

9th April 2020

Dear sir/madam,

We are contacting you on behalf of the members of Teesside University Students' Union to outline a request for you to consider the extraordinary circumstances our students find themselves in due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Following the Government lockdown our University campus has closed with many students going back home and struggling due to Covid-19. Numerous international students have already travelled home as they otherwise would have been stranded in the UK.

We understand your business must be under considerable financial pressure as is our Students' Union, but we respectfully ask that you consider offering your student tenants:

1. Early release from the housing contract if they leave at Easter
2. For those unable to leave, a reduced rent or rent-free arrangement until the end of the academic year

Many students are no longer able to work, others are on zero hours contracts and have no sense of job security and many are already in financial hardship. Considerable numbers of students, particularly those from a high-risk demographic are now needing to self-isolate which is very difficult for those living in accommodation with a shared facilities.

Students are at risk of mental health issues such as anxiety, depression and homesickness which has been exacerbated by isolation and financial pressures. The University has recognised these issues and has allowed students to leave their halls accommodation without paying further rent.

At Teesside University Student's Union, we believe that all students should be offered the same opportunity to make the decision as to where they are going to stay during this period of uncertainty.

On behalf of the Teesside University Students' Union membership, we are requesting that you consider our requests and put student welfare at the forefront of your service delivery. We understand this is a huge request and would massively appreciate your help.

Many thanks.

Yours Sincerely,

Sophie Bennett – President Welfare Teesside University Students' Union
Alan Lofthouse – President Education Teesside University Students' Union
George Reeves – President Activities Teesside University Students' Union