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The University of Bath Students' Union and Bath Spa University Students' Union are opposed to an Article 4 Direction in Bath for many reasons and we have taken every opportunity possible to highlight these.

Before the decision is made today, based on the recommendations and contents of the report, the students of Bath would like to once again air our objections. As many of us are, have been, or will be, residents of HMOs, we are one of the groups that will be directly affected by any decision that is made today.

The topic of an Article 4 Direction on Houses of Multiple Occupation has inspired a vast amount of comment, from a wide range of students. While people have found many ways of getting there, there is an overall consensus of "why should we not be allowed to choose where we live just because we're students". Whilst these recommendations will, if passed, affect a far wider range of society than just students, the attitude of "blame it on the students" appears to remain. This may not be the feeling that the Cabinet have, or even the opinion of our elected local councillors, but it is a feeling that students in Bath are getting, and it is making us feel very unwelcome.

We could use our opportunity to speak as an opportunity to complain about the injustice of this policy on students, and that the majority of students wouldn't, even if the opportunity was there, spend longer than one year in purpose built accommodation, but there are much stronger arguments against an Article 4 Direction in Bath. Some of these, but not all, will be covered in the other statements you will hear today.