

Perth and Kinross Council Building Standards Newsletter, 14th April 2020 in Relation to the Coronavirus Outbreak

Further to our previous newsletter dated 26th March our offices remain closed. This will cover the duration of any government imposed “lockdown” measures and only open again once advice has been given that it is safe and appropriate to do so. As a result, we are working in a much-reduced capacity and our service is affected in the following ways:

- We are unable to receive or process paper warrant applications. We apologise for this inconvenience and will ensure any applications received during this time are dealt with on our return to the office.
- We are unable to take payments through our telephone payment system, via cash or via debit / credit card in our office. We are still able to accept BACS payments or payments through the eBuilding Standards Portal
- Our surveyors and Business Support Team have restricted network access during peak times to ensure business continuity for other key council services. This may result in e-mail contact at unusual times. This will also result in a delay in the time it takes to process documentation electronically.
- Guidance has been provided from Scottish Government relating to the signing of certificates of design administered by SER and BRE. We are now able to accept unsigned documents rather than the “wet” signature previously required.
- Guidance has been provided from Scottish Government regarding the extension of warrants which expire during the current “lockdown” measures. An application for an extension to the period of validity should still be made formally, complete with the appropriate form and fee, however this will be automatically granted for a period of 9 months regardless if any previous extensions have been given. For any warrants which expired prior to this period of uncertainty an extension to life will be considered in the normal manner and only granted where appropriate.
- Warrants which reach the “deemed refusal” date during the current period will be granted an extension if desired to assist in facilitating an approval. You may be contacted by one of our surveyors in such cases to determine what timescale is appropriate.

Whilst we are working at a reduced capacity we will endeavour to assist in any cases where there is an urgent need to obtain documentation. Should you require assistance please e-mail us at buildingstandards@pkc.gov.uk