

Dear Balwinder,

During this unsettling and challenging time, I'd like to reach out and reassure you of our ongoing commitment to supporting you. Like all organisations, we must now act quickly and adapt both our short and long-term plans, but our focus on the welfare of our staff, students, training providers, members and the wider industry remains unchanged.

Plans for assessments

AAT is a global business and we have evaluated the needs of our students worldwide.

We have concluded that given the current global crisis (and the increasingly wide restrictions being placed on schools, colleges and public gatherings), that the most responsible course of action is to **suspend all AAT assessments from midnight Sunday 22 March 2020 UK time**. AAT will void any assessment that has already been scheduled for a date after 22 March 2020.

It is important that all individuals heed government advice and reduce their social contact as much as possible – we believe that running our assessments would be contrary to that advice.

The impact on our AAT Approved Training Providers

We are acutely aware that this will have a significant impact on all training providers and students; as soon as restrictions are lifted, all "on demand computer" unit assessments will be able to resume quickly.

We will of course also revisit the published schedule for synoptic windows in response to the situation as it evolves further.

Clearly these are exceptional times, so we'll keep this position under close review at all times and update you immediately if there are any changes.

AAT continues to be fully operational in all other respects including the portfolio reflective element of Apprenticeship End Point Assessments which will be conducted remotely. All support services remain available to our students and members.

AAT events and offices

We've made the decision to cancel all AAT events until 30 June - this includes the 2020 Training Provider Conference.

Anyone who had booked to attend our events are being contacted and will receive full refunds as soon as possible. We're also exploring digital alternatives for these events and will share updates on those as soon as we can.

In line with official advice, the AAT office remains closed until further notice. Our business continuity plans are successfully in place, with most of our team working from home so that we can continue to provide you with the help you need.

Staying flexible, staying connected

The situation is changing rapidly, and we understand that as the situation develops, your needs and concerns will also change. We'll do our very best to respond quickly to those developments and provide you with the information you need to make safe and informed decisions in these challenging times we are facing.

Our promise to you

If you need us, please <u>get in touch</u> by email, on social media or give us a call. We have a <u>dedicated</u> <u>webpage for the latest updates</u> but we'll be sure to keep you updated by email as the situation develops.

Please share this information with anyone involved in delivering or assessing AAT qualifications at your centre.

Thank you for your patience and support at this time.

Mark Farrar

Chief Executive