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An open letter to landlords of Royal Holloway students

Dear Landlord,

Since we last wrote to you back in March 2020, the country has been dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. Fortunately, with the rollout of vaccines, the end is in sight, but not without the need for a further lockdown to get us through the next few months.

At Royal Holloway, our relationship with our wider community is important to us and we value the ties we have with you and the wider community. For these reasons, we have worked with the NHS to provide a community testing facility for anybody with Covid-19 symptoms. To further protect our local community, students and staff, we have also set up a campus testing facility and we require all students who are in residence locally to be tested twice to ensure they are fit and healthy, or to isolate. If any student in your property is in isolation, we can support them if they report their condition to the university using this link: <https://intranet.royalholloway.ac.uk/studentcovidreporting>. There is further information at <https://royalholloway.ac.uk/coronavirus-updates> including links on supporting students.

With the government-imposed lockdown, we are aware that the majority of our students are not able to return to their term-time address and, coupled with their inability to undertake part-time work, many students face financial hardship. The government has provided some hardship funding which students can apply for to help them, but these resources are limited.

As a result, for the period of lockdown, we are waiving the rent of students who are unable to return to our halls of residence.

As a local landlord, from owners of single properties to much larger organisations, you play an important role in the residential ecosystem in the area and we are asking you to join with us in supporting our students in this unprecedented situation by also showing as much flexibility as you are able with residential contracts for the remainder of the lockdown period.

In this time of crisis, our students will be hoping that they can count on your support. We hope you, like us, will be able to provide that support.

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Kate Roberts
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