

Motion to Restrict the Rents!

Submitted by Momin Saqib

Conference Believes:

1. Nearly two-thirds of university halls cost more than the minimum student loan.¹
2. Universities which rent rooms or halls from private student accommodation providers e.g. Unite Students and Urbanest are unable to lower student rents below the cost of renting from these providers without making a loss.
3. The 2018/19 Accommodation Costs Survey shows that 49.5% of student accommodation is owned by private providers rather than institutions.
4. The 2018/19 Accommodation Costs Survey recommends that “the Office for Students should require those it regulates to have an affordability policy relating to their own and partnered student accommodation, which should contain meaningful commitments to ensure affordability”.
5. The Office for Students cannot directly regulate private student accommodation providers.

Conference further believes:

1. Housing is a human right.
2. No student should have their student experience curtailed by unaffordable accommodation.
3. The amount universities can spend on renting halls or rooms from private providers drives private providers to charge higher rents.
4. Serious measures must be taken to address unaffordable student housing.

Conference resolves:

1. To campaign for the Office for Students to follow the recommendation in Conference Believes 4.
2. To campaign for the Office for Students to cap, as a percentage of university expenditure, the amount universities can spend on renting halls or rooms from private providers, while still providing a minimum accommodation guarantee to students.

¹ <https://thetab.com/uk/2018/08/01/nearly-two-thirds-of-uni-halls-cost-more-than-the-minimum-student-loan-75633>