**Visa Application – Host’s experience**

*By Susie Everett & Gaby Barnard*

We had considered our situation and already registered for Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

When OASISS put a group to us, we met our Guests online a few times, to get comfortable. We used a Whatsapp Group, as we were all in different locations.

Once everyone was happy to proceed, we sent them the Visa questions (both English and Ukranian).

Our guests documented their answers and sent their information to us, plus scans of supporting documents:

* International Passport (essential)
* Bank statement (optional) Could also be a utility bill.

We gathered our own documents and scans of our passports.

We arranged a group Whatsapp call with our guests. With them on the line with us, we proceeded to the Visa application website and started to complete the form.

We used our own email address and created a password to login to each application form.

We completed all the questions – both for the Host and the Applicant (Ukranian).

Note: The form is designed to be completed by the ‘Applicant’ - the Ukranian Guest, but the early questions are all about the HOST. Be careful – there have been misunderstandings on this.

We gave our guest’s email address as the contact. There is a question ‘Is this your email address, or someone else’s ‘ to which you reply ‘Someone else’s’ then enter the guest’s email address. *(Obviously, this does not apply if you have logged in with the guest’s email at the start.)*

At the end of the Application, we submitted and downloaded a copy of the application for each of our Guests.

Then you are directed to another system, by which you can upload the supporting documents. The documents must be in PDF format.

We shared the login email and password with our guests, so that we could all go back into the Visa application if needed, to check on anything.

All 3 guests completed their applications on the same day, within a couple of hours of each other. 2 received a confirmation email that their ‘Application has been received’ within 24 hours, the 3rd received it within 72 hours. And similarly, 2 guests

received their ‘Permission to Travel’ letter (via email) within 7 days, whilst the 3rd Guest had to wait 2 weeks.

Other guests have had to wait a lot longer – generally when the situation is a little complicated by someone travelling with a guardian, rather than their parent. Or wanting to bring a pet into the country.

The 3 month quarantine for pets can now take place in the Hosts property, provided they do not already have a pet.