



## Summary report from final meeting of COTEC (Virtual Meeting)

12th May 2020

Considerations in the context of Government Return to Work Documents

1. [Roadmap for Reopening Society & Business](#)
2. [Covid-19 Workplace Protection and Improvement Guide \(NSAI\)](#)
3. [Return to Work Safety Protocol – COVID-19 Specific National Protocol for Employers and Workers](#)

Standing Items Reviewed:

Monitoring of the situation across key areas, including: Faculties, IED, CECD, Health & Safety, Buildings and Estates, ITD, Student Affairs, Research, Student Health Centre, HR, Residencies and UL Hospital. The meeting dealt with the following considerations:

- Development of a home working policy and protocols for staff returning to work.
- Healthy UL COVID-19 progress report was provided, outlining planning and activities undertaken in relation to campus closure.
- [Healthy UL](#) website provides up to date information for staff and students.
- The key actions identified by the mental health and wellbeing Sub-Group highlight the need to increase the provision of online support for students and staff.
- H&S is a primary consideration for campus reopening. The purpose of the roadmap is to ensure that virus does not spread.
- The Committee will adopt guidance documents with an intention to develop the plan for UL.
- The Government announced the alternative grading process which will enable for results to be available around the established timetable from previous years. The 1st year UG cohort now included in our academic, cohort and delivery scenario planning for AY 2020/21.
- Three scenarios for leaving certificates were presented with projected start dates for 1<sup>st</sup> year UG students.
- Engagement with professional and accrediting bodies and consideration of adjustments that may have to be made regarding the provision of learning and assessment.
- Provision of student accommodation will be based on public health guidance.
- It was agreed that all future planning will be undertaken by the Executive Committee (with some additional input) who will oversee the reopening of the University in September. The working groups to report into it are:
  1. Chaired by Kerstin Mey, the Academic Planning Group is overseeing two working groups. One is planning the undergraduate offering and the other the postgraduate programmes

including student recruitment, student support, mobility, operational implications and technological underpinning

2. Chaired by Noralee Kennedy, the Research Planning Group have been tasked with getting our researchers back to work and dealing with issues with research agencies and stakeholders;
  3. Chaired by Gerry O'Brien, the Space Management Committee has been tasked with preparing a UL specific plan for how we make the campus safe on the return of our staff and students, creating a plan that meets all the requirements outlined in the three documents above and incorporating our own specific needs.
- From 13 May the COTEC will therefore revert to being the Crisis Operations Team and is charged with monitoring the pandemic and the impact on the University and ensuring the appropriate University response to an escalation of the crisis.