

# Law student sues landlord over university accommodation

## Vocabulary

to sue      breach of contract      a landlord      show initiative      unscrupulous

## Article

A law student has successfully sued his landlord over university accommodation that he said was covered in dust, had no wifi or heating, and there were loud noises from people hammering away.

Jack Simm, a 19-year-old studying at the University of East Anglia, turned to his course textbooks as he took the company behind Velocity Accommodation in Norwich to court.

The 19-year-old, from Newcastle, added: "We gave the landlord a week to sort everything out and at the end nothing had been resolved so I moved out and handed my keys in."

He sued for breach of contract, and on 2 November, Newcastle County Court ruled the landlords should pay Jack £859 to cover his deposit and first month's rent, as well as £140 in court fees.

Professor Andreas Stephan from the University of East Anglia told The Independent: "Jack showed great initiative and his actions are a reminder of how the law is there to correct wrongs and should be accessible to all. "As a Law School we encourage our students to make a difference and a number have used their knowledge and skills from class to challenge unscrupulous landlords."

## Quiz

1. Why did Mr. Simm sue his landlord?
2. What did the court rule?

## Conversation

A: Hi there, I'm your new flatmate, Jack ...*\*loud banging\**... what is that noise?

B: It's the frickin' builders. They haven't stopped since I got here.

A: Ugh... look at this place! This is nothing like the pictures on the website.

B: Tell me about it. We've been royally screwed. We don't even have heating or wifi!

## Discussion

1. What do you think about the article?
2. Describe the accommodation you lived in as a student.
3. Have you ever been to court? How easy is it to sue someone in your country?

Based on an Dec 15th, 2021 article from [independent.co.uk](https://www.independent.co.uk)