

By email: Mr Julian Sturdy MP
CC: Jamie Andrews, President of York St John Students' Union
Patrick O'Donnell, President of York University Students' Union
Professor Charlie Jeffery, Vice Chancellor University of York

8 January 2021

Mr Julian Sturdy MP
MP for York Outer
York Conservatives
1 Ash Street
Poppleton Road
York
YO26 4UR

Dear Julian

We are writing to you as representatives of the Higher Education institutions in York to raise concerns regarding the approach to higher education during this current national lockdown. University students have often been ignored or treated at best as an afterthought whenever new guidance has been announced and this time is no different. The latest, last minute lockdown has caused real confusion across the higher education sector with many students now being told to stay in their family homes where they spent the Christmas break.

This has raised several questions surrounding rent rebates for students who cannot access the accommodation they are paying for. These questions are being directed towards individual universities and landlords where in many cases, the institution and landlords cannot afford to refund accommodation costs, and as a result the students are the ones left with financial worry and distress.



Vice Chancellor: Professor Karen Bryan OBE



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We are therefore requesting that you, as our local MP, urgently lobby the government to introduce national comprehensive financial support for universities and landlords that will in turn allow them to provide rent rebates without suffering sudden unplanned financial burden as a result of pandemic measures.

We would also welcome your commitment locally in supporting our campaign to ensure that students at both York St John University and the University of York are treated more positively by a government that doesn't seem to recognise the needs of university students.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,



Jamie Andrews

President of York St John Students' Union



Patrick O'Donnell

President of York University Students' Union



Professor Karen Bryan

Vice Chancellor, York St John University



Vice Chancellor: Professor Karen Bryan OBE



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**YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY**

York St John University
Lord Mayor's Walk
York YO31 7EX
+44(0)1904 876 600
vc@yorksja.ac.uk
www.yorksja.ac.uk



Professor Charlie Jeffery
Vice Chancellor, University of York

In support:

Dr Pürnur Altay

President of York Graduate Students' Association

Emma Palmer

President of Wellbeing & Diversity York St John Students' Union

Jenny Marchant

President of Education York St John Students' Union



Vice Chancellor: Professor Karen Bryan OBE



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