

Blackfriars Hall Accommodation: Sustainability Statement on Lighting, Hot Water, and Ventilation

At Blackfriars Hall, our commitment to sustainability is increasingly embedded in the way we manage our accommodation buildings. We are working to ensure that every aspect of the living environment, including **lighting, hot water, and ventilation**, will support student wellbeing while minimising environmental impact. Our approach is intended to align fully with Oxford City Council's required HMO standards for healthy, safe, and responsibly managed housing.

Sustainable Lighting

We will prioritise both resident comfort and energy efficiency by maximising the use of **natural light** in all student bedrooms and shared spaces, as required by local HMO standards, which emphasise adequate natural light and ventilation in accommodation rooms.

To lower our carbon footprint, we pair natural lighting with:

- Low-energy, long-life LED fixtures
- Timely maintenance to ensure lighting efficiency
- Resident guidance on reducing artificial lighting use

These measures help reduce electricity demand while maintaining high-quality living conditions.

Sustainable Hot Water Provision

Hot water systems in Blackfriars Hall are designed for both **reliability** and **energy efficiency**, ensuring students have a **constant supply of hot water** for washing and cleaning. This meets the national amenity requirement that all baths, showers, and washbasins in HMOs must provide adequate cold and constant hot water.

To support sustainability:

- Systems are regularly serviced and optimised to minimise energy loss
- Temperature controls prevent excessive heating
- Efficient distribution systems reduce wasted water and heat

This ensures we meet safety and welfare standards while conserving energy wherever possible.

Sustainable Ventilation

Proper ventilation is essential for student wellbeing and environmental responsibility. In line with HMO standards requiring **adequate natural light and ventilation** in living spaces, we ensure:

- All student bedrooms and common areas have operable windows for natural airflow
- Kitchens and bathrooms include mechanical extraction to control humidity and prevent mould
- Ventilation systems are maintained to comply with safety expectations under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS)

By supporting effective ventilation, we improve indoor air quality and reduce the environmental costs associated with damp-related repairs and excessive heating.

Our Ongoing Sustainability Commitment

Blackfriars Hall will continue to work to:

- Reduce energy consumption across building systems
- Maintain compliance with all HMO licensing and safety standards
- Enhance building performance through regular inspection and maintenance
- Support students in adopting sustainable living habits

Through thoughtful management of lighting, hot water, and ventilation, we will ensure our accommodation remains safe, healthy, and environmentally responsible, supporting both our residents and our long-term sustainability goals.