

31 March 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](mailto:alasdairreisner@ceca.co.uk).

### [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.

### [New industry survey \(31 March 2020\)](#)

As part of our work to assess the impact of Covid-19 on the construction sector, we have been carrying out a series of surveys. Thank you to all firms that have taken part in the surveys. The latest version can be found [here](#). While the questions are similar to previous versions, please do fill in this version as it allows us to assess changes in the industry over time.

### [New CECA Guidance \(30 March\) - Temporary Suspension of Sites](#)

CECA has published new guidance on the temporary suspension of sites. Read it [here](#).

### [HMRC Webinar](#)

HM Revenue & Customs are to run a webinar on 'Covid-19 - helping employers to support employees.' This webinar will cover the Covid-19 Job Retention Scheme; furloughed workers; Statutory Sick Pay; and support available to employers for outstanding payments to HMRC. For more information and to choose a date and time, click [here](#).

### [Self-employment Income Support Scheme](#)

The Self-employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) will support self-employed individuals (including members of partnerships) whose income has been negatively impacted by COVID-19. The scheme will provide a grant to self-employed

individuals or partnerships, worth 80% of their profits up to a cap of £2,500 per month. The business support website provides [more information](#) and [FAQs](#).

### [Infrastructure & Projects Authority – Best Practice](#)

Following Government advice that construction should continue where it can happen in a way that follows Public Health England and industry guidance, the Infrastructure & Projects Authority wish to share examples of good practice. Contact the IPA to request a template where you can enter details of positive examples of where sites are continuing to operate safely and the benefits of this.

### [CITB](#)

The latest updates from CITB including details of new Online Site Safety Training, and a checklist for apprentice safety, can be found at the its dedicated Covid-19 website [here](#).

### [Wales](#)

The Welsh Government has outlined a £500 million fund to respond to Coronavirus:

- a new £100 million Development Bank of Wales fund will be available for companies experiencing cash flow problems as a result of the pandemic and will provide loans of between £5,000 and £250,000 at favourable interest rates.
- businesses will also be able to benefit from a £400 million emergency pot providing:
  - Grants of £10,000 for micro-businesses employing up to nine people. This includes sole traders employing staff. Qualifying businesses will be able to apply by mid-April.
  - Grants of up to £100,000 for small and medium-sized firms with between 10 and 249 employees. Qualifying businesses will be able to apply from next week.
  - Support for larger Welsh companies, which are of critical social or economic importance to Wales. This element will be open to qualifying businesses within the next two weeks.

The £500 million Economic Resilience Fund will support businesses forced to temporarily cease trading – to go into “hibernation” – or which need cash-flow support to adapt to a remote way of working.

### [Covid-19 Webinars](#)

ACE has announced a new online webinar series to help its members and the wider industry through the coronavirus crisis. Hosted by ACE chief executive Hannah Vickers, Navigating COVID-19 covers the major issues currently facing our industry including finance, people, communications and procurement.

Attendees will have the opportunity to ask virtual questions to the panel of experts on specific announcements, such as the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme or Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme. The webinars are open to anyone with an interest in the topics covered. Sign-up now to upcoming webinars through the links below:

#### [Support for your SME and Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme \(31.03.20, 1.30pm\)](#)

We welcome [Brian Berry](#), FMB, to explore what the crisis means for SMEs. A TBA Partner at Beale & Co joins us to explore the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme in more detail. Special guest [Fergus Harradence](#), BEIS, is on hand to help answer any questions.

#### [Procurement \(02.04.20, 12.00pm\)](#)

[Sam Ulyatt](#) and [John Welch](#) of Crown Commercial Service, part of the Cabinet Office, explore the recent procurement policy notices and what they mean for the construction sector. [Alasdair Reisner](#) of CECA joins to explore how contractors can support the supply chain during the crisis.

#### [People in a Pandemic \(07.04.20, 12.00pm\)](#)

Exploring the HR and people issues raised by the crisis such as remote working, staff morale and more. Panellists TBA soon.

### [Communicating in a Crisis \(09.04.20, 1.30pm\)](#)

With special guest [Andy Walker](#), editor of *Infrastructure Intelligence*, we will explore the steps you need to take to communicate effectively externally, internally and with stakeholders and clients. [Stuart Young](#), BEIS joins us to help answer any questions.

Find out more and replay previous episodes [here](#).

### [Network Rail](#)

To support its supply chain Network Rail, from yesterday (30 March), payment to suppliers will be made immediately, or as close to immediately as possible, following approval. It is expected that any payments will then be transferred down to supply chain straight away.

### [CECA Employment Briefing - Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#)

Read CECA's Employment Briefing on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme [here](#). Please note this briefing will be updated as further information becomes available.

### [CECA Employment Briefing - Coronavirus](#)

Read CECA's Employment Briefing on the impacts of Covid-19 [here](#).

### [CECA Training & Development Update](#)

Read CECA's Training & Development Update in reference to coronavirus [here](#).