

**Best News Story: 'Uncovered: Canterbury Landlords Offering Free Rent for Sex' by Claisse Opulencia from UNified**

Link: <https://unified.org.uk/2018/09/uncovered-canterbury-landlords-offering-free-rent-for-sex/>

**Supporting statement:**

This story blew up and made it to nationals. Aspiring investigative journalist Claisse Opulencia went undercover to expose Canterbury landlords offering free rent in exchange for sex. Claisse found dozens of 'landlords' offering vulnerable students a place to stay for free, as long as they offered sexual favours in return.

Posing as a student herself, Claisse uncovered a world of danger that Canterbury landlords created. The original story which was first published on Unified, featured real screenshots of the text message conversation between our reporter and the landlords. Many explicit text messages later, Claisse was able to present an accurate picture of what a female student may have to go through just to get accommodation in the city of Canterbury.

The story blew up and nationals quickly jumped to cover the story. Links:

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/student-exposes-sex-rent-landlords-13240386>

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/7255223/landlords-free-room-rent-sex/>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6163741/Sex-rent-landlords-snared-Canterbury-student-sting.html>

<https://www.holdthefrontpage.co.uk/2018/news/landlords-admit-sex-for-rent-deals-as-journalism-student-exposes-city-scandal/>

Claisse's investigative story was also picked up by BBC South East and made it their top story for the evening news. She was also interviewed live on BBC Radio Kent where she spoke about the highlights of her investigation.

Watch BBC's TV package down below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnMQeFonTZ0>

The story also sparked a debate in the House of Commons after MPs cited her article to discuss the growing issue of landlords offering sex for rent.