

## Document 5

**From: (REDACTED)**

**Sent:** 24 October 2022 18:25

**To: (REDACTED)**

**Subject:** RE: For review: NLC pilot comms

Happy for my interests

**From: (REDACTED)**

**Sent:** 24 October 2022 17:40

**To: (REDACTED)**

**Subject:** For review: NLC pilot comms

Hi all,

We're still waiting for pictures from NLC following the visit.

We've drafted the text below for use on Twitter, as well as a proactive comms product that we'll issue tomorrow afternoon.

Are you content?

Thanks,

**(REDACTED)**

**Tweet:**

Minister for Refugees from Ukraine Neil Gray visited Birkshaw Tower in North Lanarkshire which has been refurbished with @scotgov funding to provide accommodation for displaced people from Ukraine. He met with representatives from @nlcpeople as well as a family that has moved in.

### **Proactive statement**

#### **Pilot project providing homes for displaced people from Ukraine**

People who have fled the conflict in Ukraine have started moving into flats in Birkshaw Tower in Wishaw which have been refurbished as part of a pilot project to increase the housing supply.

The pilot was supported by £5 million of Scottish Government funding ahead of the launch of the wider Ukraine Longer Term Resettlement Fund. The project has enabled North Lanarkshire Council to refurbish void properties in this block, as well as another in Coatbridge, and bring them back into use.

Minister with Special Responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine Neil Gray visited the tower block to meet with staff who completed the work and meet a family who are now residing there. Speaking after the visit, Mr Gray said:

“We want to help displaced people from Ukraine move to longer-term accommodation to provide them with their own space and help them settle in a community. I'm pleased that people are already living in some of the flats and that more will be moving in soon.

“It’s been great to see all the hard work North Lanarkshire Council have undertaken to bring these flats back into use to provide comfortable and secure homes for displaced people from Ukraine. I’m grateful for all the hard work the team have put in to make this happen.

“I would encourage other Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords to review their housing supply and consider if they have any properties that could be brought back into use through the Ukraine Longer Term Resettlement Fund. It is backed by up to £50 million of funding and will help increase housing supply across the country.”

#### **NLC comment**

#### **Background**

[Providing homes for displaced people from Ukraine](#)

**(REDACTED)**

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[www.gov.scot/news](http://www.gov.scot/news)

