



Duncan Willows

By email: [request-718439-236aad45@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-718439-236aad45@whatdotheyknow.com)

FOI Reference: FOI2021/00884  
08/02/2021

Dear Duncan Willows

I refer to your request where you asked:

*"Dear Prime Minister's Office,*

*You enacted the Coronavirus Regulations:*

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/350/regulation/5/made>

*Can you please tell me whether section 5 (3) of the regulations (Further restrictions and closures during the emergency period); required University accommodation providers to cease carrying on the provision of providing accommodation to university students where students could travel home safely prior to the Prime Ministers public address to the nation on the 23rd March and the subsequent coronavirus legislation?*

*In short, does sections 5 (3) extend to all accommodation providers?*

*"(3) Subject to paragraph (4), a person responsible for carrying on a business consisting of the provision of holiday accommodation, whether in a hotel, hostel, bed and breakfast accommodation, holiday apartment, home, cottage or bungalow, campsite, caravan park or boarding house, must cease to carry on that business during the emergency period".*

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that some of the information you requested is held by the Cabinet Office.

Student accommodation was allowed to stay open as it is not the provision of holiday accommodation and it is not specified in those categories outlined in 5(3), but is a residence where people live.

Some University accommodation is used for holiday accommodation outside of term time in which case it would fall within the closures in Regulation 5(3). But not where applied to accommodation for students at the University because it would not be considered a 'holiday accommodation'.

The Department of Health and Social Care may be able to provide more information and you may wish to contact the department on this link:

### [Contact DHSC](#)

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the FOI Team quoting the reference number above.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Rachel Anderson  
Head of Freedom of Information  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS

email: [foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued. If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House

Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

*Yours sincerely*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Khan', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp or watermark.

*FOI Team  
Cabinet Office*