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www.steelconstruction.org/covid19

22 May 2020

ALL MEMBERS MEMORANDUM NO: 135/20

SCOTLANDS COVID 19 ROUTE MAP

The Scottish government has set out a phased return to normal activities, beginning a process to reopen construction sites from next week.

The First Minister Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon said: Assuming no regression in our progress so far, we believe these conditions will allow a move into Phase 1 from 28 May. Our Test and Protect system will be in place at the end of May to support a move to Phase 1.

To progress from Phase 1 to Phase 2, we would need to have seen the R number consistently below 1 and the number of infectious cases showing a sustained decline.

The gradual return to work is based on a six-point plan that the Scottish government has developed with industry. Collaboration and cooperation with the trades unions play a big part in the return to work plans.

"The construction industry will be able to carefully implement steps 1 and 2 of its 6 step restart plan which it has developed with us," said first minister Nicola Sturgeon.

"However, let me be clear that there must be genuine partnership with trade unions - this can only be done if it is done safely,"

The 46-page document indicates the order in which the country will gradually seek to change current restrictions.

It plans for construction's restart to be in phases. In the first phase, steps 0-2 of the industry restart plan can be implemented. Industry is to consult government before moving to the second. The remaining steps of a phased return for the construction sector will be implemented as the restrictions ease further.

The First Minister said:

Phase 1

We are set to move to Phase 1 following the 28 May end-of-cycle review of the COVID-19 regulations, if the evidence supports that. In Phase 1, the virus would not be fully

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contained. There is a continued risk of overwhelming NHS capacity without significant restrictions remaining in place. To progress to Phase 1, R must have been below 1 for at least 2 weeks and the number of infectious cases starting to decline. However there would have been sustained reductions in new infections, hospital admissions, ICU admissions, deaths (WHO Criterion 1). Test and Protect capacity will be ramped up, with staff being recruited and digital systems being designed.

During Phase 1 a number of changes to the rules would be made – potentially over more than one review cycle (after 28 May, the next review cycle concludes on 18 June). Some of these changes would be to guidance and some to regulations. In addition, a number of public services that had either been paused or scaled back because of the crisis would now be resumed or expanded.

Please find attached Scotland's Route map through and out of the crisis.



Peter Walker
Director of Health, Safety & Training