

21 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.

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

The UK Government has published a step-by-step guide to the use of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, which opened yesterday (Monday). The guide can be found [here](#).

Wales

The Welsh Government announced [online training courses](#) for furloughed workers to be delivered partly in conjunction with Open University on their Working Wales website.

Scotland

The Scottish Government has [announced](#) a second package of business support including:

- £120m to extend the Small Business Grant scheme to ensure that, in addition to a 100% grant on the first property, small business ratepayers will be eligible to a 75% grant on all subsequent properties.
- A further £100m fund is also being made available to protect self-employed people and viable micro and SME businesses in distress due to COVID.
- This fund will be channelled through local authorities and enterprise agencies to target newly self-employed people and businesses who are ineligible for other Scottish Government or UK Government schemes.

Applications for the £100 million fund will be open by the end of the month and the new arrangements for the Small Business Grant will be in place to receive applications on 5 May.

Bonds

An issue has emerged in relation to the availability of bonds needed by contractors to provide security in the event of non-performance. There are suggestions that the current crisis may be making it harder for contractors to secure bonding facilities. If you have experienced any such concerns recently, please contact CECA chief executive Alasdair Reisner (alasdairreisner@ceca.co.uk), who is carrying out research on the issue.

CECA Training & Development Update

Click [here](#) to read CECA's most recent Training & Development Update, published on Friday (17 April 2020).

Navigating Covid-19: New Episode On Bank Loans & Finance

The Association for Consultancy and Engineering (ACE) has shared details of new episodes in its [webinar series](#), 'Navigating COVID-19.' Presented by ACE chief executive Hannah Vickers, these are open to anyone in the industry to attend. Check ACE's website regularly for updates, new guest and episode announcements.

Maximising motivation while in lockdown (Wednesday 22 April, 12.00pm)

Performance Psychologist Dr Andrew Dewar of WSP and Georgia Hughes of Arcadis and chair of ACE's Emerging Professionals join us to discuss how you can make the most of your time whilst working at home. They'll share practical tips and advice to help boost productivity which will apply to any role and at any level.

Business Loans and finance (Wednesday 29 April 2020, 12.00pm)

ACE Advisory Board member, former banker, and ex-special advisor to the then Chancellor Alistair Darling, Geoffrey Spence joins Hannah Vickers to discuss the new financial support made available to businesses, as well as some traditional finance options.

Improving cashflow through tax credits (Wednesday 6 May, 12.00pm)

Mark Smith, Innovation Incentives Partner of ACE affiliate Ayming UK joins us to discuss how R&D tax credits can release the hidden cash trapped in your working capital, helping your business through the weeks and months ahead.

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](#).

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.