

8 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.

Updated UK Govt Social Distancing Guidance

Several CECA Scotland members have been in touch regarding the new UK Government guidance on Social Distancing in the workplace issued on 7th April. Please note this **does not apply here in Scotland**. The social distancing guidance for businesses here in Scotland (issued on 4th April) can be read [here](#) and the sector specific guidance for Scottish construction [here](#).

Scottish Parliament Economy Committee: COVID-19 Enquiry

The Scottish Parliament's Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee are keen to hear views on how the COVID-19 epidemic is impacting on Scottish businesses and on what additional measures should be put in place to provide support and enable economic recovery. You can read more [here](#).

CECA Scotland will submit a response on behalf of members - please feed in any comments to cara@cecascotland.co.uk.

COVID-19 Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme

During the UK Budget 2020, the Chancellor announced details about a new coronavirus (COVID-19) Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme. This scheme allows SMEs with fewer than 250 employees, to apply to HMRC to recover the costs of paying Statutory Sick Pay to their employees. HMRC has published [new online guidance](#) which includes information about who can use the scheme and the records employers must keep. Details about when the new Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme can be accessed and when employers can make a claim, will be announced soon.

Temporary relaxation of the enforcement of the Drivers' Hours Rules

Updated guidance (7th April) confirms that anyone driving under the EU drivers' hours rules or the GB drivers' hours rules and undertaking carriage of goods by road can use the relevant relaxation where necessary. The relaxations are not limited to specific sectors or journeys. [These two temporary relaxations](#) will run until 23:59 on Tuesday 21 April 2020.

HSE Update: Reporting Workplace COVID-19 Cases

The HSE have published new guidance on RIDDOR reporting of COVID-19 cases. Coronavirus cases are only reportable under RIDDOR when:

- an unintended incident at work has led to someone's possible or actual exposure to coronavirus. This must be reported as a dangerous occurrence
- a worker has been diagnosed as having COVID-19 and there is reasonable evidence that it was caused by exposure at work. This must be reported as a case of disease.
- a worker dies as a result of occupational exposure to coronavirus.

You can read the new HSE guidance [here](#).

Construction Industry Task Force - Government-Backed Loans Research

A sub-group of the Construction Industry Coronavirus Task Force is undertaking a review of the current Government backed loan schemes and the industry experience of them. The outcome of the research will be have an evidence based picture to understand applicability and take up of the schemes, along with a series of recommendations which could range from variations on the products offered, to better support and advice to businesses in the sector.

CECA members are requested to give input on:

- Intelligence/feedback from individual businesses in relation to the Government backed loan schemes to support ongoing evidence gathering
- Whether they would be willing to discuss their experience of Government-backed loan schemes) in a potential interview or written case study.

It is expected that the outcome of this research to be brought back to the Taskforce within the next two weeks for review and endorsement. If you are a CECA member and would like to input into this work, or to discuss further, please contact CECA National Chief Executive Alasdair Reisner at alasdairreisner@ceca.co.uk

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

CECA Scotland Briefing: COVID-19 Update

Coronavirus Job Retention scheme

Following UK Govt changes to the scheme last week, the Construction Leadership Council have updated (7th April) their industry advice. You can read the update, which picks up some more frequently asked questions, [here](#).

Update on supply of products & materials

The Builders Merchant Federation has compiled a list of companies that are still trading and open to builders during this time. The list of open/closed Builder's Merchants can be found [here](#) and a list of open/closed suppliers can be found [here](#). The Construction Products Association have also surveyed their members to determine their operational status and a summary can be found [here](#).

CITB Update: Funding

The CITB have now extended the advanced apprenticeship grant payment to include higher level apprentices in the final year of their programme and who are close to completing their apprenticeship in England and Wales, or a key level within it in Scotland. You can [apply here](#).

UK Govt Transport and Travel Guidance

The UK Government have updated their guidance on transport and travel during COVID-19, including MOTs, foreign travel and on freight. Read [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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