



Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP
Chair, Home Affairs Committee
Committee Office
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

16 April 2024

Dear Dame Diana,

Implementing necessary concessions for Ukrainian arrivals via the Common Travel Area.

I am writing to inform the committee that I have decided to update the Ministerial Authorisation issued under Schedule 3, Part 4, paragraph 17(4) of the Equality Act 2010 and under Article 20C(3)(a) of the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 to resolve a pressing issue facing Ukrainians who travelled to the UK through the Common Travel Area (CTA) without permission, and are now unable to regularise their stay in the UK.

The updated Ministerial Authorisation will underpin concessions to permit VSI decision-makers to exercise discretion when considering permission to stay or variation of permission applications, and to vary any outstanding entry clearance applications to permission to stay applications, from the following cohorts:

- Ukrainians issued with a valid permission to travel (PTT) letter prior to travelling to the UK, but who have not received an endorsement for permission to enter in the UK, having travelled through the CTA;
- Ukrainians who did not apply for a visa prior to arrival, travelled to the UK via the CTA before 16 November 2023, and have not received an endorsement for permission to enter in the UK;
- Ukrainians who submitted an out-of-country entry clearance application but travelled to the UK, via the CTA, before receiving a decision on that application.

Individuals in these cohorts are currently in the UK with no means of regularising their stay and are thus unable to receive a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP), live independently, work, or access benefits and services in the UK.

The decision to update this Ministerial Authorisation has been made exceptionally, given the unique circumstances by which Ukrainians have been able to travel to the UK without receiving necessary permission, to ensure we can continue to support Ukrainians to seek sanctuary in the UK and will be kept under review.

I am placing a copy of this letter and the authorisation for this measure in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

With best wishes,

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes, positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Tom Pursglove MP
Minister of State for Legal Migration and the Border