

10th 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. 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.

Updated Phase 3 Guidance

Phase 3 Business and Physical Distancing Guidance

Updated guidance has been published for businesses in Scotland on keeping safe during the COVID-19 outbreak. Home working continues to be the default option where this is possible.

You can access the guidance [here](#).

Staying Safe and Protecting Others

Rules on staying safe and protecting others have today been updated to reflect Scotland's move into Phase 3. You can read the updated guidance [here](#).

Monthly Economic Brief (July 2020)

The Scottish Government have today published their Monthly Economic Brief for July, which you can read in full [here](#). The impact of the pandemic and lockdown measures on Scotland's economic output has been rapid and severe, with GDP down by 18.9% in April, the first full month of lockdown, and by around 23% over March and April combined. The latest business surveys have signalled that business output in Scotland has continued to fall sharply in May, though to a lesser extent than in April, with UK survey data also signalling stabilisation in June. This is to be expected as lockdown restrictions have eased, and businesses have begun to resume operations. On a positive note, the pick-up in activity is particularly evident in the construction sectors to date and signals recovery is happening in Scotland but at a gradual pace.

Job Retention Bonus

The Job Retention Bonus is a one-off payment of £1,000 to employers that have used the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) for each furloughed employee who remains continuously employed until 31 January 2021. The bonus will provide additional support to retain employees. To be eligible, employees will need to:

CECA Scotland Briefing: COVID-19 Update

- earn at least £520 per month (above the Lower Earnings Limit) on average for November, December and January
- have been furloughed by you at any point and legitimately claimed for under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
- have been continuously employed by you up until at least 31 January 2021.

Employers will be able to claim the bonus from February 2021. More information about this scheme will be available by 31 July and full guidance will be published in the Autumn

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme - Reminder of key dates

Claiming for employees furloughed on or before 30 June. Claim by **31 July** for employees furloughed for periods ending on or before **30 June**.

- **Get ready for changes from 1 August.** Employers will no longer be able to use a CJRS grant to cover National Insurance (NI) and pension contributions for furloughed employees from 1 August. You can submit August claims in advance, from **20 July**.
- **Working out your claims.** Use HMRC's online examples and [calculator](#) to help work out what you can claim, for claims ending on or before 31 July. From 10 July you will also be able to use these to help you work out claims ending on or before 31 August.
- **Made a mistake on your claim?** You can now [delete a claim online](#) within 72 hours of submitting it.

More information on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is available [here](#).

Early Stage Growth Challenge Fund

A comprehensive package of support for innovative early stage businesses whose routes to investment and growth have been impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19) has been announced by Economy Secretary Fiona Hyslop. The £38m package includes three levels of support to meet the needs of the most promising businesses at different stages of early growth. Read more [here](#)

Updated Guidance for Colleges & Universities

From Wednesday 22nd July, colleges and universities can begin a phased return to on campus learning as part of a blended model with remote teaching and public health measures in place. Updated guidance to ensure the safety of students and staff has been published (9th July) and can be read [here](#); and also for universities, which you can read [here](#).

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

Read Phase 3 Business and Physical Distancing Guidance [here](#)

Visit CECA Scotland's COVID-19 Information Hub [here](#)

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

Civil Engineering Contractors Association Scotland, Enterprise House, Springkerse Business Park, Stirling, FK7 7UF.
www.cecascotland.co.uk @ceca_scotland