The Honourable Society of Lincoln’s Inn



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| Anne SharpUNDER TREASURER\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |  |
|  TREASURY OFFICE: 020 7405 1393 FAX: 020 7831 1839 |  |  TREASURY OFFICE LINCOLN’S INN LONDON WC2A 3TL |
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**Rent Assistance**

1. Lincoln’s Inn is sensitive to the fact that Bar, commercial and residential tenants may be suffering financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Inn’s objective is to provide effective financial assistance where it is most needed. With that objective in mind, the Inn will (among its other initiatives) consider applications for financial assistance in relation to rent where tenants are facing real difficulty.
2. The Inn’s aim in this regard is to operate a consistent regime in order to achieve fair results, with all applications being considered objectively. At the same time, the Inn recognises that the pandemic will impact on different tenants in different ways, and its effects will vary over time. As a result, a suitable element of flexibility also needs to be built into the system, and the whole regime will be kept under constant review, taking fully into account any guidance issued by the government to landlords.
3. With these principles in mind, the process which the Inn has currently adopted involves the following features:
	1. Applications for financial assistance can be made in confidence to the Inn’s executive team on the appropriate forms available for [Bar / commercial tenants](https://www.lincolnsinn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Application-Form-for-Rent-Assistance-Chambers-Commercial-Premises.docx) and for [residential tenants](https://www.lincolnsinn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Application-Form-for-Rent-Assistance-Residents.docx).
	2. Although the application forms specify certain information and documentation which should be provided in each case, it is up to the applicant to satisfy the Inn that it presents a suitable case for assistance.
	3. Each application will be decided by a small committee of barrister Benchers of the Inn on the basis of an anonymized application, and the outcome of all decisions will remain confidential.
	4. The committee’s decision will in each case be taken by reference to the question whether the applicant can demonstrate that it is facing real financial difficulty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic which can suitably be mitigated by the Inn granting financial assistance in relation to rent.
	5. In reaching that decision, the committee may take into account other sources of financial relief or assistance available to the tenant, and/or may need to seek further information after considering the material provided with the application.
4. The Inn recognises that, in order to undertake this process, it will need to be provided with a level of detailed financial information which may be considered intrusive. Applicants can be assured that all information provided will be kept strictly confidential to the Inn’s executive team and the decision making committee, and will be processed in accordance with the latest GDPR requirements.