

The lettings agent

My company is encouraging us to work from home during the Olympic Games, as public transport is likely to be overcrowded. However, I remember a clause in our rental contract that prohibited us from running a business from our home. Would this also preclude me from working from home?

LW, by email

There is a clear difference here. These days, many of us have a remote link-up to the company's computer system and work from home from time to time. This is an accepted part of modern living and working. The standard clause in all tenancy agreements about running a business from home relates to instances where a trade or business would be registered at the residential address, with staff, customers or tradesmen physically visiting, thus in effect turning it into a commercial premises for which the landlord would not be insured. That said, out of courtesy, you might want to let your landlord know your intentions during this unique one-off period.

✉ *Frank Webster is a partner at Finders Keepers; finders.co.uk*

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