

17 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.

Urgent Request for Member Feedback

We are in regular dialogue with the Scottish & UK Governments about how to manage the COVID-19 impact on industry, and how we can safeguard member businesses and their workforce.

Please complete our short CECA Scotland survey on the impact of business interruption, workforce provision, material supplies required at the restart of the industry and the financial consequences of an extended “lockdown”. These survey questions are also being asked by several Scottish construction Trade Associations/Federations to enable responses to be pooled and used to inform the Scottish Government of the economic and employment consequences of an extended lockdown period on our industry.

Access the survey by clicking [here](#).

The survey will close at 6.00pm on Tuesday 21st April. *(All responses will be anonymised).*

Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme Extended

The UK Chancellor has announced (16th April) the [expansion of a government-backed loan scheme](#) for large businesses affected by coronavirus has been expanded to cover all viable large firms.

The scheme will allow companies with a turnover of more than £45 million to apply for up to £25 million of finance and companies with a turnover of more than £250 million to apply for up to £50 million in finance. The scheme, which will launch on Monday, will be available through a series of accredited lenders, which will be listed on the [British Business Bank website](#).

CECA Scotland Briefing: COVID-19 Update

This complements existing support including the [Covid Corporate Financing Facility](#) and the [Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme](#) for small and medium sized businesses.

Stay at Home/ Social Distancing

The Scottish Government confirmed yesterday (16th April) that the Stay at Home and Social Distancing measures in place will continue for at least another 21 days before being subject to further review on 7th May. Read more from the Scottish Government [here](#) and the UK Government's statement extending the "lockdown" [here](#).

Companies House support for businesses hit by COVID-19

Changes announced on 16th April will help businesses avoid being struck off the Companies House register as they deal with the impact of the coronavirus outbreak, including the option to apply for a 3-month extension to file accounts and flexibility around the holding of Annual General Meetings. Find out more [here](#).

Navigating Covid-19: ACE Webinars

The Association for Consultancy and Engineering (ACE) has shared details of new episodes in its webinar series, Navigating Covid-19. [Click on the titles to register.](#)

[Maximising motivation while in lockdown](#) (Wednesday 22 April, 12.00pm)

Performance Psychologist Dr Andrew Dewar of WSP and Georgia Hughes of Arcadis and chair of ACE's Emerging Professionals join us to discuss how you can make the most of your time whilst working at home. They'll share practical tips and advice to help boost productivity which will apply to any role and at any level.

[Improving cashflow through tax credits](#) (Wednesday 6 May, 12.00pm)

Mark Smith, Innovation Incentives Partner of ACE affiliate Ayiming joins us to discuss how R&D tax credits can release the hidden cash trapped in your working capital, helping your business through the weeks and months ahead.

[What does recovery look like?](#) (Tuesday 12 May, 12.00pm)

Andy Mitchell, chief executive of Tideway and chair of the Construction Leadership Council, joins Hannah Vickers and Alasdair Reisner of CECA National to discuss what a future recovery looks like for our industry, Government and society.

Replay episodes on the emergency help, SMEs, employment schemes, procurement, HR/People issues and communications on [ACE's website](#) now.

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

Civil Engineering Contractors Association Scotland, Enterprise House, Springkerse Business Park, Stirling, FK7 7UF.
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CECA Scotland Briefing: COVID-19 Update

CECA National Training and Development Update

The latest CECA National Training and Development Update can be read [here](#).

Reminder for Monday 20th April: Be Claim Ready!

The online claim service for the [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#) will be launched on GOV.UK on Monday 20 April 2020. Any entity with a UK payroll can apply, including businesses, charities, recruitment agencies and public authorities. To prepare to make your claim you will need:

- A Government Gateway (GG) ID and password - if you don't already have a GG account, you can [apply for one online](#), or by going to GOV.UK and searching for 'HMRC services: sign in or register'
- Be enrolled for PAYE online - if you aren't registered yet, [you can do so now](#), or by going to GOV.UK and searching for 'PAYE Online for employers'
- The following information for each furloughed employee you will be claiming for: Name, National Insurance number, Claim period and claim amount, PAYE/employee number (optional).
- If you have fewer than 100 furloughed staff - you will need to input information directly into the system for each employee. If you have 100 or more furloughed staff - you will need to upload a file with information for each employee; HMRC will accept the following file types: .xls .xlsx .csv .ods.

You should retain all records and calculations in respect of your claims. You can find more information on the scheme and eligibility to claim [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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