

Dear colleagues,

While no official decision has been communicated yet from the Government, it is clear that Level 5 restrictions are going to continue beyond the end of January.

The [B&E Restricted Access Procedure](#) continues to apply for the first two weeks of term. Everything is closed with the exception of buildings where face-to-face teaching is taking place. There is a very useful diagram available [here](#) from Cornell University that clearly demonstrates that the most effective measures in preventing the spread of COVID-19 is to stay at home.

If you are teaching face-to-face, even in a mechanically ventilated room, opening windows is a simple and effective action that can be taken to help reduce the spread of the virus. The recommendation is that you should open windows in your area on commencing work and close when finishing up for the day.

An update on Special Leave with Pay is available on the UL COVID-19 website. Special leave with pay should only apply in lieu of sick leave for COVID-19 when an employee is advised to self-isolate **and** is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or had a positive test. More detail on special leave with pay is available in the new [Government Publications](#) folder on the COVID-19 SharePoint site.

UL@50 Consultation

The UL@50 Consultations will begin next week under the direction of the Consultation Review Group (CRG). CRG is made up of a cross-section of staff who answered Kerstin's invitation to guide this process at the town hall meeting last October. The group would now welcome your opinion on the Strategic Goals.

All staff are encouraged to send individual feedback using the attached **UL@50 Individual Consultation Form**, which is also available along with other resources in [Consultation Gateway](#) on SharePoint. Please download and complete this form and return it to consultation@ul.ie.

Over the next few weeks, consultation meetings will be arranged and led by members of the CRG and other UL staff members. Do keep an eye out for the MS Teams or email invitation to join the consultation in your area.

You can also email consultation@ul.ie if you have any queries or if, in due course, you have not received an invitation to join a consultation in your area.

Finally, to go back to the topic at the start of this note, the weekly Space Management Committee (SMC) will meet to discuss the implication of the continuing lockdown for UL next Thursday and we aim to have a detailed communication about these plans to the campus community early the following week, in a Town Hall format on 2nd February.

If you have any questions about campus / academic operations or planning that you'd like answered at the town hall meeting, please email them **in advance** to hrnotice@ul.ie

Have a good week,