

13th 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.

Scottish Procurement Blog: Respond Reset Restart and Recovery

A Scottish Procurement Blog has been issued (12th May) summarising recent changes introduced on procurement issues in the context of the '4 Rs' - Response, Reset, Restart and Recover, including:

- Issuing a [Scottish Public Procurement Policy Note](#), highlighting the flexibility buyers have within the current rules to place contracts at this time;
- [Publishing guidance](#), offering hints and tips on simplification and reminding public bodies of the range of procurement procedures available to them during the COVID-19 outbreak;
- Releasing a [Construction Policy Note](#), which offers the opportunity for electronic signatures on trust documents for project bank accounts (PBAs);
- [Publishing guidance](#), promoting prompt payment of invoices and highlighting options to help suppliers at risk because of the current crisis;
- Issued [tailored policy guidance](#) for construction procurements which also supports the [COVID-19: Guidance For Construction Sector](#);

Work is now focused on "Restart and Recover", with work underway on **Restart**; national policy guidance, alignment of contracting plans and construction industry support and on **Recovery**; identifying and targeting emerging priorities, clarifying construction pipelines and cross-functional/organisational interventions. You can read the blog in full [here](#)

CICV Forum: Commercial Guidance and Advice

The Construction Industry Coronavirus Forum (CICV) is a collective of Scottish trade and professional bodies gathering intelligence, sharing advice and speaking directly with government on issues affecting members in the current crisis. CECA Scotland is a member of the Forum. Click [here](#) to access the commercial guidance that has been prepared by the Forum's commercial sub group. This is generic information for the whole of the Scottish construction industry and not specific to the civil engineering sector.

CECA Scotland Briefing: COVID-19 Update

Managing Remote Teams, Furloughed or Self Isolated Employees

CECA National have produced a guide to managing remote teams, furloughed or self-isolated (shielding) employees which you can download [here](#).

Supplier Development Programme Update

Supplier Relief during COVID-19 Survey

Working in partnership with the Scottish Government, the Supplier Development Programme is running a short survey on Supplier Relief during the COVID-19 crisis. The survey is open till Friday 22 May and can be completed [here](#).

Webinars

Thursday 14th May, 10am-10.45 *Talking Tenders* with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport. Book [here](#)
Tuesday 19th May, 10.30am-12noon *Talking Tenders* with Scottish Procurement Alliance . Book [here](#).
Thursday 21st May, 10am-11.30am - Using PCS and other portals. Book [here](#).
Wednesday 27th May, 10am-11.30am - Finding and Understanding Framework Opportunities. Book [here](#).
Thursday 28th May, 10am-11.30am - Introduction to Tendering. Book [here](#).

Meet the Buyer 2020: Live Virtual Event

A virtual Meet the Buyer 2020 event: Live Virtual Event will be held on 2 June 2020, between 10a, and 4pm, focusing on suppliers engaging with public sector buyers through a Twitter Takeover, supported by two SDP training webinars, [Public Contracts Scotland: What would you like to know](#) and [Improving your Bid Score](#). Book your place at Meet the Buyer 2020 [here](#).

Ready Steady Go Webinar

As we work on plans to enable a safe construction restart, Sodak Ltd are running a webinar to share tips on how to design environments that make COVID-19 back to work behaviours more likely to happen. The webinar is this Friday 15th May at 2.30pm. Sign up [here](#).

Construction Scotland Innovation Centre “i-con” Webinars

Tuesday 19th May, 12-12.45: [What change is needed for reset and recovery in the built environment sector?](#) This webinar will discuss changes the sector needs to make to get back to work covering technology, skills, public procurement, modern construction and a sustainable future.

[i-Con Innovation Challenge Fund](#) The fund offers up £25,000 to support projects that match industry challenges with innovative solutions to operational challenges such as site management, offsite construction, health and safety management etc. Challenge holders are sought from across industry.

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

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UK Government Announcements

Now Open: Self-Employment Income Support Scheme

From 8am today, Wednesday 13 May 2020, self-employed individuals or members of partnerships whose business has been adversely affected by coronavirus will be able to apply for a Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) grant, worth 80% of their average monthly trading profits, up to a maximum of £7,500, paid in a single instalment. Check if you are eligible for the scheme [here](#).

Government to support businesses through Trade Credit Insurance guarantee

Businesses with supply chains which rely on Trade Credit Insurance and who are experiencing difficulties maintaining cover due to Coronavirus will get support from the government. The Government will temporarily guarantee business-to-business transactions currently supported by Trade Credit Insurance, ensuring the majority of insurance coverage will be maintained across the market. This will support supply chains and help businesses to trade with confidence as they can trust that they will be protected if a customer defaults on payment. HMG's Trade Credit Insurance (TCI) guarantee will cover over £171 billion business activity currently insured and the transactions between around 13000 suppliers and 650,000 buyers. You can find further information [here](#).

Roadmap Taskforces

New ministerial-led taskforces have been set up to plan how closed sectors can reopen safely. These cover England only. More details [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](#).

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