

16 April 2020

Briefing Note

CECA Briefing:

Covid-19 Webinar Q & As - 9 April 2020

Answers to Submitted Questions

This short briefing has been prepared to provide an update to questions that were asked during the course of the 9 April CECA Covid-19 webinar.

1. Can you furlough on and off?

Yes. Currently staff must be on furlough for three weeks before returning to work, but they can be re-furloughed again after that period has elapsed. CECA is working to reduce the three-week period to two weeks.

2. Does the £2500 relate to calendar month or 4 weeks?

This relates to calendar months.

3. If someone is high risk and should isolate for 12 weeks can they be furloughed or would they have to go on SSP?

Employees who are unable to work because they are shielding in line with public health guidance (or need to stay home with someone who is shielding) can be furloughed.

4. Has CECA considered doing a jobs board so that members can advertise opportunities, which would mean less people having to be furloughed?

We are looking at options for a pilot on resource sharing at a regional level. Fuller details of this proposal will be made available shortly.

5. Will CECA be looking at delivering more webinars for members and furloughed employees?

Yes. We are looking to significantly increase our number of webinars, both while the current crisis continues, and in the longer-term future. Details of Covid-19 specific webinars will be available in the daily update, while training webinars will be advertised by CECA regions.

6. Where in the CECA Form does it deal with potential Covid-19 claims?

The Blue Form is drafted on the basis that the Sub-Contractor has equivalent rights to the those of the Contractor under the Main Contract on a back to back basis, so that the Contractor is not exposed to claims which cannot be passed up the line to the Employer. Hence under clause 6(2) of the Blue Form, the Sub-Contractor is entitled to an extension of time (but not additional payment) if he is delayed by any circumstances or occurrence entitling the Contractor to an extension of his time for completion under the Main Contract.

7. Has CECA considered asking that the Apprenticeship Levy is suspended for 3 months? This would help employers' cash flow.

Suspension of the Apprenticeship Levy was one of five key asks that CECA made in a joint industry letter to the Prime Minister in early April. We anticipate a response this week.

8. Network Rail have brought in immediate payment terms. Would CECA look to encourage larger contractors to implement this also?

The Procurement Policy Note that deals with advance payments (PPN 2/20) is very clear in its expectations that any advance payments should be made on an open book basis and pass down the supply chain.

For more information, please contact CECA Chief Executive Alasdair Reisner on 07977 151912 or e-mail alasdairreisner@ceca.co.uk