

16 April 2020

Briefing Note

CECA Member Briefing:

Covid-19: CECA update

Introduction

This short briefing has been prepared on behalf of the UK construction sector to brief companies and individuals on the ongoing repercussions of the Covid-19 coronavirus for our sector. This briefing will be delivered daily by CECA over the coming weeks – if you would like further information, or to input your views, contact CECA chief executive Alasdair Reisner on 07977151912 or e-mail alasdairreisner@ceca.co.uk.

Focus on member issues

Since the Covid-19 crisis emerged CECA has worked to identify issues and difficulties faced by members, working with the Government and clients to mitigate the impact on our sector. To help us continue to focus on the areas of highest priority, we would welcome feedback from all members on the issue that you think we should be targeting next. Please send any suggestions to CECA chief executive Alasdair Reisner - alasdairreisner@ceca.co.uk.

CECA National Webinar

Watch a recording of CECA national's first webinar for members (held on 9 April) on the Covid-19 pandemic click [here](#). Click [here](#) to read a list of questions that arose from the session, and CECA's responses to them.

Industry feedback - Employment

As part of our work to respond to the current crisis, we are keen to understand the latest information on levels of activity and employment in the industry. To support this work, please can you take 2 minutes to fill out [this survey](#).

Industry feedback – Government support

The Construction Industry Coronavirus Task Force has prepared a short survey to anonymously capture feedback on use and experiences of business trying to access support provided by HMG. Please take two minutes to fill it out [here](#).

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

The UK Government has provided additional flexibility for new workers to qualify under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Originally workers had to be employed on February 28 2020. But guidance published yesterday has confirmed the eligibility date has been extended to March 19 2020 – the day before the scheme was announced.

Employers can claim for furloughed employees that were employed and on their PAYE payroll on or before 19 March 2020. This means that the employee must have been notified to HMRC through an RTI submission notifying payment in respect of that employee on or before 19 March 2020. Further details can be found [here](#).

Wales-Specific Commentary

Safe Operating Procedures: members operating in Wales should note that version 3 of the Construction Leadership Council's Site Operating Procedures, which were [published yesterday](#), and which CECA has had input to, refer to Public Health England. In Wales, these procedure should be read in conjunction with the regulations launched by the Welsh Government (for all businesses in Wales and based on Public Health Wales guidance) on 7 April 2020 and with this [accompanying guidance](#). The updated version of the SOP align well with the Welsh Government Regulations and offer more construction-specific guidance. CECA Wales members may already have their own procedures in place with "reasonable measures" for when working within 2m is unavoidable. In that case these procedures should, at the very least, offer some reassurance.

Contractual Issues: CECA Wales members should also note the CLC [Guidance on Contractual Issues](#) Caused by Coronavirus which was updated 8 April 2020. Whilst everyone is focused on the impacts of Covid-19 we will all, at some point soon, need to consider the contractual impacts of this pandemic. Whilst the notes here will help you consider the implications the clear message at this stage is that you should review all your affected contracts and discuss the implications with your various clients as soon as possible. In the meantime CECA Wales will be engaging with clients on the broader contractual issues and attitudes towards cost and time implications and will feed back any general messages to members.

In terms of the latest Welsh Government information relating to Covid-19 please follow [this link](#).

Welsh Government Business Support: additional grant funding is also being made available with applications opening from 17 April 2020. The expectation is for the demand for these grants to be high (and it is on a first come first serve basis), so CECA Wales recommends members should check eligibility now so that you are ready to apply when the portal opens on Friday. Details of the scheme can be found [here](#). Full details on the eligibility criteria can be found [here](#).

[Training - Fairness, Inclusion & Respect](#)

Click [here](#) for an updated (16 April 2020) schedule of Fairness, Inclusion and Respect webinars.

[Support the fight against Coronavirus](#)

The UK Government has asked industry to offer support to those fighting coronavirus. If your business can offer support in any of the following circumstances:

- Protective equipment for healthcare workers, such as masks, gowns, and sanitiser;
- Hotel rooms;
- Transport and logistics, for moving goods or people;
- Manufacturing equipment;
- Warehouse or office space, for medical use or storage;
- Expert advice or consultancy on IT, manufacturing, construction, project management, procurement, or engineering;
- Social care or childcare;
- Community support.

Please use [this link](#) to offer your help.