



## Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

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Permanent Secretary

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10 October 2022

Dear Sir Geoffrey,

Thank you for your question put forward at the Public Accounts Committee Hearing; *the Affordable Homes Programme since 2015* (Thursday 22 September). You asked what the Government is doing to help those who have arrived from Ukraine with professional qualifications to enter employment. You gave the example of a Ukrainian guest who, despite being a fully qualified veterinarian, assumed an assistant-level role due to their English proficiency-level.

We are working across government to ensure those arriving from Ukraine can effectively utilise their skills and experiences. I have consulted officials in DLUHC and other departments (BEIS, DEFRA, DfE and DWP) to provide the below response to your question. This includes information on the specific support available for Ukrainian veterinarians.

### **Support for Veterinarians (and those with qualifications)**

In relation to veterinary professionals specifically, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) are the regulator for this profession in the UK and set the standards that all practising vets must reach. They have set out information on their website about the requirements for a person wishing to enter the UK veterinary profession (<https://www.rcvs.org.uk/registration/applications-veterinary-surgeons/europe/english-language-requirements/>). This sets out that a person must either possess a recognised qualification or have passed the RCVS statutory examination, and must have English language skills accepted by RCVS, such as having passed Level 7 of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or the Occupational English test.

RCVS have support in place to help those arriving from Ukraine with veterinary qualifications move into the workplace, including: waiving the RCVS Statutory Examination membership fee, providing financial support for accommodation and travel to attend examinations, free access to the RCVS knowledge library resources, and free membership to relevant associations. Ukrainians wishing to avail of this offer and explore further offers of support should contact the RCVS using contact details on their website.

BEIS officials engage regularly with professional regulators and UK businesses. They are available to regulators to support with enquiries regarding those who have arrived from Ukraine and have the relevant qualifications to pursue employment in their professions in the UK. Work is also ongoing with the UK Centre for Professional Qualifications to consider how best to support those arriving from Ukraine in fully utilising their professional qualifications whilst in the UK.

### **English Language Support**

We recognise the importance of English language provision for this cohort. Those who have arrived from Ukraine and are aged over 19 can access training to gain the skills they need to move on with their lives. They can access adult education, including provisions funded through the Adult Education Budget, and Level 3 Free Courses for Job Offer, such as English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). Councils are encouraged to use their Homes for Ukraine funding to put on additional/intensive ESOL provision as they see fit. Ukrainians can access ESOL by contacting their local council or further education college directly, who will be able to confirm what courses are available and when.

We recognise that access to ESOL provision is key to unlocking the opportunities the UK has to offer and we are continuing to monitor provision and look for opportunities to provide additional support. We are working across government to identify further avenues for improving employment opportunities and wider support, including options for sector specific ESOL training, recognition of professional qualifications, and encouraging guests to take-up available childcare provision.

With regards to children, schools are responsible for ensuring pupils develop the English proficiency-level(s) required to access curriculum and achieve their potential. Schools have the flexibility to use their overall budgets to support the English language development needs of their pupils.

### **Employment support**

Those who come to the UK on the Homes for Ukraine scheme and the Ukraine Family Scheme have immediate access to employment support and services. This support includes:

- access to benefits;
- wrap-around support through Jobcentre Place Based Partnerships, including signposting and access to charities and mental health providers;
- work coach support to identify suitable employment and provide support with training through the Sector-Based Workplace Academy Programme. This includes English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) training and support through Plan for Jobs;
- mobilisation of Advanced Customer Support Senior Leaders and Visiting Officers where complex needs are identified.

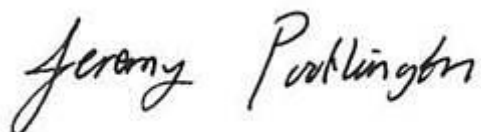
Ukrainians should express their desire to enter employment with their local council and can visit their local job centre to be paired with a work coach to assist them. Further details of how to apply for benefits and access employment is available on gov.uk in the 'Welcome Guide' ([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1100294/Ukraine\\_Welcome\\_Guide.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1100294/Ukraine_Welcome_Guide.pdf)).

Regarding support for employers, DWP has a single point of contact for all businesses expressing an interest in employing people from Ukraine. Here, employers can complete an automated form to provide all information relating to their vacancies. DWP's National Employers Partnership Team communicates all opportunities throughout the Jobcentre network so that work coaches can match customers to suitable jobs for DWP customers.

To reach non-DWP customers, these opportunities are also shared with the Refugee Employment Network, a UK-wide charity with a membership of over 200 refugee employment organisations. Information is available on gov.uk in the 'Offer work to people who have come to the UK from Ukraine' section (<https://www.gov.uk/offer-work-ukraine>).

I hope this response has provided additional clarity and reassurance on this important issue. I can assure you that we continue to work towards delivering as much support as possible – at all levels - for every Ukrainian person arriving in the UK through these schemes.

**Yours sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeremy Pocklington". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Jeremy" and the surname "Pocklington" clearly distinguishable.

**Jeremy Pocklington  
Permanent Secretary**