

24 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.

CECA Briefing - Covid-19 & Human Resources

Click [here](#) to access a CECA briefing that collates information of relevance to Covid-19 and Human Resources.

Business Support finder

The UK Government has published a '[support finder](#)' tool to help businesses and self-employed people across the UK to quickly and easily determine what financial support is available to them during the coronavirus pandemic. The finder tool asks business owners to fill out a simple online questionnaire, which can take minutes to complete, and they will then be directed to a list of all the financial support they may be eligible for.

Coronavirus Testing

The UK Government has published guidance on accessing coronavirus testing (in England only). Testing is available to essential workers, including some roles in the utilities and transport sectors where those involved are responsible for ensuring networks remain operational. Details can be found [here](#).

Electrical wholesalers

The Electrical Distributors' Association has published details of which of its wholesale members are operating during the Covid-19 crisis. Details can be found [here](#).

Furlough Survey

Please click [here](#) to take a short survey on the impact of the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme on your business.

Implementation of faster payment

The Construction Coronavirus Task Force is researching the effectiveness of measures to support the industry through the current crisis. One welcome intervention by the UK Government has been the publication of Procurement Policy Note 2/20 Supplier Relief due to Covid-19, which asks all public sector clients to review their supply chain and put in place measures to support cash flow for at risk suppliers. This may include accelerated payment, forward ordering and payment in advance. The note also calls for any payment made to be cascaded down the supply chain.

We are keen to understand how widely these recommendations have been implemented. Please can you provide details of the public customers that you work for and whether they have put in place these measures. All individual responses will remain confidential, and will be used to support cross-industry work to help businesses during the current crisis. Please provide details to CECA chief executive Alasdair Reisner by e-mailing alasdairreisner@ceca.co.uk.

Navigating Covid-19

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.

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](#).

Invent Webinar: How to give your business a financial boost during the Covid-19 Crisis

Join Invent for a webinar on how to give your business a financial boost during the Covid-19 pandemic on Wednesday 29 April at 11.00am. To join the Zoom link click [here](#) - the meeting ID is 755 6719 1404 (or enter this meeting ID into your zoom page).

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.