



The University of Surrey
Students' Union

University of Surrey Students' Union
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University of Surrey
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Email: ussu.president@surrey.ac.uk

Dear Vice Chancellor,

Re: Student Halls 2 Week Rent Rebate

In the light of the government's instructions to Universities regarding a Christmas travel window for students, we are writing today regarding the offer of a two-week rent rebate for students living in University Halls – an offer which is now being provided by other higher education providers nationally.

We know you agree that the Covid-19 pandemic has provided a whole host of challenges for our students. From adapting to hybrid learning, to the social restrictions of household bubbles, alongside the worldwide challenges and the limited access to family and friends.

Other Universities around the country, including Sheffield, Kings College London and Manchester, have offered this two-week rent refund to students to recognise the recommended departure dates in the government's instructions. By doing this, these institutions have shown that they understand and have responded to the financial strain that students and their families are currently facing, and the detrimental impact on students and their learning. Surrey students need and deserve a response from their University.

The instructions from the government for students to return home, and the accompanying guidance for Universities to cease all extra-curricular activity, leaves those students who, for whatever reason, have no choice but to stay on campus, with limited access to activities outside of their student rooms, which are not fit for (nor were ever set up for) living in isolation.

As a University of Surrey Students Union Sabbatical Team, we are reaching out to University Senior Management to request that a two-week rent refund for all students is provided to recognise the national guidance for students to vacate their rooms early, and to support the financial position students and their families face.

Regards,

Lizzie Rodulson
President

Aaron Seabrook
VP Support

Theo Donnelly
VP Voice

Izzy Watkins
VP Community

Maya Altamimi
VP Activity