

## URGENT: Priority Courts Established “Justice must be served”

27 MARCH 2020

It is not all doom and gloom. And despite what people may be saying, the world continues to spin on its axis.

### Why is this important?

At a time when known institutions and organisations within our society are being challenged, it is absolutely vital that anyone and everyone with the ability and resources to help, steps up. As night follows day, Covid-19 will pass. At that time, questions will be asked, especially of the larger, once more powerful organisations. Questions such as : ‘what did you do?’ will need to be answered.

### What can social landlords do?

It is absolutely right that the Government and MHCLG have worked to restrict possession actions. Social mobility must, at this time, be restricted.

But what does this mean for your residents, some of the most vulnerable within our society?

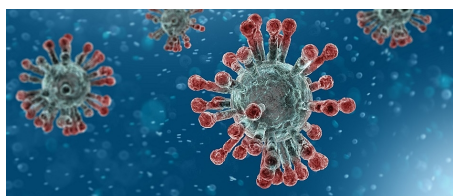
As resources are stretched to the maximum, policing and law enforcement generally is struggling to cope. This leaves more and more vulnerable residents at risk. Whether to individuals or gangs, the risk is disproportionately high, and getting higher.

Sheltered and hostel accommodation may be left more exposed and vulnerable than usual.

But this is the tip of the iceberg.

### Due Process of Law

For a society to function, the Due Process of law must exist. Whilst our health services are society’s paramount responsibility at this time, legal services are a close second to ensure society continues to function, and safely.



Over the past decade or so, at the repeated request of the social housing sector, more and more enforcement powers have been given to social landlords.

Now, more than ever, is the time for those powers to be used. And if they aren’t used, questions will, inevitably and ultimately be asked.

### Priority Courts

In response to the crisis, the Government have established Priority Courts with effect from Monday, 30 March. In the words of the Lord Chancellor: “It is vital that we keep our courts running.” Justice must be served.

### ASB Injunction

At 10am on Friday, 27 March, Brighton County Court granted one of our social landlord clients an urgent without notice injunction.

The injunction excludes the named individual from coming within 50 metres of a hostel and operates to control his anti-social behaviour.

### The Facts

In February 2020, a young male was evicted from his accommodation for threatening behaviour.

Since being evicted he has returned to the scheme and threatened vulnerable residents and staff.

On 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the hostel staff were required to stay at home and self-isolate. The residents, and building, were put at increased risk as a result.

On 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020 HLS was instructed, and applied for, an urgent without notice injunction against the former resident.

On 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Brighton County Court granted the Injunction, excluding the resident and attaching a Power of Arrest.

**The powers exist. You must now, more than ever, seek to exercise them.**

For more information, please contact the team at [housing law services](mailto:info@housinglawservices.co.uk)