

21 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.

Social Distancing Measures Strengthened in Scotland

Social distancing regulations introduced to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) have today (21st April) been formally extended for the next three weeks. confirmed and extended to protect workers. A number of amendments have now also been made to protect workers and provide further guidance for people in Scotland.

The adjustments to the regulations include formalising the two metre distancing rules to all businesses that remain open. Businesses that do not take all reasonable measures to enforce those rules could be fined or ultimately prosecuted and forced to close. The updated guidance can be found [here](#).

Specific guidance on business and social distancing is also available [here](#).

Business Support Checker Tool

A [new 'support finder' tool](#) has been launched (20th April) aimed at helping businesses and self-employed people in all nations of the UK to quickly and easily determine what financial support is available during the coronavirus pandemic. The new online platform on gov.uk asks business owners to fill out a quick and simple online questionnaire. You will then be directed to a list of all the financial support they may be eligible for. Find out more [here](#).

Please note that the new tool **does not include all support available to businesses in Scotland** so please also continue to check <https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/coronavirus-advice>.

COVID-19 Impact on Scotland's Economy

The latest State of the Nation report published today (21st April) by the Scottish Government,

CECA Scotland Briefing: COVID-19 Update

reveals the likely impact of COVID-19 on Scotland's economy, with GDP likely to be down by 33% during the current period of social distancing. You can read the full report [here](#).

Navigating Covid-19: ACE Webinars

The Association for Consultancy and Engineering (ACE) are running regular webinars on navigating Covid-19; full details can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Presented by ACE Chief Executive Hannah Vickers, these are open to anyone in the industry to attend.

Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Scheme Briefing

Further to the announcement of a new Business Interruption Loan Scheme for large businesses, highlighted in [Friday's Daily CECA Scotland update](#), CECA Scotland auditors Johnson Carmichael have produced a useful briefing on the scheme which you can read [here](#).

CITB Update: Remote Learning

CITB's training standards have been adapted to support accredited Approved Training Organisations (ATOs), employers, delegates and all furloughed under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

The aim is twofold; firstly, to maintain skills training during COVID-19 and help ensure people are work-ready when the national situation improves. The CITB hope that by conducting as many courses as possible through video link interfaces like Microsoft Teams, Skype, Zoom and WebEx, this will help training to continue in some capacity. Secondly, this ensures ATOs can continue to operate so that where possible their skills and training provision is safeguarded for the future.

The CITB have reviewed all the [Standards](#) that can be delivered through remote learning: 180 can now be delivered by ATOs, including Asbestos Awareness; Construction Design and Management Regulations; and mental health first aid. The full list of 180 remote learning standards will be available on the CITB website later this week.

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.

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

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