



WHITE WEDDINGS LEAVE GUESTS IN THE RED

- Renters forced to leave their homes after spending too much attending friends' weddings -

- **Research from SpareRoom.co.uk reveals one in five (21%) renters are falling into debt from attending friends' weddings. This increases to nearly a third (31%) when it comes to millennials**
- **One in six (15%) millennial renters have had to move out of their homes as a result of spending too much money attending weddings and then not being able to pay rent**
- **A third (32%) have had to turn down wedding invitations because they can't afford to go, this hits nearly half (44%) with millennials**
- **Almost half (43%) have even lost friendships because they've said no to a wedding due to money issues, this rises to 62% with millennials**

Wedding season is very much in full swing - while brides and grooms might be happy to throw cash around like confetti, guests are struggling to keep up. According to new research¹ from flatmate matching site, SpareRoom.co.uk, the cost of attending weddings - including splashing out on outfits, transport, accommodation, the bar and the gift - have left more than one in five (21%) renters in debt. This increases to nearly a third (31%) with millennials.

When it comes to the most expensive parts of attending a wedding, the perfect outfit comes in at number one (24%) – followed by gifts (18%), accommodation (17%) and attending hen/stag dos (10%). What's more, one in seven (14%) guests are spending in excess of £400 per person to attend each wedding – with the highest cost coming in at an eye-watering £1,000 to be at someone else's big day.

It's perhaps not surprising then to discover just how many people find themselves in financial difficulties because they felt compelled to accept invitations to friend's weddings. One in eight (12%) have had to subsequently say 'no' to other social occasions (including their friends' birthdays) because they couldn't afford them after weddings costs.

In the worst case scenarios, those surveyed claimed attending friend's weddings resulted in them missing bill or rent payments (25%), struggling to pay back credit card debt (18%), having to sell belongings (10%) and even being forced to move out of their homes and back in with parents (7%).

It's not just money being lost, but friendships too, with a third (32%) turning down wedding invitations and one in five (21%) falling out with friends due to the stress of spending money on attending their weddings. Of those turning down wedding invitations due to financial concerns, nearly half (43%) say they've lost friend entirely due to this – this rises to a huge 62% with millennials. Men seem to cut ties more than women when it comes to weddings.

Over half (56%) of men have lost friends when they've turned down a wedding invite because of costs, compared to a quarter (26%) of women.

Matt Hutchinson, Director of SpareRoom comments: "Different people have different affordability levels, and to hear that some renters have had to move out of their home and move back in with their parents as a result of spending too much money attending weddings is quite shocking.

What's even sadder to hear is that people are losing friendships in the process. If you decide you can't afford to attend a friend's wedding, meet up face to face and have a conversation with them about the reasons why – the likelihood is they'll understand and you can move forward with your friendship, rather than lose it!"

- ENDS -

For more information please contact spareroom@cowpr.com or call 020 7234 9150.

About SpareRoom

SpareRoom is the UK's leading flat and house share site with over 8 million registered users. Founded in the UK in 2004, the company expanded into the US market in 2011 and has currently helped over a million people find a room or roommate in the US.

Notes to Editors

1 – Research commissioned by SpareRoom and OnePoll in August 2019 with 1,000 respondents. When discussing 'millennials' we're referring to the 25 – 34 age split from the survey results.