



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) BRIEFING: TEMPORARY CHANGES TO RIGHT TO RENT CHECKS

The UKVI has confirmed that landlords will not be required to see original documents during the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown.

Right to rent checks have been adapted to make it easier for landlords to carry them out during the coronavirus outbreak. Effective immediately, the temporary changes will mean the Home Office will not require landlords to see original documents and will allow checks to be undertaken over video calls.

These temporary changes will mean that during the coronavirus outbreak prospective renters will be able to submit scanned documents, rather than originals, to show they have a right to rent.

As of 30 March 2020 the following temporary changes have been made:

- checks can now be carried out over video calls
- tenants can send scanned documents or a photo of documents for checks using email or a mobile app, rather than sending originals
- landlords should use the [Landlord's Checking Service](#) if a prospective or existing tenant cannot provide any of the existing documents

The UKVI accepts that because of COVID-19 some individuals will be unable to evidence their right to rent. During this period, landlords should take extra care to ensure that no-one is discriminated against because they are struggling to evidence their right to rent. For more information, please see the [code of practice for landlords: avoiding unlawful discrimination when conducting right to rent checks in the private rented residential sector](#).

Landlords are also reminded it remains an offence to knowingly lease premises to a person who is not lawfully in the UK.

Once the Covid-19 measures end (a date which has not yet been specified), landlords will have eight weeks in which to undertake retrospective right to rent checks on those who new tenancies during the period the measures were in place. The retrospective right to rent checks must be fully compliant with the current [code of practice](#).

Further information on how to conduct the checks and what follow up will be required by Landlords can be found [here](#).

If you have any queries, please contact a member of the Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP immigration team: immigration.enquiries@penningtonslaw.com