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**April 2020**

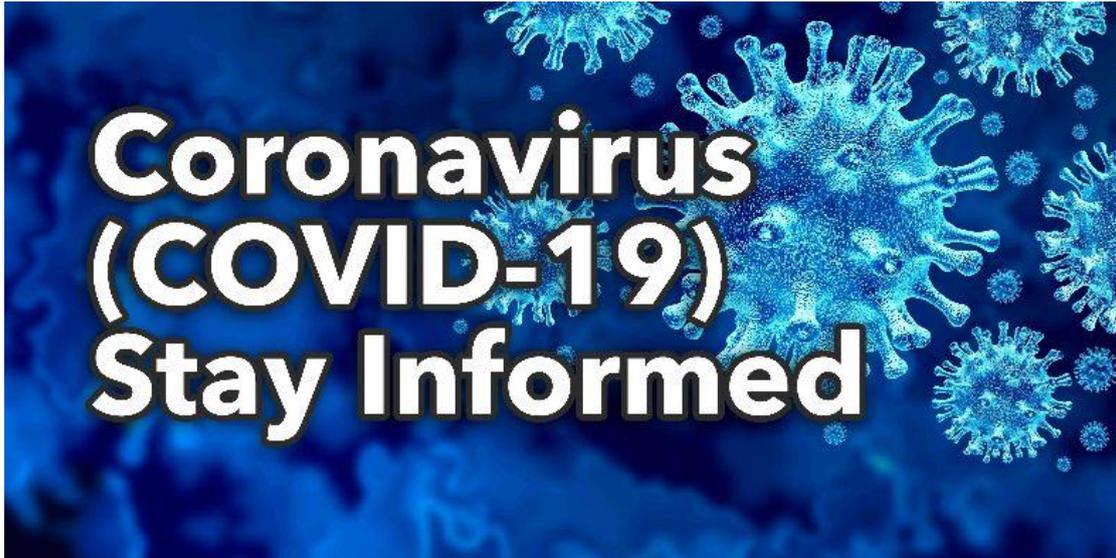
**In this month's update...**

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[Coronavirus updates](#), [New on NetRegs](#), [New Legislation](#), [Consultations](#) and [Updates](#)

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## Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance and support



### Covid-19 guidance and sources of support

The NetRegs team continue to wish you and yours all the best of health. Please stay safe and follow government's advice in this difficult time.

There are a number of sources of guidance for the current situation, including:

#### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance from the UK government: what you need to do**

See the UK government instructions and guidance related to the COVID-19 outbreak, here:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

#### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) information from the Scottish government:**

See information and guidance from the Scottish Government related to the COVID-19 outbreak, here:

<https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

For Coronavirus advice for businesses in Scotland, visit

<https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/coronavirus-advice>

#### **SEPA Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response**

See information from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) related to the COVID-19 outbreak, here:

<https://coronavirus.sepa.org.uk/>

#### **Scottish Enterprise Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice and support for businesses**

Scottish Enterprise have pulled together sources of support and advice for businesses affected by the spread of Coronavirus. View the support and guidance here: <https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/support-for-businesses/coronavirus-covid-19-advice>

#### **Business Gateway's virtual & local business support regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic**

Business Gateway is being responsive and reactive to the needs and challenges Scottish businesses face due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. See a list of free business resources that may be useful to you at this time, here: [Business support - Coronavirus](#)

## **Changes in response to the COVID-19 outbreak**

### **Single use carrier bag charge exemption in Scotland**

The Single Use Carrier Bags Charge (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2020 temporarily removes the requirement for retailers and catering establishments to charge for single use carrier bags used for the delivery of groceries, collection of groceries ordered in advance by their customers, and the delivery or collection of takeaway food.

This exemption came into force on 02 April 2020 and will last until 0001 hours on 3 October 2020.

[You can read the Regulations here >>>](#)

### **Extra-time to apply for accreditation under the Feed-in tariff scheme.**

The Feed-in Tariffs (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Order 2020 provides small-scale renewable electricity generators with extra time to apply for accreditation under the Feed-In Tariffs scheme ("FIT scheme") following unavoidable delays in commissioning their projects caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Order came into force on 31 March 2020.

[You can view the full text of the Order here >>>](#)

### **SEPA Temporary Regulatory Position Statements**

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) is committed to supporting everyone they regulate during the COVID-19 public health emergency, while maintaining protection of the environment. It is recognised that there may be disruption to businesses during this time, and so temporary COVID-19 Regulatory Position Statements to help businesses during this period have been produced.

[See the Regulatory Position Statements here >>>](#)

## New on NetRegs



## NetRegs e-learning

NetRegs offers FREE online training providing environmental guidance on a range of topics, through interactive learning.

Topics/sectors covered include:

- Waste
- Water
- Renewable Energy
- Beyond compliance
- Septic tanks
- Agriculture
- Construction

Each course should take no longer than 10 – 15 minutes to complete.

The NetRegs team are currently developing a number of new e-learning courses and these will be

added to the learning platform in the coming weeks and months.

[Sign-up here >>>](#)

## NetRegs Blog entry on the COVID-19 situation

Please see our blog entry with useful links to current information and business support:

<https://www.netregs.org.uk/blog/stay-informed-coronavirus-covid-19/>

### New Legislation



## The Scottish Landfill Tax (Standard Rate and Lower Rate) (No. 2) Order 2020

This instrument provides for the annual increase in Scottish Landfill Tax rates and bands and specifies the standard rate and lower rate for disposals on or after 1 April 2020.

Scottish Landfill Tax is chargeable by weight. This instrument provides that the standard and lower rates will be increased from 1st April 2020, so that:

- The standard rate is £94.15 per tonne, and
- The lower rate is £3.00 per tonne

The Order came into force on 01 April 2020.

[Read the full text here >>>](#)

# Consultations and Future Legislation



## New Consultations:

### **Fees for Seed Testing, Seed Certification and Associated Seed Functions - consultation**

With this consultation, the Scottish Government seeks views from individuals and companies including Professional Operators (seed merchants, seed processors, seed packers), Licensed Crop Inspectors, Licensed Seed Samplers, Licensed Seed Testing Stations (LSTS), farmers and interested members of the public on the Scottish Government's proposal to amend fees for seed certification, seed testing & associated seed functions to allow full cost recovery.

The consultation closes on 6 May 2020.

Read and respond to the consultation here: <https://consult.gov.scot/agriculture-and-rural-communities/fees-for-seed-testing-certification/>

### **Wild Wrasse Harvesting: Consultation on Proposed new Mandatory Fishing Measures**

With this consultation, the Scottish Government seeks views about whether the Scottish Government should introduce mandatory measures to control the harvesting of live wrasse for the salmon farming industry.

**DEADLINE EXTENDED** - The consultation closes on 10 May 2020.

Read and respond to the consultation here: <https://consult.gov.scot/marine-scotland/wild-wrasse-harvesting/> .

### **Climate Change: Just Transition Commission - call for evidence**

The concept of just transition refers to the need for Governments to take action to reduce emissions in a way which is fair and leaves no-one behind. The Just Transition Commission has been established to provide Scottish Ministers with practical, realistic, and affordable recommendations for such action. It is inviting written submissions to inform the development of final recommendations.

**DEADLINE EXTENDED** - The consultation closes on 30 June 2020.

Read and respond to the consultation here: <https://consult.gov.scot/just-transition-commission/just-transition-commission-call-for-evidence/>

## Updates

### **New resource highlights training courses to furloughed workers**

A new online portal from Skills Development Scotland helps to connect people with thousands of free-to-access online learning materials.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) has introduced the portal in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to connect people with thousands of free-to-access online learning materials. Working closely with learning providers, additional opportunities will be included in the coming weeks and months.

[Read more here >>>](#)



### **Free support will reduce your business's energy bills, cut carbon emissions and boost profits**

Do you want to save your business money? Reduce your carbon footprint? Boost your competitive edge? Then check out Zero Waste Scotland's Energy Efficiency Business Support Service - funded by the Scottish Government and the European Regional Development Fund, it provides FREE money-saving support to your business.

If you're a small or medium sized business, you can even grab yourself some free consultancy support – and make beating rising energy costs really quick and easy.

Zero Waste Scotland's advisors have already identified over £200



million worth of savings for Scottish businesses, with a massive 24% average energy saving per business. 9 out of 10 businesses that have had support would recommend it to others.

To begin saving money and energy, contact Zero Waste Scotland's Energy Efficiency Business Support Service on 0808 808 2268 or visit their [website](#).

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## Campaign launches to help people in Scotland manage their waste during the coronavirus pandemic



Some waste and recycling collection services across Scotland are temporarily disrupted as a result of the coronavirus.

Local authorities are working hard to make sure any disruption isn't in place any longer than it needs to be. To help householders and businesses manage their waste in the meantime, Zero Waste Scotland, SEPA, COSLA and the Scottish Government have launched a campaign to raise awareness of changes to local waste collections, providing guidance and directing people to update-information.

The new website - [managingourwaste.scot](http://managingourwaste.scot) – will give householders and businesses updates and guidance on how to manage waste. Local authority websites will continue to provide the latest updates on local service changes.

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## The Nature of Scotland Awards 2020 - SNH Business Award



Celebrating businesses large and small, The Nature of Scotland Awards want to hear how yours stands out from the crowd by working differently for the benefit of nature. Does your work assist the conservation sector, are you lowering your carbon footprint, reducing your emissions or maybe you are carrying out steps

towards climate adaptation in harmony with nature? The application will be judged based on the impact delivered in proportion to the size of the business.

[Find out more here >>>](#)

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## **susdrain 2020 SuDS Awards**

Showcase your excellent SuDS project that delivers multiple benefits with the susdrain 2020 SuDS Awards and also celebrate a SuDS champion.



Its **free** to enter and the awards invite submissions from SuDS projects across the UK completed since 2016.

**UPDATE:** Recognising that other priorities have taken precedence recently, the deadline for 2020 SuDS Awards entries has been extended until 31st May 2020. The awards are free to enter and invite project submissions from across the UK. Showcase your high quality SuDS scheme and you could be our overall winner! [Find out more and enter](#)

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## **Supply Chain Sustainability School, FREE online workshops**

The Supply Chain Sustainability School is completely FREE and offers a range of training and learning opportunities to build skills to deliver a sustainable built environment.



[Find out more here >>>](#)

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## **Missed last month's update?**

Visit the [updates archive on NetRegs](#) to view any of the previous updates.



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