

3rd July 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.

CECA Workload Trends Survey

The latest CECA Workload Trends Survey for 2020 Q2 is now online and can be completed [here](#) by CECA Scotland members only. The results of this survey will be especially relevant in our discussions with government, given it covers the COVID-19 lockdown period for the industry in Scotland and your help would be greatly appreciated. The deadline for responses is close of business 13th July.

Updated: COVID-19 Guidance on Staying Safe and Protecting Others

Scottish Government guidance, Staying Safe and Protecting Others (Physical Distancing) has been updated today (3rd July) and can be read in full [here](#).

Promoting Skills and Employment

A group of industry experts on the Scottish Government's Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board, have [today](#) submitted an action plan to limit unemployment caused by the economic impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19). Their recommendations, which will be considered by the Scottish Government alongside last week's report from the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery, include:

- an expansion of online opportunities for young people to find information on future jobs and training
- enhanced help for those facing redundancy, including the reshaping of the PACE redundancy support scheme with more frontline advisers, potentially through private sector secondment, volunteers and tailored support for businesses of all sizes

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- maximising the flexibility of colleges and universities to offer short courses so people can learn critical skills needed by employers, including digital, automation, artificial intelligence and the transition to a net-zero economy
- assistance to support employee retention, including a 'toolkit' of measures to introduce new innovative work practices and upskill or reskill staff
- short placement schemes to give work experience to under-25s out of work for six months
- expansion of apprentice provision, including more off-the-job training opportunities where employers cannot accommodate learning in the workplace, and virtual learning in schools

You can read the plan in full [here](#).

Travel Restrictions Lifted

The 5 mile travel ban in Scotland for leisure, has been lifted today, however, the public are encouraged to stay within their local area, where possible. Read more [here](#).

Final Phase 2 Measures Confirmed

Further to yesterday's Daily Update, details of the final Phase 2 measures can be read in full [here](#), including information on mandatory face coverings and some exemptions from the 2 metre rule.

Obtaining Surety during COVID-19

The Insurance and Surety Working Group for the Construction Leadership Council COVID-9 Task Force have published guidance on obtaining surety during the pandemic, which can be read [here](#). The guidance is aimed at helping SME's obtain bonds in the current climate. While bonds are often a key contractual requirement, Covid-19 has led to uncertainties surrounding reduced productivity and risk which has impacted on the accessibility of bonds in the supply chain. The guidance provides SME's with practical advice for use in discussions with brokers and providers when seeking bonds, including recommendations on the information that should be collected and presented. While it was designed to assist SMEs, it should be useful for all in the supply chain.

COVID-19 Events Sector Guidance

Scottish Government guidance on safe reopening for the events sector has been published today (3rd July). It can be read [here](#). A detailed Operational Checklist for safe COVID-19 event organisation can be downloaded [here](#).

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

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COVID-19 Second Homes Guidance

Updated guidance has been published today for people with second homes outlining changes in light of the easing of lockdown. Read more [here](#)

COVID-19 Updates on CECA Scotland Website

We have created a new page on the CECA Scotland website listing all relevant COVID-19 guidance for CECA Scotland members. This will be added to over the coming weeks. You can access it [here](#).

UK Wide Updates

No VAT on PPE until end of October

The temporary scrapping of VAT on PPE has been extended until the end of October, the government announced today. More details [here](#).

Holidays Abroad this Summer

It has been announced today that from 10 July 2020 you will be able to travel to many countries without having to self-isolate on return to England, including Spain, Italy and France. The exemptions from self-isolation apply to all modes of international transport, including sea and international rail routes as well as flights. In addition, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will shortly set out exemptions for a number of destinations from its global advisory against “all but essential” international travel, with changes coming into effect on 4th July. Read more [here](#).

Scotland and the other devolved nations have yet to agree their own approach to exemptions, therefore travellers abroad from Scottish airports will still be subject to 14 days isolation until Scottish guidance is issued.

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

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

Read Returning to Work Safely guidance [here](#)

www.cecascotland.co.uk/covid-19

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