

UPDATE: Discussions with Cabinet Secretaries & additional HMRC guidance

Dear Members,

Following our discussions with Cabinet Secretaries, Fergus Ewing and Fiona Hyslop last week, please find as follows two documents highlighting the points raised with the Cabinet Secretaries.

- [CCoC briefing for discussion with Cabinet Secretary on Monday 6 April](#)
- [SCC Network - Notes from Network Call with Fiona Hyslop MSP & Jamie Hepburn MSP](#)

Many of the points were taken on board and you will see some of the feedback. Mr Ewing agreed to feedback on a number of the points to officials in other departments and to Kate Forbes, the Finance Secretary. In addition, Mr Ewing also indicated discussions were taking place with the Scottish Fisheries Federation looking at a scheme to support fishing vessels over 12m who are currently excluded from support.

Scottish Chambers of Commerce is taking forward several actions from the call with the Cabinet Secretary Fiona Hyslop on behalf of us and the rest of the chamber network.

Since our discussions last week there has been some movement on the Jobs Retention Scheme timescale with HMRC announcing they hope to have the portal up and running by the end of the month. They have asked you get your information ready now:

You'll need to provide the following to make a claim:

- The bank account number and sort code you'd like HMRC to use when they pay your claim.
- The name and phone number of the person in your business for HMRC to call with any questions.
- Your Self-Assessment UTR (Unique Tax Reference), Company UTR or CRN (Company Registration Number).

- The name, employee number and National Insurance number for each of your furloughed employees.
- The total amount being claimed for all employees and the total furlough period.

If you use an agent who is authorised to act for you for PAYE purposes, they will be able to make a claim on your behalf, so please speak to them now.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to feedback any issues or concerns you continue to have so that we can ensure your views are highlighted to government and agencies.

Kind regards,
Trudy Morris

Trudy Morris *Chief Executive*

Caithness Chamber of Commerce

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