

DUSA ADVICE

# HOW TO VIEW AND LIVE IN A PROPERTY SAFELY

Whether you're going in Student Residence or renting privately, here are DUSA's tips when viewing a new property.



## PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR

- When choosing your flat it is essential that you research the area, the property and your landlord.
- When viewing accommodation, take someone along, or tell them where you're going and when you'll be back.
- Consider the time that you go to view the property - will it be dark?
- Think about the level of security and general area - is the street lighting sufficient?
- Make sure potential landlords are registered with Dundee City Council Landlord Registration. All landlords must be registered by law.
- Meet all potential flatmates in advance. If you sign a joint tenancy and your flatmate/s don't pay you will be legally bound to pay your share of the rent and what they haven't paid
- Is the property fitted with a smoke detector and (where appropriate) a CO2 detector?
- Are there curtains in any street facing room?
- Introduce yourself to your neighbours. It is always better to be on good terms and you can look out for each other's properties.
- Don't leave keys in locks or in places an intruder could easily find them.
- Don't keep flat keys and car keys on the same key ring in case this gets lost or stolen.
- Make sure your door entry system is working and all entrance to the property are secure.
- And when you go out, make sure all the doors and windows are locked.
- Don't give keys to tradesmen - they could make copies.



## HALLS OF RESIDENCE

- Don't let anyone into the building unless you know them or have seen identification.
- Don't let anyone you don't know follow you through a controlled doorway.
- If you're ordering a takeaway, don't give the delivery driver the keypad number for the security door.
- When leaving your accommodation, lock all doors and windows.
- Don't put your name or room number on your keyring. It could direct a thief to your property.
- Report any suspicious activity to campus security.