

5th 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](mailto:grahame@cecascotland.co.uk).

### Scottish Government Framework for Decision Making - further information

The Scottish Government have today, 5<sup>th</sup> May, set out further information about the challenges Scotland faces and provides illustrative examples of the steps that might form part of the initial changes to the current lockdown restrictions.

In summary it is almost certain the current lockdown restrictions will remain in place for at least the next three weeks, when they are reviewed on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May given the lockdown is working and there is limited headroom to change restrictions, without risking the NHS becoming overwhelmed.

However, among the changes under review for possible implementation from Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May are:

- Changes to the advice about staying at home - for example leaving home more often or working safely outdoors.
- Changes to the advice about visiting other households - allowing people to meet with a small number of people outside their own household in a “bubble” (excluding those in the Shielded group).
- Changes affecting businesses that have been subject to closure of restrictions - p17:  
*“Our initial assessments are likely to focus on construction, manufacturing, and retail, where less work can be done remotely, as well as elements of outdoor and rural work, where transmission risks are likely to be lower. We are working closely with these sectors. For example, the Construction Leadership Forum is developing a five-phase plan to support the restart of that sector, when it is safe to do so”.*
- But restrictions on business activity will remain, with the use of digital technology and working from home “likely to persist as part of the new normal”.

## CECA Scotland Briefing: COVID-19 Update

- It is unlikely schools will reopen fully “*in the foreseeable future*” or “at all in the near future”.

The Scottish Government will publish further updates in advance of the next scheduled review date of 28<sup>th</sup> May. You can read more [here](#) or click [here](#) to download the full publication.

### Public Engagement

The Scottish Government are keen to engage the public in a national conversation about the way ahead. To share your views and ideas, visit: [www.ideas.gov.scot/covid-19-a-framework-for-decision-making](http://www.ideas.gov.scot/covid-19-a-framework-for-decision-making)

### COVID-19: Support for Businesses

The Scottish Government have today produced a summary collating all information and support available for businesses in Scotland during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read it [here](#).

### Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund

The Scottish Government have announced that this fund will pause for live applications from 5pm today, 5 May 2020, to allow partners to review applications received to date. On completion of this review, businesses will be advised of the next steps relating to the fund, which is expected to reopen to applications next week. View more details about the fund [here](#).

### Help the UK Govt “shine a light” on the stories of key workers

The UK Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy want to hear about key workers you know that are helping to keep the UK moving during the Coronavirus pandemic. Please fill in [this online form](#) for key workers in the following sectors: manufacturing, construction, consumer goods, scientists/researchers, servicing, postal workers, and oil/gas/electricity/water/sewage/chemical workers.

### Tax Credits during COVID-19

Employees receiving tax credits will continue to receive payments even if working fewer hours due to COVID-19. People who cannot work their normal hours because of coronavirus (COVID-19) will still receive their usual tax credits payments. Find out more information [here](#).

For more information please contact Grahame Barn on [grahame@cecascotland.co.uk](mailto:grahame@cecascotland.co.uk)

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### Employment opportunities on farms

For employees currently furloughed, the NFU Scotland have created an interactive map showing the location of farms looking for staff. Farms looking for workers can register to be listed and anyone interested in applying for work can contact the farms directly. Click [here](#).

### #ICYMI 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.

### 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](mailto:grahame@cecascotland.co.uk)