

25th 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).

### CECA Scotland COVID-19 Productivity Survey

The Construction Leadership Council is monitoring and reporting on the COVID-19 productivity experience in England. CECA Scotland have therefore created a survey to feed in Scottish members experiences, allowing for a true UK wide analysis. Please complete this survey if you can [here](#).

### CITB Announcement on Levy & Consensus

Since the start of the Covid-19 crisis, CECA at both Scottish and UK level, have been in regular dialogue with the CITB to discuss the impacts of the crisis on CECA members, and our views on how CITB could support industry. Following these discussions CITB moved to suspend levy payment, while also providing dedicated training products to help businesses address Covid-19 issues on site. Today (25<sup>th</sup> June), the CITB has announced the next stages in its response to Covid-19, which have been developed with support from CECA and other industry federations. **The key elements of the plan are:**

#### Skills Stability Plan

CITB revised business plan for the year to March 2021. It outlines how it will support construction with the skills it needs, including to recover from the Covid-19 crisis. The main emphasis will be on supporting apprenticeships and on direct funding for employers' skills needs through the Grants scheme and the Skills and Training Funds. **Read the plan in full [here](#).**

#### Cutting levy liability

CITB has been exploring ways to cut levy collection, recognising the cash-flow challenges that industry faces. By law it must collect the Levy, but have developed proposals to minimise the impact for all Levy payers. Under the new arrangements there will be no Levy payments until September and then employers will have a choice to pay up-front or over a 12-month period to August 2021. In addition, next year's Levy bills will be delayed and cut by 50%. This bill can

## CECA Scotland Briefing: COVID-19 Update

also be paid in one go, or spread over September 2021 - February 2022. This means an overall Levy cut of 25% across two years. Levy collection will then return to 'normal' rates and collection periods from March 2022. See a **Levy Payment example** [here](#).

### CITB Consensus

With support from the Department for Education, CITB will suspend the consensus process that was due to take place in the autumn. This is in response to feedback from CECA and others that managing the process would take attention away from the need to support the recovery of the sector.

This summer, CITB will seek the industry's views on the required skills strategy for 2021-23 and the Levy to fund it. It will then submit new Levy Proposals to the Department for Education to enable it to present a new Levy Order to Parliament.

### CECA National Weekly Update

The CECA National Weekly Update, covering 17-24 June, has been published and can be read [here](#).

### Coronavirus Guidance for Companies House Customers

This guidance was updated yesterday; you can read it in full [here](#).

### Skills Support for Workers in Furlough or Facing Redundancy

Workers in Scotland who are either on furlough or facing redundancy are being offered free skills support from the Open University. The OU are offering a range of tailored modules to support vital post-COVID skills. Find out more [here](#).

### SCDI Railways Webinar

SCDI are delivering a webinar to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on rail services and how the industry can contribute to Scotland's economic recovery. It takes place at 2pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July - you can register [here](#)

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](#)

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

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