



Huddersfield Students' Union  
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30/03/2020

Dear DIGS Management,

As the Officers of Huddersfield Students' Union we are writing this open letter to express our concerns that DIGS Huddersfield have not offered students the ability to terminate tenancy agreements early following the enormous effects of Covid-19.

Here in Huddersfield we have seen all other major accommodation providers including Host, iQ and Hello Student issue statements providing students with clear information on their options for early release or contract extensions.

We believe it's in the interest of our students that during this unprecedented and highly stressful time you reconsider your position and issue clear communications that provide students with similar choices.

Although Student Finance England have confirmed the third instalment of maintenance loans, we envisage many of our students having issues with their accommodation in the coming weeks and months. We believe these issues are likely to be centred around three main circumstances outlined below:

**Paying for accommodation that is no longer needed** – as courses and assessments are being undertaken remotely a lot of students returned home and will be unable to return due to travel restrictions.

**Unable to afford rent due to loss of income** – where maintenance loans do not cover rent and living expenses some students will have made up the difference through part time work. With many businesses closed now many students will have lost their additional income either completely or partially.

**Unable to leave their accommodation even though their contract expires** – even though their contracts may have expired some students will be unable to return home due to travel restrictions.

The Students' Union is receiving an increasing number of students worried about their accommodation, how they will make ends meet and being frustrated about paying for something that will no longer be used.

The NUS are currently applying pressure to the government to do something about the situational nationally, however we believe there is also a need to open the conversation locally. We have already seen the Unite Group (which includes Liberty Living), Student Roost, Nottingham Trent, Leeds Beckett and many others following suit by allowing students to end their contracts early without paying any further rent or contract extensions.

We look forward to receiving your support with this.

Kind Regards,

Emmanuel Haruna, President  
Adesewa Adebisi, Education Officer  
Adetayo Opakunle, Equalities Officer  
Bethany Woodcock, Community Officer  
Lucy French, Activities Officer