

11th 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/Construction Scotland Leadership Forum Update

CECA Scotland participated in a Construction Scotland/Scottish Government Leadership Forum: Restart working group on 8<sup>th</sup> May, chaired by Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning, Kevin Stewart MSP. An updated Site Operating Procedures and restart plan has now been submitted to Officials at Health Protection Scotland for approval.

Whilst no firm date was given for a re-start, the Minister stated that construction would be one of the first to return when the lockdown measures in Scotland are reviewed on 28<sup>th</sup> May. This means the earliest SG sanctioned general return to work date is likely to be 1st June. The Minister commented that the industry must demonstrate it is consulting with the workforce around safe working procedures in advance of a return to work. A full report of the meeting has been circulated today to CECA Scotland members.

### Scottish Government - Updated Guidance

#### Change to advice on going outdoors

The Scottish Government announced on 10<sup>th</sup> May that from today (11<sup>th</sup> May), people in Scotland can go outside more than once a day for exercise. This activity should continue to be undertaken close to home. Those going out to exercise should either go alone or with members of their household. The change does not allow people to mix with people from different households, to gather in groups, or to go out to relax outdoors.

The lockdown measures in Scotland, including the Stay at Home message, remain in place and will be reviewed on 28<sup>th</sup> May. In Nicola Sturgeon's words, "*The core principles of lockdown in Scotland remain the same, people should stay at home to help save lives and protect the NHS*". Read more [here](#).

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This is in contrast to the new “Stay Alert” [message](#) issued by Boris Johnson for England.

### Staying at home and away from others

Updated guidance on staying at home and away from others has been published today (11<sup>th</sup> May). The only substantive change is to daily exercise. You can the full guidance [here](#) and the section on going to work, [here](#).

The updated guidance once again confirms that: “Non-essential business sectors - like construction (unless it is essential construction, such as a hospital) - should close unless and until we can all be clear how operations can be undertaken safely. We will work with the sector - and others - to consider if it is possible to produce appropriate guidance on that specific point. Unless and until such guidance is issued, non-essential construction sites should stay closed”.

The UK Government have also today updated their [guidance](#) on *Staying safe outside your home* and have produced a [FAQs](#) on what you can and can't do. **This guidance applies in England only.**

### Second Coronavirus Scotland Bill

The Scottish Government have today (11<sup>th</sup> May) published the *Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Bill* including further measures to help Scotland's response to outbreak. The emergency measures are aimed at protecting people facing financial hardship and ensuring public services can continue to operate effectively. Read more [here](#).

### Public Use of Face Coverings

The Scottish Government have today (11<sup>th</sup> May) updated their guidance on the public use of face coverings. While it is recommended that face coverings be considered on public transport or in enclosed spaces (such as shops), this is advisory not compulsory; it is precautionary and “will not be enforced at this stage”. Face coverings are secondary to proven measures of virus control i.e. physical distancing, hand washing and respiratory hygiene. You can read the guidance [here](#).

The UK Government have now (11<sup>th</sup> May) issued the same [advice](#) for England - this new advice for England applies from Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May.

### SME Support Doubles to £90 million

A fund launched last week by the Scottish Government, to provide grants for small and medium-sized businesses affected by coronavirus (COVID-19) is to be doubled from £45m to £90m.

The First Minister [announced the increase](#) in the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund to help meet existing demand. The aim of the fund, which is managed by Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and

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Islands Enterprise, and South of Scotland Enterprise, is to provide grants to SMEs which are vital to Scotland's local or national economy but have been made vulnerable by this crisis.

While the large volume of received applications are being evaluated, the application process is currently being paused. We will share application details when the fund reopens.

### UK Government COVID-19 Recovery Strategy

The UK Government have today published their COVID-19 Recovery Strategy, setting out the Government's roadmap for how and when the UK Government will adjust its response to the COVID-19 crisis. You can read it in full [here](#). **Please note this strategy applies in England only.**

### Inclusive Value Webinar: How to attract, recruit & retain a diverse workforce

Are you looking for ways to attract, recruit and retain more women into your organisation? Equate Scotland, in partnership with the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre, are hosting a 1 hour webinar for employers in the construction sector, where you can find out more about how Inclusive Value, an online resource for the construction sector, is designed to support employers adapt their working practices. The webinar will be held on 27th May, 3pm - 4pm. Sign up [here](#).

### CICV Forum Key Worker Signage

The Scottish Construction Industry Coronavirus Forum has designed posters and stickers for use by key workers on construction sites. Read more [here](#). To order CECA branded material, please e-mail Glenda Douglas with initial quantities at [glenda@cecascotland.co.uk](mailto:glenda@cecascotland.co.uk). We will inform you of probable delivery dates and times when we have consolidated the order with the printer.

### Free Videos & Business Support Webinars

Watch videos and register for the free webinars to learn more about UK Government support available to help you deal with the economic impacts of coronavirus. Click [here](#) for details.

#### Scottish Government Advice:

The Scottish Government's latest COVID-19 advice for businesses can be read here: <https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/coronavirus-advice>.

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

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