

4th May 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 and posted on our website. If you would like further information or to share your experiences about how COVID-19 is impacting on your business, contact our Chief Executive, Grahame Barn: 07976 199615 or grahame@cecascotland.co.uk.

CICV Forum Essential Worker Infographic

The Construction Industry Coronavirus Forum, of which CECA Scotland is a member, has launched a new infographic aimed at raising public awareness of key workers engaged on essential construction work. This is in response to reports that some construction workers are being subject to abuse or harassment. Read more on the CECA Scotland website [here](#) or download the [poster](#). Stickers will be available later this week to order.

Applications opened today for Bounce Back Loans

Applications are now open (4th May) for the Bounce Back Loan scheme (read guidance [here](#)), allowing SME's to borrow between £2,000 and £50,000. The government guarantees 100% of the loan and there won't be any fees or interest to pay for the first 12 months. Loan terms will be up to 6 years. No repayments will be due during the first 12 months. The government will work with lenders to agree a low rate of interest for the remaining period of the loan.

Eligibility: You can apply for a loan if your business is based in the UK and has been negatively affected by coronavirus. You cannot apply if you're already claiming under the [Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme \(CBILS\)](#). If you've already received a loan of up to £50,000 under CBILS and would like to transfer it into the Bounce Back Loan scheme, you can arrange this with your lender until 4 November 2020.

You can apply [here](#)

Tax Update

The latest JTC Newslines has been published and can be read [here](#).

Liz Bridge would like you hear from anyone who is having problems getting their furlough grant. The more we share any problems the more quickly Liz can get solutions for the commonest problems. You can contact her at liz@thetaxbridge.com

Self-Employment Income Support Scheme

HMRC will this week (w/c 4th May) start contacting people who may be eligible for the new Self-Employment Income Support Scheme. If they are eligible, this scheme will allow them to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of their trading profits up to a maximum of £7,500. Read the [updated guidance](#) on eligibility, the claim process and how grants will be calculated.

New Scottish Government Guidance (4th May)

Looking after each other during COVID-19

The Scottish Government has today issued new guidance, “*Looking after each other during COVID-19*”. Read it [here](#).

Test, Trace, Isolate, Support

As we move towards the next phase of managing COVID-19, the Scottish Government has unveiled today its “Test, Trace, isolate and Support” planned approach to maintaining low levels of community transmission of COVID-19 in Scotland. Read more [here](#) and view the infographic explaining the approach [here](#).

Support for Businesses COVID-19 Blog

CECA Scotland auditors, Johnson Carmichael, have produced a helpful blog summarising key COVID-19 developments last week. Read it [here](#).

'Clear your Head' campaign

The Scottish Government have launched a campaign to help people cope during the coronavirus pandemic. ‘Clear Your Head’ highlights the practical things people can do to look after

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themselves whilst staying at home, acknowledging these are worrying and uncertain times for many. Find tips on how to stay positive and feel better at clearyourhead.scot.

#ICYMI: COVID-19 Construction Sector Guidance

On 1st May, the Scottish Government updated its [guidance](#) on construction sites and associated works that can continue under specific conditions. The guidance, which should be read together with the Scottish Government's [business and social distancing guidance](#), provides further information to help businesses determine what constitutes 'essential' work that may be able to continue. No non-essential work should continue at this time. The guidance will be updated and reviewed as required in consultation with the sector's employers and unions. To read the guidance in full, click [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.

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

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