

## SU MOTION

### Free From Fees: Saving students from renting fees

#### PREFACE

For too long, students have been ripped off by universities, landlords and letting agencies when it comes to housing. With rising rents squeezing the cost of living, the banning of renting fees is welcome. However, for students to take advantage when signing for their 2019-20 properties, they must wait until April 2019.

#### NOTES

- From April 2019, the ban on renting fees will come into force.
- This means that landlords and letting agents won't be able to charge for: Admin charges; Credit checks; Referencing, Guarantor charges; Property inventories; Cleaning services when leaving; Defleaing a property due to tenants' pets; Gardening services; Renewal and exit fees; and Setting requirements to having specific insurance companies.
- In total, renting fees cost on average **£200-£300 per person** per tenancy, although for many it is significantly more.
- While in the long-term this ban is welcome news for students, to benefit in the short-term, they need to be savvy.
- Although next year's housing contracts don't begin until the summer, and most students won't move in until September, **if they sign before April 2019** they are liable to be charged renting fees.

#### BELIEVES

- That students are often charged extortionate rents by universities, landlords and letting agencies.
- That students often lack information regarding their rights as tenants.
- That two of our Students' Union's main responsibilities include educating students about their rights and helping students with the cost of living, including on housing.
- That our Students' Union should proactively work with landlords and letting agents to lower housing costs for students.

#### RESOLVES

- To educate students – for example through emails, social media and posters – about the change in law and what it means for them. Specifically, that in order to take advantage of the renting fees ban for next year's housing, students must wait until April 2019 to sign.
- To lobby local landlords and letting agents to waive renting fees for houses moved into in or after April 2019 – this would save money for all students, regardless of when they sign.
- To continue the awareness campaign in and after April 2019, outlining that renting fees are no longer legal, to protect students from any sneaky landlords and letting agents who still try to charge for these costs.

