

7 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.

CECA Workload Trends Survey 2020 Q1

CECA's Workload Trends Survey for 2020 Q1 is now live. The deadline for the survey is the close of business on 4 May 2020 - please complete it so we can gather the most accurate picture of the current state of our industry and feed back to Government and other stakeholders. The survey, for CECA members, is available [here](#).

Guidance for the Scottish Construction Industry

In case you missed the announcement yesterday, the Scottish Government have now published COVID-19 Guidance for the Scottish Construction Industry which you can read in full [here](#). This guidance comes into effect immediately - 6 April 2020 - and extends until further notice. It will be reviewed in three weeks' time.

The guidance confirms that all work on construction sites, unless it is for crucial and essential work during the coronavirus pandemic, should stop immediately.

Essential projects include:

- Projects to create or repurpose facilities which will be used directly in COVID-19 related activities including testing, containment, treatment, research, vaccine production, protective equipment manufacture, other key medical supplies, and other related activity, including supply chains to those projects.
- Projects to create or repurpose facilities which will be used to accommodate key workers or free-up space in facilities to be used directly in COVID-19 related activities as above.
- Projects to create or repurpose facilities and infrastructure critical to the national response to COVID-19 including food production, distribution and digital communication, where these facilities are likely to be completed and operational within 6 months.

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- Projects which are considered essential public services or which will provide wider resilience and capacity across the system

Where essential construction work is taking place, it should take place in strict adherence to the agreed [Site Operating Procedures](#) and [Scottish Social Distancing Guidance](#).

SEPA Coronavirus Response

SEPA has relaxed its regulatory approach to help business adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. New SEPA guidance states that if a regulated business is unable to meet all its obligations under SEPA's licence, permit or other authorisations because of these exceptional circumstances we now face, SEPA expect the business to:

1. prioritise compliance with conditions that **directly protect the environment** over those that are indirect controls or more administrative in nature;
2. alert us as **early as possible** if it believes it will be unable to meet any obligations and work closely with us on making choices and finding solutions;
3. keep a **clear record** of choices made and actions taken.

If a regulated business behaves in line with these principles, SEPA will take a proportionate and reasonable approach to how they assess compliance during the public health emergency. You can read more on SEPA's website [here](#) and in Scottish Construction Now [here](#).

Guidance on Job Retention Scheme changes

CECA Scotland Auditors Johnson Carmichael have issued some useful guidance on recent changes to the Job Retention Scheme which you can read [here](#).

Go Construct Buildathon Competition

The CITB have launched a series of **Go Construct Buildathon competitions**, aimed at providing support for children and parents alike during this prolonged school shutdown while also inspiring the next generation of the construction workforce. These challenging Minecraft competitions will allow children and their families to learn more about the sector while having fun together.

The CITB would appreciate all support in getting the message out to parents, children and schools to demonstrate another way of how the industry is coming together in this time of national crisis.

You can **register** for the Go Construct Minecraft Buildathon competitions covering Scotland [here](#).

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

Civil Engineering Contractors Association Scotland, Enterprise House, Springkerse Business Park, Stirling, FK7 7UF.
www.cescotland.co.uk @ceca_scotland

NHS asks people to share their coronavirus symptoms to help others

A new Coronavirus Status Checker will help the NHS coordinate its response and build up additional data on the COVID-19 outbreak. It is open to anyone in the UK to use on the NHS website and in its initial phase the NHS is particularly keen for anyone who thinks they may be displaying potential coronavirus symptoms, no matter how mild, to complete it. Please share the checker with your employees and networks. You can find more information [here](#).

CECA National COVID-19 Webinar for Members

CECA National are hosting a webinar for members at 2pm on Thursday 9th April at 2pm, where you can hear from CECA National Chief Executive, Alasdair Reisner and others on how the COVID19 epidemic is impacting on infrastructure. To secure your place, please click [here](#). If you have any queries, e-mail jemma@ceca-yorks.co.uk. *Please note that the Government has confirmed that furloughed workers can take part in webinars whilst they are furloughed.*

Mental health support

Industry mental health charity Mates in Mind is working in partnership with CECA to deliver free mental wellbeing workshops. These workshops are aimed at employees; and managers (including supervisors). The live online workshops will take place on 15,16, and 21 April, and will be delivered by trained mental health practitioners. Delegates will be able to see and interact with the tutor and with each other.

- **Mental Wellbeing Workshop for Employees:** Get everyone thinking and talking about mental health in this 45-minute online session. The session gets us to think about how the current environment impacts our wellbeing, how we can look out for ourselves and our co-workers.
- **Mental Wellbeing Workshop for Managers:** This one-hour workshop provides managers and leaders with increased skills and confidence to support employees with their mental wellbeing during the current climate. Anticipating level of interest, places are initially limited to 2 delegates per organisation.

Book your place now:

Wednesday 15 April

09.00 - 10.30 Manager - click [here](#).

11.00 - 12:15 Employee - click [here](#).

13.00 - 14.30 Manager - click [here](#).

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

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15.00 - 16.00 Employee - click [here](#).

Thursday 16 April

09.00 - 10.30 Manager - click [here](#).

11.00 - 12:15 Employee - click [here](#).

13.00 - 14.30 Manager - click [here](#).

15.00 - 16.00 Employee - click [here](#).

Tuesday 21 April

09.00 - 10.30 Manager - click [here](#).

11.00 - 12:15 Employee - click [here](#).

13.00 - 14.30 Manager - click [here](#).

15.00 - 16.00 Employee - click [here](#).

Mental Health Advice

Details of all mental health support services available in Scotland can be found [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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