
COVID -19 RESPONSE

The Partnerships Team are continuing to offer help, advice and guidance to our customers.

At present, we are not able to meet with you face to face but are available by SKYPE, email, telephone, social media. Our priority is to help construction business' through this challenging time with a clear focus upon how we can support the industry to retain skills Please continue to keep looking on our website for updates regarding our response to the current situation

<https://www.citb.co.uk/urgent-messages/>

GRANTS: We have prioritised the processing of grant claims in order to pay grants as early as possible. In consideration of the current circumstances we are freezing the 20-week processing rule. Please can you continue to review your grant portal for any unauthorised claims

HS&E TESTS: All Pearson Vue HS&E test centres across the UK will be closed starting Friday 20 March 2020 until further notice. The situation will be monitored on a weekly basis. We are supportive of the calls for employers to provide flexibility on recently expired cards. We are working on some alternative ways that employers may be able to deliver HS&E assessments in the interim You can find more on this by following the links below:

<https://www.cscs.uk.com/applying-for-cards/covid-19/>

<https://www.nocn.org.uk/latest/bulletins/b20-29/>

NCC: CITB's National Construction Colleges in Bircham Newton, Erith, Kings Norton and Inchinnan will temporarily close on Friday 20 March, with training cancelled with

immediate effect to enable arrangements for learners to return home. Current and advance-booked courses during the closure can be rescheduled or refunded. CITB will be contacting all affected learners and employers to make arrangements

OPEN DOORS: Open Doors Week 2020 has been changed from being an onsite experience to a virtual one. You can read more [here](#)

ATOs: We are encouraging ATOs to work with their candidates and assist them in rescheduling any courses they have booked free of charge, should they be unable to attend as a result of COVID-19, relaxing any cancellation and refund policies that they may have in place. CITB have also extended the 10-day achievement upload rule to 30 days. The 30-day period in which ATOs have to submit self-assessment evidence against any full standards which are to be delivered has been extended to 90 days.

CITB APPRENTICESHIPS: CITB Apprenticeships has taken the decision to base all staff at home wherever possible. As a result of this decision, apprentice reviews and engagement with your apprentices and colleagues will be carried out via phone or Skype call

SITE SAFETY PLUS: Any delegate whose SMSTS/SSSTS achievement has expired since 15 March 2020 and who hasn't been able to renew in time due to COVID-19, will be allowed to take the refresher rather than the full course - this will remain in place whilst the current Coronavirus situation continues and will be reviewed on a regular basis

AMBASSADORS TRAINING: We have decided to postpone all Ambassador events until the end of April 2020 and will not be taking any more bookings for the time being



BEIS UPDATES: COVID-19 Business Readiness Bulletins are being circulated weekly by The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). There is some useful information for employers on BEIS measures, business support opportunities and ACAS webinars

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>

OTHER NEWS

CITB GRANT YEAR: The 2020/2021 Grant Scheme year will come into effect from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021. Grant Scheme mailings will be sent out to employers from Monday 23rd March. The website will be updated from the 1st April 2020.

The only change will be to the Short Duration achievement grant which will remain based on a multiplier of 5 with a minimum cap of 35 achievements per employer. You can see your individual cap by logging into your CITB online account. All other grant values are the same as the 2019/2020 grant year.

S&T FUNDS: The Skills and Training Funds for both Small and Micro and Medium-sized businesses will be launched during April. Funding available is dependent upon the size of the business. For example, a firm with 80 employees can claim up to £10k; a firm with 249 employees can claim up to 25k. The application process will be fully available from April on our website. The Partnerships Team will be also be available to support you through the application process

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT FUNDS: We will be launching the Management and Leadership Training Fund during April 2020. This initial fund of £5m will

be awarded to large employers who wish to explore new ways to develop management and leadership practice in their own business. Employers can submit proposals to the fund with successful applicants detailing how they intend to implement new forms of training, qualification or other skills development to support management and leadership in their own business. Projects should last up to 12 months, maximum fund per project of £100k

CONSENSUS EMPLOYER CONSULTATION: The consultation period is now open; now is your opportunity to give your feedback on the Levy Proposals and tell us if we're investing it in the right areas to help shape our three-year plan. Giving us your views will take about 10-15 minutes.

<https://citb.citizenspace.com/consensus2020/consultation/>

T-LEVELS: The government has launched a new [website](#) and package of support, to help employers find out about industry placements and provide support with planning and preparation, in the lead up to the introduction of T Levels.

END

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