

4<sup>th</sup> June 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).

### CICV Forum “Returning from Furlough” Guidance

As the construction sector restarts, the Construction Industry Coronavirus Forum, of which CECA Scotland is a member, has produced a helpful guide, “Returning from Furlough” with advice for companies preparing to ‘unfurlough’ staff and get them back to work, where this is possible. It covers a wide range of issues and examines subjects such as the timeline for bringing furlough to an end, steps to keep furloughed workers safe, ‘Unfurloughing’ and ‘re-furloughing’, potential refusal to return and the mental health of staff.

You can read more on the CECA Scotland website [here](#) or download the guide [here](#).

### CECA National Weekly Update

CECA National have published their Weekly Update, covering 27<sup>th</sup> May-3<sup>rd</sup> June. You can read it by clicking [here](#).

### Construction Industry JTC Newslines

The latest Construction Industry Joint Taxation Committee Newslines, prepared by tax expert Liz Bridge, is now available and can be accessed [here](#). It provides an in depth briefing on recent changes to the Furlough Scheme.

### Employee Expenses and Benefits during COVID-19

HMRC have provided an updated (3<sup>rd</sup> June) on how to treat and report taxable expenses and benefits when they are paid to employees because of coronavirus. Read the guide [here](#).

### Scottish Enterprise Online workshop: How flexible, inclusive work practices can support a healthy, productive working environment

Scottish Enterprise are delivering a workshop on the 18<sup>th</sup> June on the above topic, providing expert tips and advice on how to navigate the challenges ahead and manage change and consider how you might empower your employees to develop new, improved ways of working. Register [here](#).

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) and entering or returning to the UK

From 8 June, there will be [new rules](#) in place for entering the UK because of coronavirus (COVID-19). The rules are for residents and visitors. When these rules are in place, you will:

- need to provide your journey and contact details when you travel to the UK
- not be allowed to leave the place you are staying for the first 14 days you are in the UK except in very limited situations (known as 'self-isolating').

You do not need to complete the form or self-isolate if you are travelling from Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, and you were there for 14 days or more.

[Some travellers](#), including some specific workers, will be exempt from new English border rules. These workers may need to show a letter from their company or the company they are coming to work for at the border. More details are available [here](#). While these rules apply to the England only, it is very likely similar rules will be applied in Scotland and the other UK nations.

### Final date for the furlough scheme

The UK Government have confirmed that the final date by which an employer can furlough an employee for the first time will be 10 June 2020, in order for the current three-week furlough period to be completed by 30 June 2020. Employers will have until 31 July to make any claims in respect of the period to 30 June. Further details can be found [here](#).

### HSE Guidance on Protecting Homeworkers

With home working continuing to be advised for most office-based roles until we reach the final phase of the [Scottish Government's Routemap](#), please ensure you are familiar with the HSE guidance on protecting homeworkers, which you can find [here](#).

### COVID-19 Relief Grant for learning and training providers

Skills Development Scotland (SDS), on behalf of the Scottish Government, has announced additional financial support for Modern Apprenticeship and Employability Fund providers who are delivering contract related services for learners, apprentices and employers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

## CECA Scotland Briefing: COVID-19 Update

Read full details [here](#).

### Trade Credit Insurance backed by £10 billion guarantee

Trade Credit Insurance, which provides essential cover to hundreds of thousands of business-to-business transactions, will receive up to £10 billion of government guarantees.

- The Trade Credit Reinsurance scheme, which has been agreed following extensive discussions with the insurance sector, will see the vast majority of Trade Credit Insurance coverage maintained across the UK.
- The guarantees will support supply chains and help businesses during the coronavirus pandemic to trade with confidence, safe in the knowledge that they will be protected if a customer defaults or delays on payment.
- The scheme is available on a temporary basis for nine months, backdated to 1 April 2020, and available insurers operating in the UK market.

Please see further information [here](#).

### Scottish Parliament Summer Recess Scrapped

MSP's have today (4<sup>th</sup> June) agreed to keep the Scottish Parliament running throughout the usual summer recess. MSPs will meet weekly throughout summer, each Thursday, via virtual statement led sessions, with the First Minister delivering statements at Holyrood on 9th and 30th July.

These dates are planned coincide with the three-week review cycles. Should all criteria met, these could be the earliest dates for introducing new phases of the route map. Parliament will resume fully on 11th August, when schools are planned to reopen.

The Scottish Government's latest COVID-19 advice for businesses can be read [here](#)

You can read the Scottish Government's latest COVID-19 Construction Guidance [here](#)

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

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