

Mr Ben Beadle,  
Chief Executive,  
National Residential Landlords Association

By email - [ben.beadle@nrla.org.uk](mailto:ben.beadle@nrla.org.uk)

**23 April 2020**

Dear Ben,

Thank you for your emailed letter dated 14 April 2020.

We of course recognise the importance of private sector landlords to student accommodation. It is helpful to understand the particular pressures they are experiencing during this extraordinary time and the consequences this might have for the future student housing market.

It is worth noting that although students are still in receipt of maintenance loans (as your letter highlights), they may nonetheless be experiencing financial difficulties with their ability to earn additional income through part-time work curtailed. At the same time, though many students were able to return to family homes before the national lockdown, family incomes may also be challenged by the current situation.

Universities have themselves been supplementing hardship funds and enhancing student support. Many have, as you know, waived rents for their own purpose-built student accommodation, taking on a significant in-year cost.

We are very encouraged by the efforts your members may be making to recognise the difficulties students are experiencing in a way that goes beyond compliance with the moratorium on evictions.

At the same time, we appreciate that these may also be challenging times for private sector landlords, and we are happy to share your letter with our members drawing attention to the two suggestions you make. I will do so later today.

## The voice of universities

Chief Executive  
Alistair Jarvis

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There may be other issues where joint action between universities and landlords might be helpful, for example, the unresolved issue of council tax on unoccupied property. Please do get in touch if you want to draw issues or opportunities to our attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Jarvis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Alistair Jarvis**  
Chief Executive  
Universities UK