



**The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund
Anderson House
Holywood
BT18 9QA**

Telephone: (028) 90 420652

23 March 2020

Dear Beneficiaries,

It is with regret that due to the current Coronavirus Pandemic the Board of Trustees of the UDR Benevolent Fund have taken the unprecedented decision to close the Ringhaddy House apartment complex in Portrush for the foreseeable future.

The Board have been monitoring developments of the Coronavirus and are seeking to adhere to Government recommendations to slow the spread of the virus, by requesting that people self-isolate, restrict non-essential travel and protect those who have underlying health issues.

The Board appreciates that this decision will come as a disappointment to those beneficiaries who have already been allocated an apartment in the current season, however; they believe that to remain open, while hotels, restaurants and bars are closing, would be irresponsible and place beneficiaries and staff at unnecessary risk.

I have spoken with the Aftercare service who very kindly facilitate the allocation process, and have asked that all those who will be affected by this closure, and will miss a respite break this season, be considered as priority applications for next year and offered a apartment around a similar time of year.

Due to the exceptional nature of this virus and its impact on the whole country it is unclear when the apartments will reopen, however, the Board will keep the situation under review in line with Government advice and recommendations.

Finally, may I extend the best wishes of the Board of Trustees and ask that you take every precaution to keep safe at this very challenging time.

Yours sincerely,

**Brian Kennedy
Secretary
UDR Benevolent Fund
Tel: 028 90 420129
E: office@udrbenfund.com**