

24<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Vice Chancellor Professor Nishan Canagarajah

As elected Fellows of the British Academy and members of its Business and Management Section, we are writing to express our concern about the threat to academic freedom posed by proposed redundancies of staff in the School of Business. Academic freedom ensures that scholars can research and communicate ideas which may be inconvenient to some authorities without being targeted for job loss or experiencing other forms of threat to their livelihoods or reputations.

Business and Management Schools in the UK are internationally known for their intellectual diversity and innovative thinking. We are therefore dismayed that staff teaching and researching in specific areas – Political Economy and Critical Management Studies – at the University have been singled out for redundancy because their intellectual orientation does not fit with a narrow, uncritical conception of business favoured by some authorities. We call upon you to reverse your policy and reaffirm the University's unequivocal commitment to academic freedom.

Hugh Willmott, City University Business School  
Jill Rubery, Alliance Manchester Business School  
Julian Birkinshaw, London Business School  
Leslie Hannah, London School of Economics  
Herminia Ibarra, London Business School  
Peter Miller, London School of Economics  
Simon Deakin, Cambridge University  
John Scott, University of Plymouth  
Paula Jarzabkowski, City University Business School  
Mike Power, London School of Economics  
Ewan Ferlie, Kings College London  
Paul Edwards, Birmingham University