

Dear [Chair of Housing and Leader of Council],

Homes for All, with several other organisations, is alarmed at the government's lifting of the COVID eviction ban on 21st September. Shelter has warned of a potential "tidal wave" of homelessness, with 230,000 households already at risk because they have lost income during the crisis and - through no fault of their own - fallen into rent arrears. Generation Rent estimate there may already be 40,000 eviction cases in the pipeline. This situation is bound to worsen as furlough and other financial support schemes end, and tighter lockdown restrictions are imposed. There are four things you can do to help, and we would warmly welcome your action and support.

1. We have been working with Generation Rent to try to assess the level of court actions because we think it's important to build up a national picture of what's going on. To help us support people and map the impact, can you share any data you have about how the lifting of the eviction ban is impacting people in your area? In particular, can you tell us how many council, housing association and private renter tenants' eviction notices have been served in your area?
2. We also think it's important to remember that ALL tenants are potentially under threat, albeit that private renters are often most vulnerable. Can you confirm that your local authority will not evict any council tenants due to rent arrears accrued as a result of (or during) the pandemic?
3. Would you pass on this "No COVID Evictions" call to your partner housing associations and private landlords in your area, and strongly encourage them to follow suit? We believe this would send a vital signal of mutual support and solidarity during these very difficult times and help us to build the kind of national consensus we need to ensure that everyone has a home, not just now, but always.
4. Will you join us in launching a national, non-party political campaign calling on government to raise the Local Housing Allowance to help keep people in their homes?

Your etc...