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Andrew McMurray MLA  
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Via email: [andrew.mcmurray@mla.niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.mcmurray@mla.niassembly.gov.uk)

Dear Andrew,

**ADDITIONAL RESPONSE TO QUESTION TIME QUESTION ON HOMES FOR UKRAINE**

Thank you for the question you raised during question time on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2025 in which you asked whether the Housing Executive expects, or is preparing for, any increase in demand as a consequence of the removal of the thank you payments to hosts of Ukrainian nationals in Northern Ireland. I committed to providing you with an answer to your question and I hope you will find the following helpful.

The NIHE has confirmed that it anticipates that the reduction in the level of thank-you payments will lead to an increase in the number of breakdowns in sponsorship and a reduction in the number of hosts available to offer a rematch option to guests; and, as such, is planning for a small increase in the number of Ukrainian households requiring homelessness assistance under its statutory homelessness duties.

If thank you payments were to cease, NIHE has indicated that this would likely have a significant impact on the numbers requiring homelessness assistance and would require a contingency response. However, there is no indication that this scenario will materialise.

Yours sincerely,

**Gordon Lyons MLA  
Minister for Communities**