**Candidate's statement about the impact of COVID-19 changes on the thesis.**

Dear Examiner,

Many of our HDR candidates have had to make changes to their research due to the impact of COVID-19. Below you will find a statement from the candidate, approved by their Supervisory Panel, that indicates how their original research plan has been affected by COVID-19 restrictions. Relevant ongoing restrictions in place caused by COVID-19 will also be detailed by the candidate.

**Candidate's Statement:**

*"Please briefly describe (250 words or less) how your research****project****direction changed as a result of COVID-19. This should not include any disruption due to changes to personal circumstances or illness as this is addressed by the Variations to Candidature processes. Please also note relevant ongoing restrictions that may impact any future work that may be requested by examiners."*

**Thesis Title:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Statement**:

# Example statements are on the following page for the candidate’s referenceExample statements (please remove prior to submission with your thesis)

(a) A good deal of work went into the preparation of a laboratory study for this MRes thesis and it could not be meaningfully transformed into an online study when COVID face-to-face restrictions came in. We persisted with a laboratory study in the hope that participants would be able to return to campus in Semester 2, 2020. Unfortunately, recruitment was very slow, and the final N was less than intended for this particular study.

(b) Chapter 4 was originally designed as a lab experiment but was transformed into an online study when the face-to-face restrictions came in. There were clear problems with this online method: the experimenter had much less control over the procedure; many of the participants saw through the study deception; there was a high rate of acquiescence response bias which may impact on the research results.

(c) Although I planned a preclinical experiment, the supply of animals necessary for this study ceased due to COVID-19 supply closures. As such, it was not possible to run a study and instead I was provided with previously collected data to write-up for Chapter 5.

(d) Access to physical library resources were not available for several months, reducing the documents that could be included in my research project.