

3rd 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.

New platform for the sustainable procurement duty tools

Scottish Government Public Procurement have today launched a new platform for the sustainable procurement duty tools. It is hoped that using the prioritisation tool and other sustainable procurement duty tools will form a helpful part of restarting activities.

The platform for the sustainable procurement tools can be accessed [here](#). The supporting sustainable procurement guidance has been relocated from the Scottish Government website and is available on the platform with the tools. It is not necessary to register and log in to access the guidance which can be accessed [here](#). Read more [here](#).

Future of People's Health and Constructing Better Health (CBH)

The [B&CE](#), provider of Constructing Better Health (CBH) - an occupational health management scheme for the construction industry - has today announced its plan to exit the occupational health market in construction due to it not being "commercially viable".

CECA members who used Constructing Better Health will be informed formally today, with support to find new provision. You can read more, including a list of Q&As, [here](#) and the Press Release announcing the decision [here](#).

SCDI State of the Nation Briefing

The latest SCDI [State of the Nation briefing](#) for June reveals the heavy toll of the COVID-19 pandemic on employment, productivity and growth in April and May, including the biggest ever monthly fall in UK GDP, Scottish consumer confidence and retail sales at record lows, finding

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that the average employer would have made 35% of workforce redundant without furlough and that 30,000 jobs are at risk in energy sector alone. You can download it in full on the SCDI website [here](#).

HMRC Business support videos during COVID-19

Watch HMRC videos on running your business through coronavirus, coronavirus job retention scheme, self-employment and income support scheme, statutory sick pay rebate scheme (*updated today*), helping employers support employees and other help available. Find videos [here](#).

Working safely during coronavirus -how to make your workplace COVID-secure

Watch recordings of webinars covering 8 types of workplace settings [here](#)
(Please note these videos reflect UK Government guidance)

Update from the Small Business Commissioner on COVID-19 late payment support

The Small Business Commissioner covers all part of the UK, with the objective of empowering small businesses in resolving disputes around late and unfair payment issues and providing advice, including on how to take action if payment is overdue. The Small Business Commissioner has helped small businesses recover over £7.2 million owed to them (Dec 17 - May 2020) and £500,000 specifically during the coronavirus crisis. If you would like more information or help:

- Click [here](#) if you are looking for general advice;
- Click [here](#) if you have a complaint against a firm regarding non-payment;
- For further information, visit the Small Business Commissioner [website](#);

Read case study examples on our [website](#).

Scottish Natural Heritage Online Resources & COVID-19 Support

As the industry in Scotland plans for a phased return to construction activities Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) wish to highlight their online guidance on species licensing, protected areas, and species, and engaging with SNH during this time.

- SNH planning service during the coronavirus pandemic: click [here](#)
- Species licensing: click [here](#)
- Protected Areas: click [here](#)

Vitamin D Advice

The Scottish Government have today (3rd June) issued guidance that everyone in Scotland should consider taking a Vitamin D supplement. Read the advice [here](#).

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

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COVID-19 Case for Extending Brexit Transition Period

The Scottish Government have published a paper today setting out why they see it as vital, if we are to ensure the most rapid recovery possible from the COVID-19 crisis, that the UK Government immediately seeks an extension to the Brexit transition period (scheduled to finish on 31 December 2020) for two years. You can read more and download the paper [here](#).

Parliamentary and local election terms extended

Scottish Parliamentary and local election terms will be extended to five years in line with the UK Parliament and other devolved legislatures under changes approved by MSPs today. Read more [here](#). This means that the next Scottish Parliamentary election will be in May 2021, with council elections in May 2022.

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