hub hotel. If they do disembark, it will be shore leave only or for repatriation.

**[redacted – out of scope]**

Best regards,

**[redacted]**

**Scottish Government | Ukraine Response – Long term integration**

Mob: **[redacted]**| **[redacted]**@gov.scot

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**From:** **[redacted]**< **[redacted]**@homeoffice.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 07 July 2022 17:26

**To:** **[redacted]**< **[redacted]**@gov.scot>; **[redacted]**  
<**[redacted]**@homeoffice.gov.uk>

**Cc:** **[redacted]**< **[redacted]**@homeoffice.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Ukraine Welcome Hub, Edinburgh Airport - Use of Cruise Ship at Leith Docks

Hi **[redacted]**

I am working on this with our legal team and so it is likely that we will have a ministerial decision at the earliest early next week. I have used some of the information you have included in this chain of emails, I hope that is ok.

Thanks

**[redacted]**

**[redacted]**

Points Based System and Economic Migration

Migration Policy Unit

Migration & Borders Group

Home Office

M: **[redacted]**

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**From:** **[redacted]**< **[redacted]**@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 08 July 2022 13:30



**To:** [redacted]< [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted]< [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [redacted]< [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted- not in scope ] [redacted – not in scope]; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@socialsecurity.gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted] <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted] (IND-IS) <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted] (Border Force) <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; EHRWelcomeandIntegration@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Ukraine Welcome Hub, Edinburgh Airport - Use of Cruise Ship at Leith Docks  
**Importance:** High

[redacted],

Please find attached the 'at sea' operating crew list manifest and the hospitality crew that will join the vessel once berthed, who are expected to arrive via EDI airport from Monday 11 July onwards. You will note that only a percentage of the hospitality posts are currently filled.

I would be most grateful for an update on the progress of the submission, and what additional considerations may be necessary, within the boundaries of that submission, to facilitate the hospitality joining crew from Monday.

Please can you copy colleagues to further exchanges on this subject so we can ensure weekend coverage and oversight.

Many thanks for your continued help and support [redacted], greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

**Scottish Government | Ukraine Response – Long term integration**

Mob: [redacted] | [redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]< [redacted]>  
**Sent:** 08 July 2022 16:00  
**To:** [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted]< [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted – not in scope ] [redacted – not in scope]; [redacted]< [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] [redacted]@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; [redacted]< [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]< [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted] (IND-IS) <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted]< [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted] (Border Force) <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted]< [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]< [redacted]@gov.scot>; Ukraine Welcome and Integration

<EIHRWelcomeandIntegration@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Ukraine Welcome Hub, Edinburgh Airport - Use of Cruise Ship at Leith Docks

Hi [redacted]

Thank you for the lists. We are unable to have a decision before Monday and therefore the crew need to make alternative travel arrangements. It would be preferable for the crew to wait to make travel arrangements until we have a decision and I will let you know the likely timings of a decision as soon as possible.

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

Points Based System and Economic Migration

Migration Policy Unit

Migration & Borders Group

Home Office

M: [redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 15 July 2022 08:31

**To:** [redacted]< [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>

**Cc:** [redacted]< [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted – out of scope];

[redacted- out of scope]; [redacted]< [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]

<[redacted]@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; [redacted]< [redacted]@gov.scot>;

[redacted]< [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted] (IND-IS)

<[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted]< [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>;

[redacted] (Border Force) <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted]<

[redacted]>; [redacted]< [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<

[redacted]@gov.scot>; Ukraine Welcome and Integration

<EIHRWelcomeandIntegration@gov.scot>; [redacted]< [redacted]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Ukraine Welcome Hub, Edinburgh Airport - Use of Cruise Ship at Leith Docks

Good morning [redacted]

Following our discussion last evening, please find attached the updated associated crew list as requested. [redacted]

We await your formal notification of decision.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you and your colleagues for all your support, consideration, and forbearance. Greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

**Scottish Government | Ukraine Response – Long term integration**

Mob: [redacted] | [redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 15 July 2022 09:17

**To:** [redacted] <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>

**Cc:** [redacted] <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted] <

[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted] (IND-IS)

<[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>;

[redacted] (Border Force) <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Ukraine Welcome Hub, Edinburgh Airport - Use of Cruise Ship at Leith Docks

[redacted],

Resending the updated associated crew manifest as requested last evening.

[redacted – not in scope]

Kind regards,

[redacted]

**Scottish Government | Ukraine Response – Long term integration**

Mob: [redacted] | [redacted]

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**From:** [redacted] <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 15 July 2022 15:41

**To:** [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Ukraine Welcome Hub, Edinburgh Airport - Use of Cruise Ship at Leith Docks

Hi [redacted]

Apologies we are still waiting for clearance. This will be progressed over the weekend but it may be Monday before we can issue the instruction to airports that would allow staff to fly in.

Thanks  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
Points Based System and Economic Migration  
Migration Policy Unit  
Migration & Borders Group

Home Office  
M: [redacted]

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**From:** [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 19 July 2022 08:19  
**To:** [redacted] <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@socialsecurity.gov.scot;  
[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;  
EIHRWelcomeandIntegration@gov.scot; [redacted]<  
[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>;  
[redacted] (IND-IS) <[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted]<  
[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>; [redacted] (Border Force)  
<[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Ukraine Welcome Hub, Edinburgh Airport - Use of Cruise Ship at Leith Docks

Good Morning [redacted],

Are you able to provide an update please? I had hoped we would have received your final confirmation by yesterday. We are now at risk of losing the associated crew we have already arranged to alternative overseas contracts, which will likely further delay proceedings and lead to amendments to the updated crew list I sent yesterday.

Many thanks in anticipation.

Best regards,

[redacted]

**Scottish Government | Ukraine Response – Long term integration**

Mob: [redacted] | [redacted]

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\*\*\*\*\*  
**From:** [redacted]< [redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 20 July 2022 17:43  
**To:** [redacted]< [redacted]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Ukraine Welcome and Integration <EIHRWelcomeandIntegration@gov.scot>;  
[redacted]< [redacted]@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; [redacted]  
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]< [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<  
[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]< [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<  
[redacted]@homeoffice.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Ukraine Welcome Hub, Edinburgh Airport - Use of Cruise Ship at Leith Docks

Hi [redacted]

Please see the attached guidance that outlines the parameters of the concession which can be shared with the crew members who will be using the concession.

The instructions to Border Force are going out ASAP which means that crew can travel to any airport and use the concession from then. I will email you when this has happened, I am hoping it will be in the next hour.

Please let me know if there are any issues.

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

Points Based System and Economic Migration  
Migration Policy Unit  
Migration & Borders Group

Home Office

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Home Office

## **Concessionary arrangements for Victoria I docked at the Port of Leith, Scotland**

### **July 2022**

In July 2022, the Minister for Safe and Legal Migration introduced a concession to the Immigration Rules. Under the concession, eligible foreign national workers employed on the vessel MS Victoria I docked at the Port of Leith, Scotland may be considered for a grant of leave to enter.

This concession is time limited: Leave to enter will not be granted for a period extending beyond 11 January 2023.

The terms of the concession are set out below.

1. The Home Office has introduced a concession to the Immigration Rules. Under the concession, foreign national workers employed on the vessel MS Victoria I, docked at the Port of Leith, Scotland, to work within UK territorial seas may be considered for a grant of leave to enter for a period of up to 6 months but not extending beyond 11 January 2023.
  2. Time spent in the UK under this concession will not count towards settlement. A person who is granted leave under this concession may not have recourse to public funds.
  3. A person may only be considered for a grant of leave to enter under this concession if they have produced:
    - a valid passport
    - a letter from their employer stating that the worker is employed on the named vessel MS Victoria I which is docked at the Port of Leith in Scotland
  4. Additionally, a person may only be granted leave to enter under this concession if they are aged 18 or over on the date of entry.
  
  6. The Home Office will have regard to Part 9: grounds for refusal of the Immigration Rules in considering the suitability of a person seeking leave to enter under this concession.
  
  7. On arrival to the UK, all workers (i.e. both visa nationals and non-visa nationals) must report to an Immigration Officer to apply for leave to enter under the terms of paragraphs 1-6 above.
-