

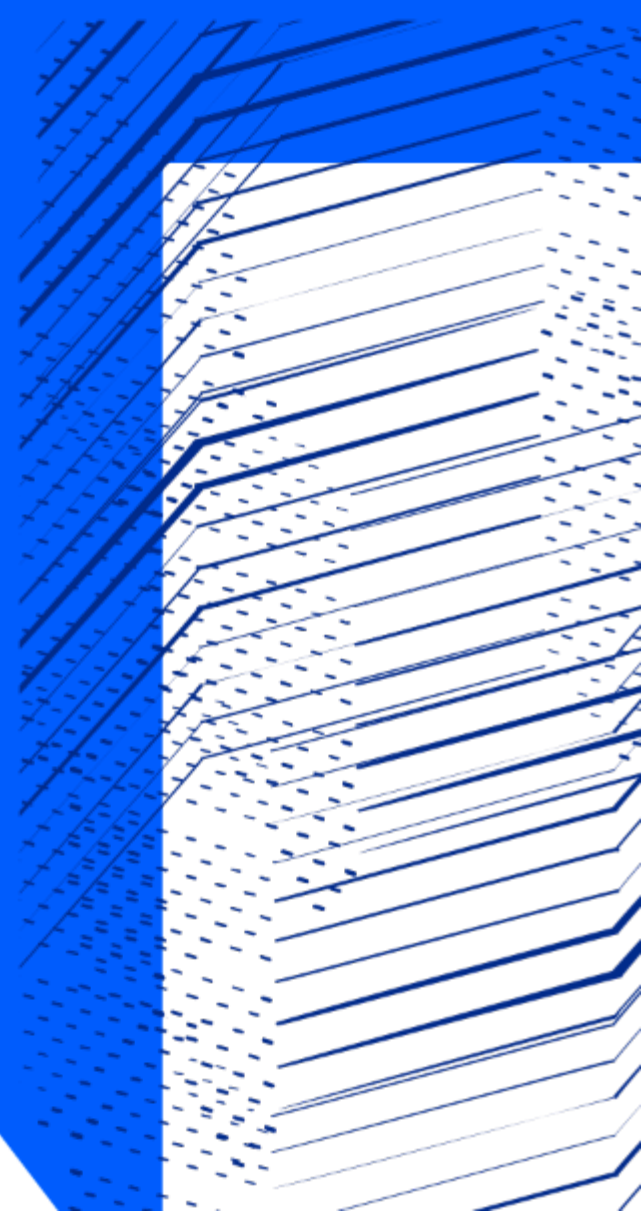


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STFC Update

Mark Thomson
STFC Executive Chair

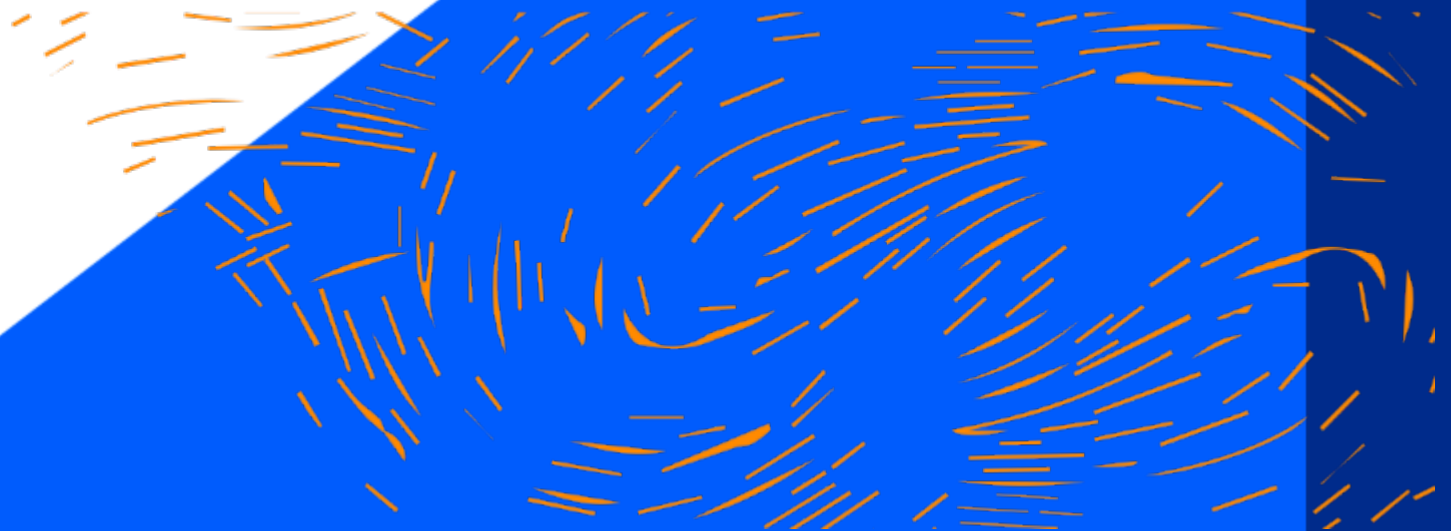
28 July 2020





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1. Covid-19 Status



Covid-19 Planning

STFC is complex...

- 5 research sites (Harwell, Daresbury, ...)
- 2,400 staff (mostly STEM)
- 1,350 Tenants (123 companies)
- Many partners: Diamond, Research Complex at Harwell, ...

Covid-19 impact:

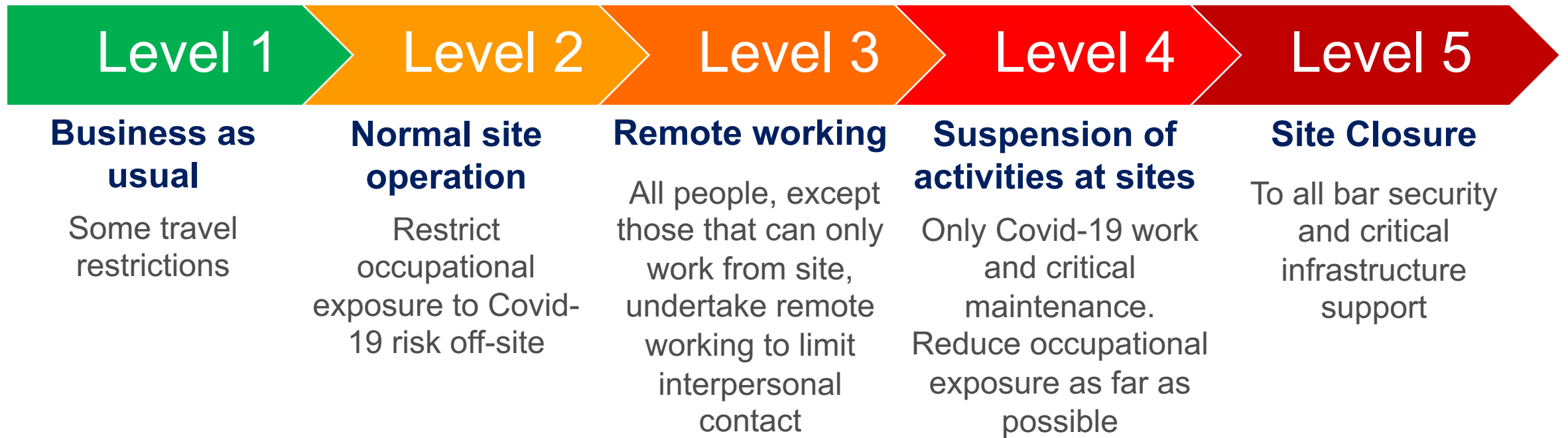
- Planning started early
- 'Bottom up' consultation with 21 departments to understand impact **at local level**
- Coordinated planning with partners, tenants and UKRI Silver Team to ensure joined up approach



Covid-19 Business Continuity

Business Continuity planning:

- Emerging situation in Wuhan flagged to our Business Continuity team in January
- **Early** establishment of contingency planning with **clear internal “alert” levels:**

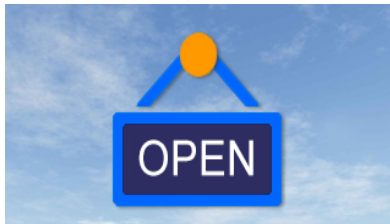


STFC Recovery: Journey back to Level 3

Level 3: “work from home where possible & phased return of lab. staff”

May

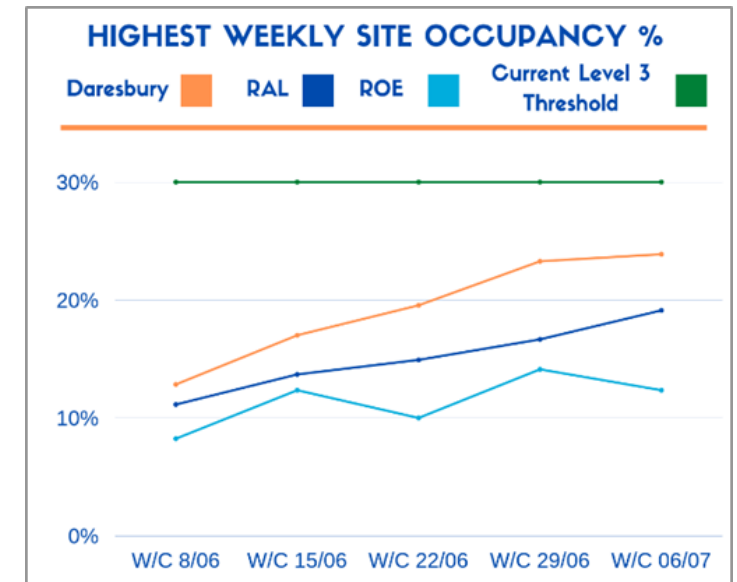
June



- **Pilot projects** were undertaken at National Labs to ensure the necessary safety measures and protocols were in place to move from Level 2 to 3
- **Tuesday 09 June** – RAL and ROE sites started move to Level 3
- **Thursday 11 June** – Daresbury Laboratory started move to Level 3

Phased return underway:

- Gradual increase to 30% site occupancy
- Internal H&S review confirms that we can safely increase to 50% site occupancy at Level 3
- Pilots for “office-based” work over the summer



UKRI-wide mitigations to stabilise research

Doctoral student extensions:

- In April, UKRI announced it would fund final year Doctoral Students whose studies had been disrupted by Covid-19 of up to 6 months
- A review is planned to gain information on the cost and effectiveness of the policy

Grant Extensions

- In June, UKRI announced it will deploy **£180M** of funding for organisations to sustain UKRI grant-funded research and fellowships affected by the pandemic
- In addition, flexibility to redistribute grant underspends due to Covid-19 disruption

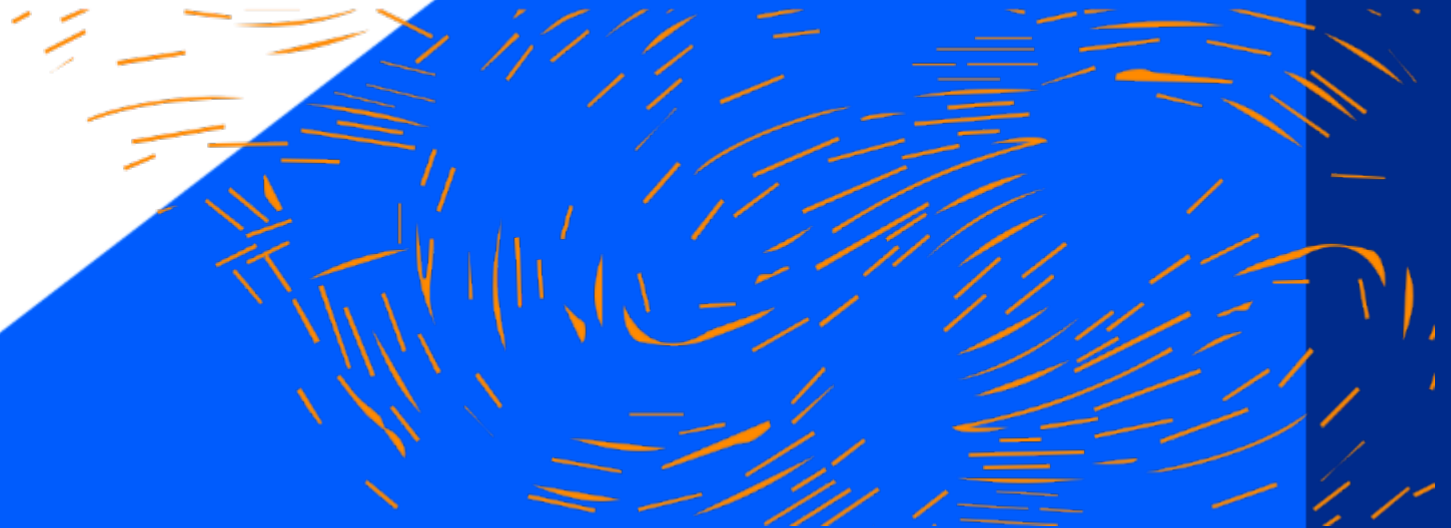
2020 Experimental Consolidated Grant Round

- Consolidated grant review schedule is unaffected, proposals will be due January/early February 2021 as usual. Guidelines to be issued in the autumn but broadly similar to previous rounds



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2. Strategic Update



UK Government R&D roadmap

Describes ambitions for a major uplift in government R&D spend with many of the key themes are integral to STFC's Goals:

- Inspiring and Enabling Talented People and Teams
 - Skills Factory & world class skills goal
- Driving Up Innovation and Productivity
 - business incubation and industry engagement
- Levelling Up R&D Across the UK
 - development of our regional footprint, e.g. Daresbury, Boulby & UK ATC
- Developing World-Leading **Infrastructure** and Institutions
 - hosting/supporting current and future world class facilities
- Being at the Forefront of Global Collaboration
 - STFC already has a very large international research reach

Comprehensive Spending Review

CSR 2020 was announced on 21 July:

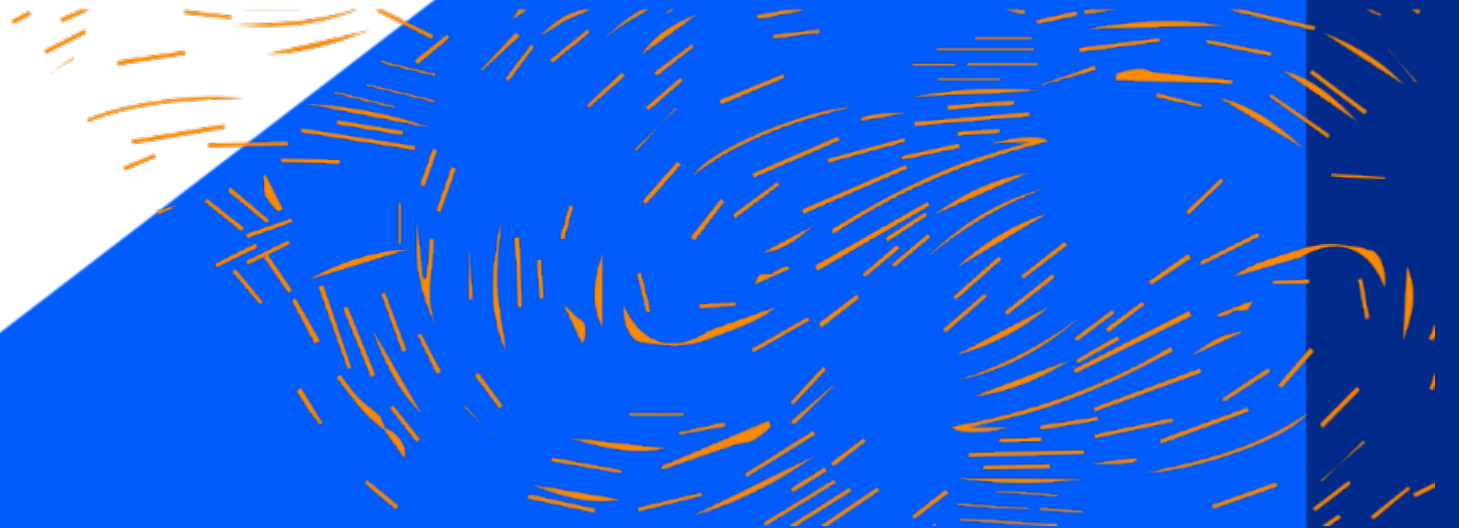
- Will cover four years (capital budgets): FY21/22 to FY24/25
- UKRI input to BEIS due in early September
- **Context:** Significant increase in R&D investment tensioned against potential cover for domestic alternatives to EU programmes
- Government CSR priorities include:
 - strengthening the UK's economic recovery from COVID-19 by prioritising jobs and skills
 - levelling up economic opportunity across all nations and regions of the country by investing in infrastructure, innovation and people...
 - making the UK a scientific superpower
 - strengthening the UK's place in the world
- **It is important that our Advisory Boards update their roadmaps and align with government R&D roadmap & European strategy for Particle Physics**





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3. Outlook



Outlook

Next few months will (again) be interesting...

- Our recent focus has been on Covid-19:
 - Finances – where the impact is largely manageable
 - Recovery plan – phased return to work at laboratories and (soon?) offices
 - **A lot still depends on evolving government advice**
- Spending Review:
 - After a number of false starts – we finally have a spending review covering 4 years!
 - Will bring much-needed financial certainty
 - Messages from government on R&D are very positive, but the devil lies in the detail

Given the impact of Covid-19 and the related uncertainty, STFC is in a pretty good place



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Questions?