

6th 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).

### Industry Engagement with Scottish Government

CECA Scotland has been actively engaged in discussions with the Scottish Government to set the priorities and actions for recovery based on industry concerns, with work focussed on Safe Operating Procedures and Industry Restart. These meetings are chaired by Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning. The third full meeting of the Construction Scotland/Scottish Government Leadership Forum, focused on COVID-19 Recovery Planning, took place on 5<sup>th</sup> May and a full report has been circulated to our distribution list today (6<sup>th</sup> May).

Thanks to all CECA Scotland members who have been in touch to share your views. We will continue to ensure these are represented at the highest level, to share your examples of best practices and to keep CECA members fully updated on discussions as they continue to progress.

### Back to Work Site Briefing

The Scottish Civils Training Group have developed a Back to Work Site PowerPoint presentation for use once companies start to resume work. This presentation can be adapted to suit companies/ logos etc. Feel free to utilise this and share with any other organisations you think may find it useful. It can be found on the SCTG website [here](#).

### Scottish Procurement Newsletter

Please find [here](#) the Scottish Procurement & Property Directorate Covid-19 newsletter. This newsletter summarises the recent changes that SPPD has introduced on a range of procurement and property issues to help support industry. It also shares the Directorate's planning for the next steps.

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Within it, you will also find a Scottish Procurement contact list to provide a more direct route of communication for use during this time should you need it.

### CICV Forum on Twitter

The Construction Industry Coronavirus Forum, of which CECA Scotland is a member, have today joined Twitter. Please give them a Follow [@cicvforum](https://twitter.com/cicvforum)

### CSIC Online Workshop: Innovation in construction training and practice

The Construction Scotland Innovation Centre are delivering an online workshop to discuss and share practical ideas for supporting innovation in construction and training. Attendees should be already engaged in innovative projects and willing to provide a brief overview of their work. It will run on 14<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm. You can register [here](#).

### Update on the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme

Whilst this information will not be of primary concern for CECA companies, we are aware that many members distribute our Daily Update across their supply chain to keep them informed and up to date. The information below will be important to all of the self-employed people in your respective supply chains.

The UK Government has confirmed that the scheme will now be delivered ahead of the original June schedule - with individuals able to apply for the grant from 13 May. HMRC will begin contacting eligible self-employed individuals this week by email, text and letter to inform them that they are eligible and explain what they need to do to apply. Applications will open in tranches using the Unique Tax Reference (UTR) number given to all self-employed taxpayers.

To provide further support to the claims process, the Treasury have launched an online eligibility checker tool available [here](#). This will also provide eligible self-employed individuals with a confirmed date from 13 May from which they will be able to apply for their grant.

The Treasury have also updated their guidance, which can be found at the links below:

- [Claim a grant through the Coronavirus COVID-19 Self Employment Income Support Scheme](#)
- [How different circumstances affect the Self Employment Income Support Scheme](#)
- [How HMRC works out total income and trading profits for the scheme](#)

The updated guidance provides clarifications on some of the queries that The Treasury have received including:

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

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- It provides detail on how individuals or their business can be “adversely affected” by COVID-19, to claim the grant.
- It clarifies that if individuals have taken parental leave at any point between the end of 2018-19 and now, they can still claim the SEISS, as parental leave is not considered a break in trading.
- It states that the grant provides three months’ worth of support, but it is not tied to a specific time period and confirms that the grant is capped at £7,500.
- It explains how the eligibility criteria applies the 50% rule. The guidance now compares your trading profits to your non-trading income.
- It clarifies that, for the purposes of calculating non-trading income, the only social security benefits used are the *taxable* benefits.
- It sets out the position on late tax returns, tax returns under enquiry and amended tax returns.
- It sets out the information that individuals will need to provide when they make their claim.
- It sets out the records that individuals will need to maintain after claiming the grant.

A reminder that if you are not eligible for the UK Government scheme, you may be eligible for the Scottish Government’s [Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund](#).

### Small Business Grant Scheme

The second phase of the Small Business Grant scheme - which extends grant support to all subsequent eligible properties - is now open for applications, Finance Secretary Kate Forbes announced yesterday. The second phase of the Small Business Grant scheme ensures that - in addition to existing grants of £10,000 or £25,000 for the first property - businesses may now qualify for grants of £7,500 or £18,750 on all subsequent eligible premises. Read more [here](#). You will need to apply for this via your local authority.

### 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](mailto:grahame@cecascotland.co.uk)

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