

Dear Student,

As you have been living in our halls of residence, I wanted to write to you with an update on the approach we are taking regarding the rental payments relating to accommodation for the final period of your licence. As you may be aware, your contracted licence agreement for halls of residence operates usually until just after the end of the academic year, which is dependent on your course and level of study. Obviously, you would ordinarily remain liable for rent until the end of this licence agreement.

However, we recognise these are unprecedented times, and whilst some of our students do remain in residences, the majority have now returned to their home addresses. The University acknowledges that there has to be some flexibility in this particular year, due to circumstances beyond all of our control.

As we approach Easter, it is not possible for us to project what the Government advice will be for the coming months. However, **if the situation does remain unchanged**, and normal face to face teaching cannot resume, then it has been decided that the following approach will be applied to the following categories of student;

- **For those students who have already left University halls**

It has been agreed that there will be no charges made for the third rental period (i.e. from the 20th April onward, for students who were living in our halls of residence and have now moved out). This allows students to leave their contracts several weeks early. This will apply even where belongings remain in your rooms (see separate note below on this issue). Therefore, no charge will be collected and no rental invoice will be raised from the 20th April onward.

- **For those students who remain living in halls beyond the Easter break (i.e. still residing from 20th April onward)**

For students who remain in halls, then rental charges for accommodation in halls will apply as normal. These will be collected in the standard way.

- **Belongings in residences and insurance cover**

The Endsleigh cover which is included within your rental payments will continue until the end of the academic year. Therefore, within this period of self-isolation it is not necessary to come to campus to collect your belongings. Once the advice changes, and social distancing rules are relaxed, we will write again to advise on the most suitable way to collect any remaining belongings that remain in halls.

We hope this provides some clarity on the situation, and allow for our students to plan their finances accordingly. Of course, if government advice changes dramatically in the next few weeks and face-to-face teaching is permitted to resume, then we understand you may wish to return to your room on campus. In this circumstance, you will be expected to inform the Accommodation Office that you

have returned, and normal charging from the date by which you return will resume. In this circumstance we expect to continue to offer both online and actual classes, to allow for those students who are self-isolating to still participate. My personal opinion is that sadly this resumption of face-to-face teaching is unlikely to occur, and accordingly we are planning for online teaching to continue for some time to come.

It should be noted that many of our accommodation blocks remain open, and the University is still incurring the costs of operating regular security patrols and ensuring accommodation staff are available 24/7. Additionally, we are still providing heating to these buildings, catering services to the remaining residents and insurance cover for all rooms across campus – including those which have been vacated but still have belongings within them. All of these services are intended to continue to support the small community of students that remain, and providing some comfort to those who have left their belongings in residences.

Finally, to reassure you I will be writing to you regularly as we receive more updates, information and guidance from Government and the Office for Students (OfS). As we have already communicated, those of you who are in receipt of Student Loans will receive the third payment from the SLC as normal in the weeks to come. In the meantime, please take good care of yourselves and we hope to be able to welcome you back soon to the University in the coming months.

Best,

Accommodation team