



Dear Colleagues,

In these difficult times we hope you are all keeping safe and well.

Due to the enhanced lockdown restrictions the UK is now facing in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we wanted to take the opportunity to update you on the status of operations at Diamond. Despite communicating in December that we would allow limited numbers of users on site from January, **we regret we will now only be able to run remote and mail-in experiments for the foreseeable future.**

We apologise for the disruption this causes you. Experiments that cannot be undertaken remotely or as mail-in will be cancelled for now with a view to reschedule when circumstances enable these to be run.

This means:

- We will review proposals on the reserve list for Jan-March 2021, as well as any previously cancelled sessions that were being considered for re-scheduling and consider which experiments might be feasible under the current restrictions of no users on-site.
- Some experiments will be able to proceed remotely with a user collecting data, but others may become possible if data can be collected with one Diamond Scientist setting up your samples, in collaboration with your team at your home institution.
- BAG sessions will continue to run – beamline staff will support these where remote or mail-in are possible.
- Experiments involving complex set-ups, such as sample environments, are unlikely to be feasible, especially if two Diamond staff are required to be present on site at the same time.

As you can appreciate, we are unlikely to be in a position to support all experiments at this stage, even if they are individually feasible. As a result, the instrument team will be in touch with users whose experiments may be feasible and prioritise what might be considered possible.

We will continue to keep an eye on developments regarding pandemic conditions and what would be appropriate for the future and will be in touch with you with updates as soon as our working conditions are improved.

Best regards,

Diamond User Office

On behalf of Andy Dent, Deputy Director, Physical Sciences

7th January 2021