

## **Breakout session on “Lab in a box/Experiment @ home”**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

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### [Break out room notes: Lab in a box/@home](#)

There were concerns around health and safety. Some about sending out kits to students and ensuring they were safe. In theory the sort of devices considered would normally be considered safe but what is the responsibility as a supplier. What is the situation with insurance for equipment away from the premises? In the case when students were encouraged to devise their own experiments how can we ensure that their risk assessments are complete and suitable. We didn't have answers and it was felt that there might be considerable variation between Universities. Perhaps some sharing of thoughts on H&S with some common devices could be helpful.

Budget was an issue mentioned with the cost of providing kits and whether they would be returned. In general, those who had sent kit out had found it was returned.

It was stressed that there should be no assumptions about the sort of devices and internet access students had available to them and that working remotely accentuates the attainment gap. Students who are already struggling struggle more in this remote environment. Although many students already use their smart phones in the lab there is a difference between them choosing to use their own phones and being expected to use their own phones e.g. what happens if their phone breaks.

A number of experiments were mentioned but we were cautioned that in many cases these would already be in use by FE colleagues and there is a danger that we switch off students by repeating what they have done already.

Canned data can be useful but it can be difficult to visualise the experimental conditions under which it was collected and so it is necessary to ensure that students can see and understand the equipment.