

To whom it may concern

Dear Landlord,

COVID-19

As we all enter a period of much change and uncertainty to manage the outbreak of the Coronavirus and following government advice around not evicting tenants, we are contacting you to make a request on behalf of our students at the University of Reading.

Although students will no longer be attending lectures and seminars on campus, the University has put in place arrangements for them to continue their programmes of study online. Some of our students will not be able to return home for various reasons; for other students Reading is home and they have nowhere else to go. As such, we urge you, in line with Government advice, to do all you can to support those that will need to stay in their 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. In these uncertain times because of the nature of the paid work many undertake (such as in the retail or hospitality sectors) some may lose 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.

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.

We thank you for your understanding and support of our University of Reading 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