

To whom it may concern

19 January 2021

Dear Landlord,

COVID-19

Given the ongoing uncertainty caused by COVID-19, we recognise that the pandemic has brought challenges to you as a landlord and we thank you for all that you are doing to support our students at the University of Reading.

As we start the spring term here at Reading largely online only, in line with government guidance, the overwhelming majority of our students have not returned from their vacation residence. Of course, as was the case last year, some of our students remain in Reading. Indeed, some of our students did not return home for various reasons, and for other students, Reading is home and they have nowhere else to go. As such, we urge you, in line with government advice around not evicting tenants, to do all you can to support those that need to stay in their private accommodation whilst the situation around COVID-19 continues.

Many of our students undertake full or part-time employment, which they rely on to support themselves while studying at Reading. As the government is urging students to stay at their vacation residence if they travelled home for Christmas, and not return to university, some of our students may not be able to continue working. Some of those employed in industries like retail or hospitality have lost their jobs or find their income reduced, or may have to take sick leave or self-isolate at lower pay, and therefore may struggle to keep up their rent payments over the coming weeks. We ask that you are understanding towards those of your tenants – our students – in these circumstances if they find themselves in financial hardship.

We have put arrangements in place to support our students, pastorally and financially. If you have concerns for any of your tenants, please encourage them to contact us for advice. Our COVID-19 Support Hotline is available on 0118 214 7813 from 9.15am to 4.30pm from Monday to Friday.

Whilst we understand in some cases there may be a request to give the required period of notice to relinquish their tenancy, others will need to stay in their accommodation for the reasons set out above. In these circumstances, the opportunity to make individual arrangements with you to agree a rent payment plan where necessary would be most appreciated.

Once again, we thank you for your ongoing understanding and appreciate anything you can do to support our students.

Kind regards,



Professor Robert Van de Noort
Vice-Chancellor



Rachel Osborne
President, Reading University
Student's Union