

# Perth and Kinross Council Building Standards Newsletter, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in Relation to the Coronavirus Outbreak

## **Building Standards Inspections and Site Visits**

In line with the recent changes in NHS, UK Government and Scottish Government guidance, we have taken the decision to restrict site inspections as much as possible and only carry out those which are deemed as critical to the safety and wellbeing of the public.

Due to the uncertain nature of the Coronavirus outbreak, this change in procedure will be implemented immediately and will last for the foreseeable future. I am aware that for some of you work will continue to progress until you are instructed otherwise, and would advise that where you feel an inspection is critical to allow a dwelling or building to be occupied during this time, that the Building Standards Surveyor allocated to your site be contacted to discuss the next course of action. In the absence of physical inspection we would ask that you ensure robust records of compliance are kept. This could include photographs, videos and inspection reports from professionals. We aim to allow the occupation of safe buildings where possible and will be able to provide advice on how this can be facilitated in such times.

I trust you will appreciate that this decision has not been taken lightly, however in such times it is important to not only protect the health and wellbeing of our staff but also that of the general public.

In the interim period I would appreciate if this information could be shared with others who may not have access to this page.

## **Providing Business Continuity for our Customers**

in light of the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we are reviewing contingency plans, should there be disruptions to our standard operations, such as a closure of our office or an increase in home working. Given that our staff have remote access to our network, which will allow the processing of Building Warrants where they are received in an electronic format, there are likely to be issues and delays associated to paper submissions. In fact we may not be able to either access such submissions for a period of time, such that we cannot digitise or validate them. We therefore strongly recommend that all customers not already doing so should submit via the eBuilding Standards Portal ([www.ebuildingstandards.scot](http://www.ebuildingstandards.scot)). This will give us the best chance of ensuring we can deliver our services to you. Please note, if you have already obtained a warrant and wish to apply for an amendment, extend the warrant or submit a completion certificate, this can also be done through the portal.

Whilst there is no indication that office closures will be implemented by Perth and Kinross Council it is important that contingency plans are made to ensure we can continue to provide our service. You can help both us and yourselves by fully transitioning to electronic working.

Should you require any advice or assistance please feel free to contact me on the details below, otherwise we appreciate your understanding. Alternatively, the support page on the eBuilding

Standards Portal will provide guidance on how to use the site along with information about accessibility matters.