

20th 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.

Extra help for Scottish businesses

The Scottish Government have announced today (20th May) that their Business Support Fund has been increased by a further £40 million, to provide additional support for key sectors of the Scottish economy. Of this sum, £30 million has been allocated to the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund, which has increased by £10 million to £30 million. Read more [here](#).

National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) Covid-19 SME Guidance

NCSC has today published guidance to support businesses [moving from physical to digital](#) delivery as part of the ongoing Covid-19 response. The guidance has been created specifically to support businesses who are relying more heavily on IT services to run their business.

The NCSC is committed to equipping all UK businesses with the best cyber security advice. The support package includes guidance on [home working](#), [video conferencing](#) and [spotting email scams related to Covid-19](#).

Pick for Britain

The UK Government have urged furloughed workers to apply for seasonal farm work. As part of efforts to support British farmers and growers to recruit workers throughout the harvest period. You can find opportunities in your area via the [Pick for Britain website](#).

Check the tax rules on waiving your income or donating to charity

[HMRC advice](#) for people choosing to give up their income to support their business or donate to charity during the coronavirus pandemic.

Mental Health Awareness Week, 18th -24th May

CECA Scotland are supporting Mental Health Awareness Week, which runs up till the 24th May. You can find or more and access useful resources on our website [here](#).

Lighthouse Club App

The Lighthouse Club charity have launched a free app providing a platform to seek guidance and information in a discreet manner, without the need to supply any personal details. It provides access to a vast range of resources and topics covering mental, physical and financial wellbeing. To find out more and download the app, click [here](#).

CITB's COVID-19 Wellbeing Blog

The CITB's Health and Safety Policy Lead, the Reverend Kevin Fear has written a wellbeing blog which you can read [here](#), talking about some of the day-to-day measures that everyone in construction can take to look after their mental health, as well as tools and resources available for employers.

New Business Gateway Guides

- **Work Life Balance during Lockdown**

A checklist for business owners on how to ensure employees have work life balance during lockdown. Read it [here](#).

- **Managing Conflict during Lockdown**

A useful guide on how to manage conflict between employees and best interact with colleagues, while working from home during lockdown. Read it [here](#).

Labour Market Briefing

Yesterday's ONS figures set out employment data for the first three months of 2020, the first dataset to cover the pandemic period. Scotland's unemployment rate for the first three months is 4.1% (113,000 workers). This is slightly higher than the UK average of 3.9%. The full Labour Market Monthly Briefing for May can be read [here](#).

Cross Party Group on Construction

The re-arranged virtual meeting of the Cross Party Group on Construction will run from 10.00-11.30am this **Thursday 21st May** via MS Teams. [The link to join the meeting is here.](#)

The Scottish Government's latest COVID-19 advice for businesses can be read [here](#)

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