

Accommodation campaign

What are we doing and why?

We know that students are under increasing pressure during the current crisis. With teaching moving online many have returned to their family homes, others are caring for their children or other relatives and many have lost their part time work that supplements their student loans to help them pay for their rent.

We are asking for landlords and letting agents to support their student tenants at this time of crisis by either allowing students to break their contracts without any fees so that they are not paying for students or reduce, subsidise or waive rent for tenants who have experienced a detrimental financial impact as a result of the Coronavirus.

[We have written two open letters, one to landlords and one to our local MPs and councillors to ask for their support.](#)

What can you do?

1. Use our template email to ask your landlord for a break of contract if you have returned home, or to reduce or waive rent if you have been financially impacted by the coronavirus crisis.

We have created a template letter that you can send to your landlord which you can download **here** Please take time to read it edit it and understand it before you send it.

Until you reach an agreement with your landlord you should continue to pay your rent as normal. If you are currently living at your student accommodation you should follow the government advice to stay and not to travel to another home.

2. Sign and share the link to our petition with your family and friends.

We have started a petition calling on Housing Minister, Christopher Pincher MP and Universities Minister, Michelle Donelan MP to compel landlords, letting agents and accommodation providers to support students during this crisis.

3. Use template email to send to your local MP

We have created a template letter to send to you local MPs asking them to support students to break their contracts if they have returned home, or to reduce or waive rent if they have been financially impacted by the coronavirus crisis.

You can download the email here, make sure you read and edit it before you send it!

Below are the email addresses for the MPs from Brighton and Eastbourne. If you have moved away from your term time address already you can also contact the MP that represents your local constituency. To find out who that is use this tool: <https://members.parliament.uk/>

Caroline Lucas – Brighton Pavillion - brightonoffice@parliament.uk
& caroline.lucas.mp@parliament.uk

Lloyd Russell-Moyle – Brighton Kemptown - lloyd.russellmoyle.mp@parliament.uk &
lloyd@russell-moyle.co.uk

Peter Kyle – Hove - peter.kyle.mp@parliament.uk & hove.portslade@parliament.uk

Caroline Ansell – Eastbourne - caroline.ansell.mp@parliament.uk

4. Tweet your MP

You can tweet your MP on twitter asking for their support they are able to raise the issues in parliament and make representations to the government.

You can start by tweeting the MPs where most of our students live during term time, but people now living at their family home away from Brighton and Eastbourne should also find their local MP on twitter and contact them too.

Caroline Lucas – Brighton Pavillion - <https://twitter.com/CarolineLucas>

Lloyd Russell-Moyle – Brighton Kemptown - https://twitter.com/lloyd_rm

Peter Kyle – Hove - <https://twitter.com/peterkyle>

Caroline Ansell – Eastbourne - https://twitter.com/Caroline_Ansell

What are the National Union of Students' doing?

The NUS has also been working on this issue and have written letters to a number of key stakeholders including Universities UK, The National Landlords Association (NLA) and Residential Landlords Association (RLA) to ask for their support. You can read more about their work here: <https://www.nus.org.uk/en/news/press-releases/nus-demands-for-student-renters--open-letters-to-providers-of-student-rented-accommodation/?load=5&top=196>

What University support is available to you in the meantime?

Hardship Fund

You may already be aware, there is the Hardship Fund from the University (more information can be found [here](#)). It is means tested, and usually requires specific evidence such as bank statements to support your application. You should contact the [Student Advice Team to apply](#).

Student Fund

We have been working alongside the University to make provision for a new additional fund. It is available to any student who requires practical solutions to ensure they can continue learning online, for example if extra data was needed, updates to equipment etc. More information can be found [here](#) including the application form.