



Over 600 people give their views on returning to work at Milton Park

Advanced Oxford member, Milton Park, a leading science and technology community in Oxfordshire, has found that 95% of business leaders based at the Park have a COVID-19 return to work strategy or plan in place or were working on one, and that people's biggest worry about returning to work was 'the ability to socially distance in the workplace'.

The survey suggests that between now and September, up to 50% of Milton Park's 9,000-strong community will return to work. This may be as staggered working or spread over a period of days.

Milton Park carried out survey work between 13

May and 22 May 2020, receiving over 600 responses from people who work in many different roles at the Park, including 57 business leaders.

24.53% of business leaders responding to the survey said that they were considering making **substantial** changes to their physical workspace
- **49.06%** said that they were considering making **minor** changes to their workspace



People's greatest concerns on returning to work were, in order of their biggest worry:

- i. The ability to socially distance in the workplace
- ii. Managing their domestic situation i.e. childcare or living with a vulnerable household or living with a keyworker
- iii. Their commute
- iv. Cleanliness of the workplace.



Turning to people's sentiments about returning to work, people were asked their feelings about returning to the workplace.

- 24.73% said that, with the right safeguards in place, they were ready to be back in the workplace
- 22.16% said they were concerned and were worried about some elements of the return
- 38.46% said they were very concerned and that, at this time, there were too many unknowns and would prefer to continue remote working
- 13.55% said that they or someone they live with are vulnerable
- 9.16% have continued to work at the Park throughout the outbreak.

Turning to transport, of the people who responded, when asked how they usually travel to work, 81.64% usually travel by car, 12.55% by bike and 15.27% travel by bus. Most of those said they would continue to travel by car or bike, however, 20.22% of people said that they were considering changing modes when they return to work. 10% who usually use public transport are considering changing modes to travel by car or by bike and 5% of car drivers have said that they will start cycling or walking to work when they return.

Philip Campbell, commercial director at Milton Park said: "With so many changes impacting so many people in different ways, several businesses have asked us about the return to work intentions of other Milton Park occupiers and we wanted to share the feedback we have heard from people in our community. The aim is for such results to assist our occupiers and people who work here so that they can understand how people are feeling and can plan for when people are ready to return to work.

"The survey showed us that by and large business leaders were more confident about returning to the workplace than employees. We believe this is because business owners will have thought about what they need to put in place and a better knowledge of what they need to do. Therefore, we believe that communication with staff around measures that have been put in place will be key."

"We were encouraged to see that there is a desire for more of cycling and walking in the future. We know from our recent travel survey that around 40% of occupiers at Milton Park use public transport, cycling or walking to get to work. Our data shows that cycling and walking levels in the



area have surged during lockdown and many people are seeking to continue those activities on their daily commute, helping to keep Milton Park and the surrounding area greener and cleaner as people start to return.”

You can find more information about the survey and Milton Park, [here](#)