

Mr Andrew Griffith MP
Financial Secretary to HM Treasury and City Minister
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London, SW1A 2HQ

16 September 2022

Dear Mr Griffith,

HMRC AND UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

On behalf of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) may I please seek your advice regarding the actions of HMRC towards Ukrainian refugees.

LCCI has decided to do all that it can to support Ukraine during this traumatic time for the country. We are working with the Cabinet Office, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Department for Work and Pensions to support Ukrainian refugees in London and to support businesses in Ukraine who are members of the Ukrainian Chambers of Commerce.

As part of this work, we have become aware that during the national period of mourning for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, HMRC chose this moment to change their policy towards Ukrainian refugees.

We understand that on 13 September, HMRC introduced a new policy for Ukrainian refugees who fled their country by car. The refugees had previously been told to complete a form for temporary admission relief to continue for three years. Instead, on 13 September, emails were apparently sent to Ukrainian refugees that this policy had been reversed and a new procedure now had to be followed by refugees where their cars are eligible for relief for a year.

We consider that it is unfortunate that when Ukrainian refugees were joining the nation at the moment of national mourning, that a major change in policy was announced. In addition, with Ukrainian refugees also having to adapt to life in the United Kingdom after having to leave their homes in the face of Putin's aggression, that complex arrangements were introduced by HMRC with, it seems, no advance warning offered to the refugees.

May we request that urgent consideration is given to returning to the status quo ante whilst consideration is also given as to what changes are practically required and to minimise disruption to the lives of refugees.

Yours sincerely



Richard Burge
Chief Executive

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