



HMO Management Plan covering Internal & External Communal Areas

14 Boston Avenue, Reading, RG1 6JU

June 2019

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INTRODUCTION

This is the Management Plan for occupants of 14 Boston Avenue, Reading, RG1 6JU. The house is classified as an HMO (House in Multiple Occupancy) and therefore subject to all associated regulations. This document has been assembled following guidance provided in Reading Borough Council's "Houses in Multiple Occupation - Management Pack". A copy of this document has been filed with Reading BC, who require it that it covers:

- Responsibilities and standards for the management of the internal communal areas including the kitchen, dining area, living room and shared bathrooms;
- Responsibilities and standards for the management of common parts, fixtures, fittings and appliances;
- Responsibilities and standards for the management of external areas in terms of landscaping, maintenance and tidiness, especially where visible from the street;
- Responsibilities and standards for the use and tidiness of bins, bin stores, and the management of refuse;
- Responsibilities and standards for the parking of cycles.

New housemates

A copy of this Management Plan will be kept in the Tenants Information File at the house. Every tenant is given a personal house tour when they first move in, during which they are shown the contents of the Tenants Information File which includes, in addition to this Management Plan:

- Useful contact numbers and addresses (landlord, property manager, utility companies, nearest doctors' surgery, nearest pharmacy)
- What action to take in an emergency (fire, gas leak, water leak or power cut)
- A copy of the House Rules & Guidelines, which includes:
 - § Consideration towards housemates & neighbors;
 - § Hygiene & cleanliness;
 - § Safety & security;
 - § Heating & plumbing.
- Advice for avoiding condensation & mould
- Copies of the council recycling guidelines
- Parking arrangements
- How to use the cycle store
- A map of local amenities
- Cooking & oven instructions
- Washing machine instructions

Who manages the house?

It is the tenants' joint responsibility to ensure that the house, gardens and driveway are kept tidy and treated well on a day-to-day basis.

In accordance with the regulations, the landlord has overall responsibility for ensuring that the house is being well managed. Therefore, he must raise any concerns with the tenants. He is also responsible for managing any maintenance issues.

The landlord's details are displayed on the notice board, situated at the entrance hall in accordance with The Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation (England) Regulations 2006.

Responsibilities for internal communal areas

Internal communal areas include the kitchen, dining area, lounge, entrance hall, stairway & passages, communal bathrooms, communal cupboards, etc. It also includes the appliances provided by the landlord.

As set out in the tenancy agreement and house rules, it is each tenant's responsibility to keep the communal areas clean, tidy and free of obstructions for the benefit of fellow housemates and to ensure safe passage in the event of an emergency. Your safety is paramount; therefore it's vital that this is taken seriously.

A weekly clean of the communal areas (excluding cupboards) is provided by the landlord, but a proper clean is only possible if the housemates keep all surfaces and areas tidy. In between the weekly cleans, it is important to pick up any dropped litter or food, especially in the kitchen where all surfaces must be wiped down after use to leave them ready for the next person to use.

The communal areas will be inspected weekly to ensure the upkeep and cleanliness of the property. Ad hoc checks during the week will also be carried out, during cleaning and during maintenance visits.

We have made every effort to be thoughtful and considerate when planning the layout and use of the property and we have endeavored to put in good quality furniture and fittings. We expect these to be treated with care so that they are in perfect order for your use and will remain so for future tenants.

Responsibilities for external communal areas

External communal areas include the gardens, fences/walls, patio, driveway, outbuildings, cycle store and bin storage area.

Regular garden maintenance is arranged by the landlord, but it is each tenant's responsibility to keep all areas (including the garden furniture and clothes line) clean, tidy and free of obstructions.

As set out in the tenancy agreement and house rules, you are not allowed to alter the gardens or grounds, nor is it allowed to install a satellite dish or aerial without our permission. However, we generally support anyone with an interest in gardening, so let us know if you would like to plant anything in the garden.

Maintenance

Any breakages or maintenance issues must be reported as soon as possible to the landlord, whereupon we will use our best endeavors to resolve them as quickly as possible, this can be reported via WhatsApp group, WhatsApp, Email, when reporting issue it always helps to have few pictures or a short video of the issue, so that appropriate tradesman can be sent out for required fixes.

We also perform the following regular tests:

- § Smoke/heat alarm single button test – weekly
- § Smoke/heat alarm whole house test – quarterly
- § Emergency light function test – monthly (short duration) and quarterly (long duration)
- § CO alarm test - monthly

We engage certified contractors to perform the following checks and maintenance:

- § Boiler service and renewal of the Landlord Gas Safety Certificate – annually
- § Full testing and certification of fire/heat/CO alarms and emergency lights – annually
- § Electrical Installation Condition Report – 5-yearly

Noise and anti-social behavior

We expect tenants to respect each other and live with consideration concerning noise both inside and outside the house. Any complaints from neighbors or tenants regarding noise levels or anti-social behavior will be taken very seriously.

Refuse and recycling

The following facilities are provided for you:

- Separate kitchen bins for recycling and general refuse
- A large grey wheelie bin for general waste
- Two red wheelie bins for recycling
- A green wheelie bin for garden waste only
- A copy of the current Waste Collection Calendar displayed on the Notice Board in the hallway.

The wheelie bins are stored in a dedicated area at the side of the driveway and secured cycle storage located at the rear Patio. All applications and payments relating to the wheelie bins are managed by the landlord.

The Tenants Information File contains useful advice and information to help you use the facilities responsibly, including the use of sealed bags to ensure that food waste doesn't attract rodents or insects.

Please use the Waste Collection to prepare for each weekly collection. On the day prior to refuse collection, appropriate Bin should be moved on the footpath (while ensuring there is still space for pedestrians to walk comfortably) and once refuse have been collected by the local authority , Bin should be moved back to allocated position on the driveway. We don't currently do not insist on a formal rota for managing the weekly collection, expectation is that the occupants (tenants) to be allowed to work together cooperatively.

Should a collection be missed, or an issue arise with infestation of the bins, it is the tenants' responsibility to deal with any excess rubbish or infestation (either themselves or by engaging an outside contractor).

Bicycles

A secure cycle store has been provided on the Patio, that's located outside Conservatory, which will hold up to 3 bicycles. This is the only place where bicycles may be stored. Key is issued by the landlord upon written request from the tenant.

There are bike stands outside the property, they can be used for parking during the day, however it is tenant's responsibility to ensure they secure their bikes appropriately, landlord is not responsible for any damage or thefts.

Parking

The drive has ample space for 2 cars, possibly 3 if they are small ones. It is for the use of housemates only and may not be used by visitors. Please use the drive if space is available, otherwise use an available space on the road, but please always park sensitively with regard to housemates and neighbors.