

15 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.

Additional Scottish Government Support for Business

The Scottish Government have today (15th April) announced additional funding support for businesses in Scotland affected by COVID-19. In summary:

- Around £220 million of further grants are being made available for businesses - including the recently self-employed - to help them deal with the ongoing impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.
- The new package of measures includes £120 million to extend the Small Business Grant scheme to ensure that, in addition to a 100% grant on the first property, small business rate payers will be eligible to a 75% grant on all subsequent properties.
- A further £100 million fund is also being made available to protect self-employed people and viable micro and SME businesses in distress due to COVID. This fund will be channelled through local authorities and enterprise agencies to target newly self-employed people and businesses who are ineligible for other Scottish Government or UK Government schemes.
- Applications for the £100 million fund will be open by the end of the month, and the new arrangements for the Small Business Grant will be in place to receive applications on 5 May.

CITB Leadership and Management Funding

The new [Leadership and Management Development Fund](#) launched yesterday will ensure that construction businesses of all sizes can improve their leadership and management skills. Micro, small and medium-sized businesses can do so via the [CITB Skills and Training Fund](#), which was recently refreshed and expanded to support sustainability and skill retention.

This fund of **£5m** will be awarded to large employers who wish to explore new ways to develop management and leadership practice in their own business. Employers can submit proposals to the fund from **14th April**, with successful applicants laying out how they intend to implement new

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forms of training, qualification or other skills development to support management and leadership in their own business.

This initial one-year fund will be used to guide subsequent investment (in the grants scheme and more broadly), to ensure more businesses of all sizes can benefit from the learning. Individual or collaborative bids (including supporting the supply-chain) will be welcomed and it is anticipated that the range of fundable activity will be broad and focussed on business setting outcomes and approach.

Larger CITB registered businesses - those with over 250 employees - can now apply via the LMDF. Companies can apply from £5k up to £100k, with funding available in stages for a year though CITB will review the COVID-19 situation and be flexible about start dates. Please visit [this page](#) to apply.

Site Operating Procedures in England (updated 15 April 2020)

The Site Operating Procedures in England have been updated to reflect Public Health England (PHE) guidance on social distancing in the workplace during coronavirus (COVID-19) and now include sections [on construction, tradespeople and working in people's homes](#), and the use of private vehicles and carpooling for travelling to work, have been incorporated into what is now industry-recognised guidance. The revised Site Operating Procedures can be found on the Construction Leadership Council's (CLC) website [here](#).

***** The updated CLC SOP's do not apply in Scotland ***.** The Scottish Site Operating Procedures, which are based on the [advice](#) of Scotland's Chief Medical Officer and have been agreed by Construction Scotland and trade unions, can be accessed [here](#). These will be reviewed on 27th April and CECA Scotland, through our membership of the Construction Scotland/Scottish Government Leadership Forum, are working on plans to enable an industry restart in Scotland as soon as safe.

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme - portal opens next week

HMRC has confirmed that the claims portal for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (JRS) will open on Monday 20 April. Please ensure that you have set up a PAYE online account for your business. For more information on what you need to do to register an account, read this [blog](#) from CECA Scotland Auditor's Johnson Carmichael.

Construction Industry Coronavirus Forum (CICV) Survey

A survey by the CICV Forum, of which CECA Scotland is a member, has found that cash flow has dried up for 80% of construction firms. You can read more [here](#). CECA Scotland will be issuing an updated survey for CECA Scotland members in the next few days.

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

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HS2 Notice to Proceed

The UK Government has today (15th April) issued a notice to proceed with HS2. Read more [here](#).

RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations)

Following the HSE's [updated guidance](#) last week, CECA requested clarification from the HSE in regards to RIDDOR. The response from the HSE was based on a particular scenario, therefore the answer is quite specific - however, it should provide a further level of detail that you don't perhaps have at present.

CECA Example - A Site worker experiences symptoms whilst on site. They then leave site, self-isolates and it is then confirmed they have Covid-19. Is the employer (contractor) duty bound to report both a Dangerous occurrence due to the worker being infectious whilst on site therefore putting other site workers (unknowingly) at risk, AND a (Reporting) Case of disease?

HSE Response: Dangerous Occurrence - The guidance states "If something happens at work which results in (or could result in) the release or escape of coronavirus you must report this as a dangerous occurrence. An example of a dangerous occurrence would be a lab worker accidentally smashing a glass vial containing coronavirus, leading to people being exposed." HSE advise that this is accident or incident specific and applies to a very narrow range of circumstances that are unlikely to occur on construction sites.

HSE Response: Reporting a Disease - The guidance states "If there is reasonable evidence that someone diagnosed with COVID-19 was likely exposed because of their work. An example of a work-related exposure to coronavirus would be a health care professional who is diagnosed with COVID-19 after treating patients with COVID-19."

HSE advise that in the given example, it would therefore not be reportable when taking into account the above.

CECA members are strongly advised to undertake risk assessments in relation to all work undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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