

To whom it may concern

Dear Landlord,

COVID-19 and supporting students in private housing

As we prepare to welcome University of Reading students for the start of the autumn term in September, I am writing to share more information about our plans so we can work better together.

We will be reopening our Whiteknights and London Road campuses in September and we have carefully designed a blended learning environment, combining face-to-face sessions on campus with online teaching. We are taking all necessary steps, in line with government advice, to adapt our facilities to protect the health and wellbeing of our whole community.

We are keen to maintain a dialogue with you to ensure our students are supported. If you become aware of any student tenants completing a period of self-isolation (due to quarantine or having symptoms of coronavirus) who are struggling to access essentials such as food and medicine, please do contact our Student Welfare Team at student-welfare@reading.ac.uk.

I would also like to take the opportunity to draw your attention to the [government advice](#) that clarifies landlord and tenant rights and responsibilities in the context of the Coronavirus Act 2020, including in relation to rent arrears and possession claims.

As highlighted in my previous letter, many of our students support themselves through paid work, often in the retail and hospitality sectors. As a result of the pandemic, some students may have lost their jobs or find their income reduced, and may struggle to keep up their rent payments. We ask that you are understanding towards those of your tenants – our students – who find themselves in these stressful circumstances.

Looking ahead to the longer term, we are also considering other ways we can work in partnership with you. Our Community Relations Team would like to set up a forum for landlords, letting agencies and university colleagues to

meet, discuss shared issues and agree ways to support student tenants. While we are unfortunately unable to host such an event face-to-face at this time, we remain committed to establishing a virtual forum in the meantime. If you would be interested in participating, or finding out more, please email community@reading.ac.uk

We thank you for your understanding and continued support of our students.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Van de Noort', with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

Professor Robert Van de Noort
Vice-Chancellor