**(Name)**

**(Full address)**

**(Postcode)**

**(Date)**

Dear **(MP name)**,

My name is **(add name)** and I am a constituent of **(add constituency)**. I am writing to you because I am very concerned that university students who have experience of the care system, are being blocked from finding accommodation because they don’t have access to rent guarantors.

Student landlords are now asking for rent guarantors as standard. Most students can ask a parent or family member, but for the 16,000 university students who are care leavers or estranged from their families, this simply isn’t an option.

This means that those care-experienced or estranged students, who are already at a disadvantage through no fault of their own, are further disadvantaged when it comes to finding accommodation at University.

**Not having access to a rent guarantor shouldn’t be something that stops care experienced and estranged students finding somewhere to live and completing their degrees.**

Research from The Unite Foundation [‘This is Ten Years of Impact’](https://thisisusatuni.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/UNF_Report_16-9_v6.pdf) report in 2022 shows that given a stable place to live, care-experienced students complete their degrees at the same rate as non-care experienced students and are awarded top rate degrees at the same rate too.

We need the following action to address the rent guarantor issue:

* Ask universities to step-up and provide a rent guarantor service for students who need it.
* Require universities to provide information on their rent guarantor service on their websites and ensure this is signposted to care experienced and estranged students.

In your response to this letter, please outline the ways you intend to address this issue on my behalf. If you are unable to take action personally, please let me know which Minister or department you have escalated my letter to.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,