

11 February 2022

Mr Alistair Jarvis CBE  
Chief Executive  
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By email: [pensions@universitiesuk.ac.uk](mailto:pensions@universitiesuk.ac.uk)

Dear Alistair,

I am writing in response to the Short Employer Consultation issued to USS Employers on 2 February 2022.

University Court has considered the proposed modification to the USS change proposal and is, reluctantly, willing to support it. Current contribution rates to USS remain at the limit of affordability for the University. That remains the case, however, we recognise the short term (single valuation cycle) nature of the modification and that the cap on the inflation-link was the most frequently expressed concern in the Member consultation.

We also remain concerned that any future increases in member contribution rates will increase the number of colleagues considering withdrawing from the pension scheme on affordability grounds. The work of the three workstreams looking at low-cost options in USS, the conditional elements of USS scheme design and the independent governance review of USS is therefore vital.

While we are unable to formally evaluate the UCU outline proposal the proposed increases in contribution rates would not be affordable.

Yours sincerely,



**Professor George Boyne MA MLitt PhD AcSS**

