

COVID-19 AND ROADWORKS

27 March 2020

Statement from the Scottish Road Works Commissioner:

“Following Scottish Government advice on business and social distancing (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-business-and-social-distancing-guidance/>) I would urge the road works community across Scotland to follow the precautionary principles of the following three questions:

- Is what you do essential or material to the effort against the virus or to the wellbeing of society?
- if so, can your staff work from home?
- if not can you practise safe social distancing and comply with ALL other standard health and safety requirements.

In terms of road works, my guidance in respect of question one is that only works falling within the existing emergency and urgent works categories, as defined in the Code of Practice for the Co-ordination of Works in Roads, are likely to pass the test of essential for the wellbeing of society. In light of the First Minister’s recent statements on distancing, I would ask that you continue to prioritise the health of your workforce at all times.

With respect to the road works performance of your organisation, I would ask that you endeavour to maintain the most achievable level of performance possible whilst following government advice. It is recognised that it would be unrealistic of me to assess organisations’ road works performance solely on their statistics during this unprecedented time. When performance is reviewed at some point in the future, I will of course take into account the prevailing situation and the impact that government advice has had on road works performance. This said, it is my duty to regulate road works in line with current legislation and I expect that organisations will endeavour to comply with both their statutory duties and the advice of the Scottish Government.

I am acutely aware that on a number of road works sites members of the public have questioned the need for operatives to be on site. We will have to work together to get the message across to the public that some works are essential at this difficult time and are in the best interests of coming through the other side of the current challenge.

Any further updates concerning the above will be provided on my website.

Thank you for your understanding at this difficult time.

ANGUS CARMICHAEL

SCOTTISH ROAD WORKS COMMISSIONER

<https://roadworks.scot/>

Circulation: Roads Authorities and Utility Companies Senior Managers and Primary Contacts