

**Insights**

## **COVID-19 – UPDATE ON PREVENTING SQUATTERS IN COMMERCIAL PREMISES (ENGLAND AND WALES)**

Apr 23, 2020

### **SUMMARY**

With a large number of retail and restaurant premises closing temporarily due to COVID-19, there is an increased risk of squatters breaking into commercial premises. Unlike residential premises, it is not a criminal offence to squat in commercial premises and the police will not take any action unless there is a breach of the peace. Although tenants will retain liability for security during any period of closure, it is in both the landlord and tenant's interest to take proactive steps to minimise the risk of property being illegally occupied and damaged.

Please see our [guidance note](#) for more details.

### **RELATED PRACTICE AREAS**

- Real Estate
- Real Estate Disputes
- Real Estate Sector
- Retail & Consumer Products

## MEET THE TEAM



### **Rebecca Campbell**

London

[rebecca.campbell@bclplaw.com](mailto:rebecca.campbell@bclplaw.com)

[+44 \(0\) 20 3400 4791](tel:+442034004791)



### **Lauren King**

London

[lauren.king@bclplaw.com](mailto:lauren.king@bclplaw.com)

[+44 \(0\) 20 3400 3197](tel:+442034003197)

---

This material is not comprehensive, is for informational purposes only, and is not legal advice. Your use or receipt of this material does not create an attorney-client relationship between us. If you require legal advice, you should consult an attorney regarding your particular circumstances. The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements. This material may be “Attorney Advertising” under the ethics and professional rules of certain jurisdictions. For advertising purposes, St. Louis, Missouri, is designated BCLP’s principal office and Kathrine Dixon ([kathrine.dixon@bclplaw.com](mailto:kathrine.dixon@bclplaw.com)) as the responsible attorney.