

16 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 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 Chief Executive Grahame Barn: 07976 199615 or grahame@cecascotland.co.uk.

Procurement Update

The Scottish Government have issued a new [Public Procurement Policy Note \(SPPN\) 6/20](#) for public bodies, which describes some practical steps for existing contracts and forthcoming contracts that they might want to consider in discussion with their customers and suppliers to reduce pressures on them at this time.

Job Retention Scheme Update

UK Government has announced that the [furlough Job Retention Scheme cut-off date has been extended to 19 March](#). HMRC online portal to make a claim will launch on Monday 20 April 2020. Employers can now claim for furloughed employees that were employed and on their PAYE payroll on or before 19 March 2020; this means that the employee must have been notified to HMRC through an RTI submission notifying payment in respect of that employee on or before 19 March 2020.

Please note that if, based on previous guidance, you had calculated your claim based on the employee's salary as at 28 February 2020 (and this differs from their salary in their last pay period prior to 19 March 2020) you can choose to still use this original calculation for your first claim. You can read the updated guidance in full [here](#).

You can access a checklist of Payroll Details needed to start your claim [here](#).

CITB Updates

“Re-sizing”

The CITB have that they are temporarily reducing the size of the organisation during the COVID-19 pandemic, in line with their current activity. Staffing levels are being reduced (via Furlough) to

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ensure they maintain a level of service to customers, while protecting industry funds as much as possible.

Go Construct Buildathon Competitions

The CITB are running a series of challenging Minecraft competitions, available in England, Scotland and Wales, are designed so children (aged 5-12) and their families can learn more about the sector while having fun together in these very difficult times. The Buildathon will allow children to discover the exciting variety of roles within our sector by designing and building a construction project using Minecraft Education Edition. Families will be able to work together as a team and use construction skills to design and build a winning structure that is unique, sustainable and environmentally friendly. Full registration details can be found [here](#).

Construction Scotland Innovation Centre, “i-Con” Initiative

The CSIC have launched a new “i-Con” initiative to support the built environment sector during COVID-19, providing resources that address challenges faced by the sector to build resilience for a brighter future through innovation. You can read more [here](#).

HSE Update: Plant & Equipment Testing during COVID-19

The HSE have produced guidance to help industry with the potential challenges of carrying out legal requirements for thorough examination and testing (TE&T) of plant and equipment being used during COVID-19, where work is continuing due to being classed as critical etc. You can read the guidance [here](#). In summary:

- Operators must still make all reasonable efforts to ensure that social distancing measures in the workplace aren't perceived to be a barrier to carrying out TE&T.
- Businesses and inspection bodies should cooperate to ensure access to plant and equipment for TE&T continues to schedule. This includes businesses arranging access for visiting inspectors to undertake thorough examinations at businesses that are currently closed (either by choice or due to COVID-19 related legislation).
- If the coronavirus outbreak means your businesses is unable to meet its obligations for TE&T, this guidance includes a risk-based process to determine whether there are steps you can take to safely continue to use equipment critical for essential work, or if you must decide to stop using the equipment.
- The law for Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) and Pressure Systems Safety Regulations (PSSR) remain in place and businesses must continue to make ensure that equipment is safe to use.

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

Training - Fairness, Inclusion & Respect Webinars

Click [here](#) for an updated (16 April 2020) schedule of Fairness, Inclusion and Respect webinars.

SPICE Blog on Non-Domestic Rates Related Support for Businesses

The Scottish Parliament's Information Service, SPICE, have written a useful blog outlining the range of non-domestic rates related funding streams available to businesses in Scotland during COVID-19. Read it [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](#).

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