

18th Feb 17

Bath Chronicle

Dear Editor,

The vast majority of Houses in Multiple Occupation in Bath are occupied by students and generate much need for Local Authority services such as waste management, extra street cleansing and environmental health demands. Neither students, with their Council Tax exemption, nor HMO landlords, with their Business Rates exemption, provide B&NES with any income in recompense.

Although Councils currently receive a contribution to the cost of these services through Central Government's Revenue Support Grant (drawn from general taxation), this is being phased out, leaving yet another large black hole in Local Authority finances.

HMOs are not domestic properties – they are profit-making businesses, and should be brought within the scope of Business Rates, just as self-catering and holiday lets are. In hosting one of the highest proportions of students per head of population in the UK, B&NES should be lobbying Government accordingly.

Yours sincerely

Chris Beezley

FoBRA Lead for Universities