

**REF 2021:**  
**Survey on initial views on revised timeline**  
**Response from the Chartered Association of  
Business Schools**

5 May 2020

**The original consultation documents are available at:**

<https://www.ref.ac.uk/guidance/training-and-events-materials/webinar-and-survey-initial-views-on-ref-timetable/>

## **Submission deadline**

**Q1: At this point in time, what is your preference for the revised REF submission deadline?**

- A single deadline, by 31 March 2021
- A phased deadline, starting with staff & outputs in March 2021
- A delay of six months or more for all aspects

**Chartered ABS response:** A single deadline, by 31 March 2021

**Rationale for answer:** We believe that a phased deadline would add complexity and burden, whereas a single deadline would be easier to manage. We would prefer not to prolong the submission deadline too long given that preparations are well advanced at this point in the REF cycle. Outputs and environment statements should be well on the way to completion by now. In regards to impact evidence, some flexibility is needed as some cases will have been affected (and thus be disadvantaged) while others will not. It is important that the workload involved in the process is balanced in line with constrained resources and quality expectations

## **Impact**

**Q2. The end of the assessment period for impact is 31 July 2020. Which of the following options would you prefer as an initial step towards taking account of the effects of Covid-19 on impact submissions?**

- Universal extension to the assessment period for impact to the 31 December 2020.
- Keep 31 July 2020 in place as the end of the assessment period, but ensure a case-by-case mitigation route for individual, affected case studies that have been delayed past this point.
- Other (please specify) max 50 words

**Chartered ABS response:** Other - Keep 31 July 2020 in place as the end of the assessment period, but ensure a case-by-case mitigation route for individual case studies that have been delayed by COVID-19 past this point.

**Rationale for answer:** Our preference is to keep 31 July 2020 in place as the end of the assessment period as institutions have already invested significant time and effort in preparing to meet this deadline and as the impact period is 7 years an extension until the end of the year is not likely to make a substantial difference.

## **About the Chartered ABS**

The Chartered ABS is the voice of the UK's business and management education sector and our members consist of 120 business schools and higher education providers across the UK, as well as affiliate stakeholders, corporate members and international partners. The UK's business and management education sector represents 1 in 5 university students and contributes £3.25bn to the UK economy. Its management students go on to lead global businesses and its entrepreneurs contribute to our dynamic economy. Its research has an impact across society and helps to turn our capacity for invention into viable businesses. The Chartered ABS is committed to helping its members navigate the implications for the research environment resulting from Covid-19.