

22nd 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.

CICV Forum: Return to Work Safely Animation

The Construction Industry Coronavirus Forum, of which CECA Scotland is a key member, have today launched an Animation, which illustrates the key health and safety steps for a safe return to work. Entitled *Working Together*, the 90-second animation illustrates the positive day-to-day measures that workers in the construction industry can take to protect themselves, their colleagues and the wider community.

You can watch and download the Animation [here](#) or find more details on the CECA Scotland website [here](#).

CICV Forum Restart Pack

A reminder that you can also download the CICV Forum Restart Pack, published last week, from the CECA Scotland website [here](#)

Updated Construction Sector Guidance

Following last week's announcement that the Scottish construction sector could move to Phase 3 of its [Restart Plan](#), the Scottish Government have today (22nd June) published updated guidance for the construction sector which you can read [here](#). The guidance confirms that decisions on the timing of progression through subsequent phases will be made in line with the Restart Plan and Route Map.

This guidance should be read in conjunction with the Scottish Government's [business and physical distancing guidance](#) and strongly reinforces the message that companies must consult with their employees to maintain workplace safety and ensure that their health and safety professionals and

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representatives have the skills, training and knowledge to understand the risks associated with COVID-19.

Future Procurement of Work

The updated construction guidance asks public sector clients and contractors to “address pragmatically their mutual needs to ensure Scotland, both locally and nationally, retains a viable construction sector through these unprecedented times and that businesses emerge ready to resume work on existing projects and new opportunities”. It states that public sector contracting authorities should continue to progress pre-procurement activity, and progress to procurement where it is clear industry can respond, assisting suppliers to plan for, and schedule, full recommencement of operations as soon as practicable.

Working Towards Economic Recovery

The independent Advisory Group established by the Scottish Government to advise on Scotland’s economic recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, has today published its report, *Towards a Robust, Resilient Wellbeing Economy for Scotland*, which you can read in full [here](#).

The group’s 25 recommendations, which will now be considered in detail by the Scottish Government and its partners, include:

- an urgent need to access low cost debt requires an accelerated review of the Fiscal Framework, and a significant increase in access to capital investment to support an investment-led recovery
- a Scottish jobs guarantee, in partnership between business and government, should be introduced to address unemployment, with refocused skills strategies and decisive steps to align teaching and learning in universities and colleges to the needs of business
- prioritisation of sector plans to deliver a green recovery, where the coincidence of emissions reductions, the development of natural capital and job creation are the strongest
- critical investment in the country’s digital infrastructure to improve connectivity, reduce inequalities and build the country’s resilience
- urgent action to develop a stronger relationship between business and government on the strategy for Scotland’s economic recovery

The Scottish Government have confirmed that they will publish a full response to the report by the end of July. Further details can be found [here](#).

Claiming for Wages through the Job Retention Scheme: Update

The UK Government updated their Job Retention Scheme guidance (19th July) to provide a new template for employers claiming for 100 or more employees from 1st July. Read the updated

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

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guidance [here](#). You can also download the template form, to be used for claims on or after 1st July, [here](#).

Update on UK Alert Level

The Joint Biosecurity Centre has recommended that the COVID-19 alert level should move from Level 4 (A COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation; transmission is high or rising exponentially) to Level 3 (A COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation). The Chief Medical Officers for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have reviewed the evidence and all agree with this recommendation to move to Level 3 across the UK. Read more [here](#)

Scotland's Test and Protect Advice

NHS Test and Protect is being delivered by NHS Scotland to reduce the risk of the virus spreading and as Scotland moves into phase 2 of the Scottish Government's exit strategy routemap, guidance will be shortly be issued to every household. You can access the guidance, published today, [here](#)

CECA Scotland Business Planning Webinar

CECA Scotland are delivering a webinar in partnership with our auditors, Johnson Carmichael: "*Business Planning: How to navigate the recovery from COVID-19*". The webinar will be delivered on **Wednesday 24th June at 11am**.

For more details and to sign up, click [here](#).

Coronavirus: MOTs for lorries and trailers

You can book a lorry, bus or trailer annual test (MOT) from 4 July 2020 - the deadline to get the test done depends on when the MOT was originally due. The update includes that lorry, bus or trailer annual tests (MOTs) will restart from 4 July 2020 but vehicles in June, July and August will be issued 3-month exemptions. This applies in Wales, England and Scotland. Find out more [here](#).

You can access the Scottish Government's latest COVID-19 Construction Sector guidance [here](#).

Access Phase 2: business and physical distancing guidance [here](#).

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