



Cllr Sem Moema  
Mayoral Advisor for Private  
Renting and Housing Affordability  
Hackney Council  
Town Hall  
Mare Street  
London E8 1EA  
[sem.moema@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:sem.moema@hackney.gov.uk)

27 May 2020

Dear Landlord,

**Re: Protecting private renters affected by coronavirus**


At the beginning of the coronavirus crisis, I wrote to landlords and managing agents in Hackney to ask you to do everything you can to support private renters in Hackney who are or will become affected by the outbreak.

As you may be aware, the government placed a temporary ban on evictions for at least three months from March, and in Hackney we expect landlords to strictly adhere to these regulations. But we have also called on you to do even more to protect your tenants and go beyond the government's requirements where they need extra help. That means offering time and flexibility where tenants are struggling financially as a result of the coronavirus crisis, and considering rent reductions where a tenant really cannot pay.

We have been contacted by some residents with concerns about treatment from their landlords, but it is also clear that many landlords are supporting their tenants and we are grateful for this.

Although we remain very much in the centre of the crisis – and despite mortgage relief for landlords being extended – the government has not yet announced plans to extend the ban on evictions beyond late June, putting the security of thousands of households in Hackney at risk. That's why I have written to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to ask for a long-term plan to provide continued protection for private renters. You can read this letter online at:  
<https://news.hackney.gov.uk/download/872385/mco20052101lettertorobertjenrick.pdf>

In the meantime, I would like to reiterate that many renters' incomes are being significantly affected by the pandemic, and Hackney's high rent levels mean support through sick pay or Universal Credit is rarely enough to provide security. Regardless of the regulations required by government, I strongly encourage you to help Hackney set the right example and provide your tenants with the support they need.

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Our benefits and housing needs service can help ensure tenants get the financial support they are entitled to, provide advice on maintaining tenancies, and – where there is likely to be shortfalls in rent payments – help with applications for discretionary housing payments.

Full information is available at [hackney.gov.uk/coronavirus-financial-support](https://hackney.gov.uk/coronavirus-financial-support)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sem Moema', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Councillor Sem Moema

**Mayoral Advisor for Private Renting and Housing Affordability**