

3 April 2020

Briefing Note

CECA Scotland Member Briefing:

COVID-19 - CECA SCOTLAND UPDATE

Introduction

CECA Scotland will be producing regular updates to keep member companies updated on new developments relating to the Covid-19 coronavirus and its impact on the Scottish civils sector. This briefing will be delivered daily by CECA Scotland over the weeks ahead. If you would like further information or to share your experiences about how COVID-19 is impacting on your business, contact Chief Executive Grahame Barn: 07976 199615 or grahame@cecascotland.co.uk.

Improvements to the Coronavirus Business Interruption Scheme

Following lobbying by CECA and other industry bodies, the Coronavirus Business Interruption Scheme is being extended and improved to increase the number of businesses who can access the scheme.

- Lenders will now be banned from requesting personal guarantees on loans under £250,000.
- Scheme extended to all viable small businesses affected by COVID-19, and not just those unable to secure regular commercial financing
- A new scheme for larger companies (with turnover between £45 million and £500 million) will be introduced to increase support for larger firms not currently eligible for loans
- Chancellor emphasises importance of banks moving quickly to support the economy, jobs and businesses

Further details of the scheme will be announced later this month. You can read more about today's announcement [here](#).

Esteem Fully Funded SVQs

CECA Scotland training partner, Esteem Ltd are now offering accelerated, 100% funded SVQs featuring online learning, group chats and virtual support. To find out more about the courses available, visit <http://www.esteem.uk.com/online-svq/>

Builders Merchants

The Builders Merchants Federation has prepared details of whether its member companies are open, operating a reduced service or closed. To view which BMF builders merchant member companies are open or shut during the COVID-19 crisis click [here](#).

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HSE Coronavirus Stakeholder Bulletin

You can read the HSE's coronavirus stakeholder bulletin [here](#).

Scottish Planning System and COVID-19

The Scottish planning system is changing temporarily in response to COVID-19. Changes and new procedures outlined in a [letter](#) from Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning include suspending the need for pre-application consultation on major and national developments to include at least one public event and extending the duration of all planning permissions for a period of 12 months.

Construction underway at NHS Louisa Jordan

Construction is now underway at NHS Louisa Jordan, to build additional NHS capacity in Scotland. The main contractors involved are Balfour Beatty Group Ltd, Kier Group, Robertson Group and Graham Construction Ltd. You can read more [here](#).

How to run Webinars, Live Streams & Video Conferences

Business Gateway are running a 45-minute free tutorial on how to run webinars, live streams and video conferences which you can access [here](#).

Business Led Innovation in response to global disruption

UK registered businesses can apply for a share of up to £20 million to respond to new and urgent needs in UK and global communities during and following the Covid-19 pandemic. Read more [here](#).

Scottish Government Advice

The Scottish Government's latest COVID-19 advice for businesses can be read here:

<https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/coronavirus-advice>.

For issues not dealt with on the website, call the Scottish Government [Helpline](#) on 0300 303 0660.

HMRC Tax Helpline: 0800 024 1222, open 8am-4pm, Monday to Friday.

UK Government Advice

UK wide guidance, detailing all Scottish and UK Government support for businesses operating here in Scotland can be read [here](#).

For more information please contact Grahame Barn on grahame@cecascotland.co.uk

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