

Update to higher education pay negotiations delay – 21 May 2020

Given the unprecedented disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, UCEA and the five HE trade unions (EIS, GMB, UCU, UNISON and Unite) agreed to pause the start of the negotiations.

Our [joint statement](#) recognised that the current threat posed by the COVID-19 is unprecedented and impacts the ability to conduct normal operations, including negotiations.

The decision on when to re-commence the negotiating round will be based upon a recommendation from the Union Side Joint Secretaries and the Chair and Chief Executive of UCEA, following Government announcements on the easing of restrictions, particularly in relation to travel and working arrangements.

This group has been monitoring the situation and regularly reviewing announcements from the UK Government and Devolved Administrations. The view of this group is that the restrictions which remain in place, specifically those requiring social distancing measures, mean that it is not yet possible to resume the negotiating round.

In the meantime, subject to the necessary easing of restrictions, UCEA is in the process of seeking indicative views from its member institutions.

UCEA and the trade unions are committed to working together to help the sector to navigate the situation created by the pandemic.