

Appendix A: Student Housing Horror Stories

Below are a series of case studies about just a few housing situations from students in Wales*. As you can see poor housing can result in serious consequences, from ability to study effectively, to long term health conditions.

Housing horror story 1

A group of seven took a contract on a property for their second year of study. Soon after, due to the property being in such poor shape the Council declared it unsafe to live in and they temporarily had to move out. Renovations were booked in yet they were still expected to pay rent – they were given little choice, that or lose the house. However, it soon came to their attention that even though the property was declared unsafe, and even though they were still were paying rent on it – the landlord was leasing rooms out to other people.

Skip forward a month when the tenants were finally due to move back in. It was apparent that the renovations had not be completed and there was no working gas, electric or water. In addition, the sofas were covered in wet mould, when approached the landlord said all the students needed to do was turn the heating on to dry them out. But what heating? There was no gas or electric.

Later that month, the basement toilet became blocked. Plumbers took two weeks to be booked in to sort the problem. By that time sewage had started overflowing and leaking out of the toilet and the pipes, and had also started rising up in the bath through the plug hole. The plumbers said it was the worst thing they had ever seen and smelt in all five years of their plumbing employment. You could even smell the sewage from the pavement outside.

Unsurprisingly during this time, most of the students in the house came down with a nasty virus.

*Case studies have been anonymised to protect some tenants still living in their accommodation.

Things started looking up for the house mates until the spring. At that point the landlord attempted to collect rent owed by one tenant from the debit cards of all seven the tenants – without telling them. Luckily this only worked on three of the seven tenants.

Thankfully the students no longer live in this property, but they were so frustrated by their year in the house they made a music video about it – found [here](#).



