

# Perth and Kinross Council Building Standards Newsletter, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020 in Relation to the Coronavirus Outbreak

Further to our previous newsletter dated 9<sup>th</sup> April our offices remain closed. As a result, we are working in a much-reduced capacity and our service is affected in the following ways:

- Paper applications are now able to be retrieved from our offices although this is taking significantly longer to retrieve due to limited office contact. In some cases this may result in a delay in up to 2 weeks in assessing your plans. We continue to advise that those who can use the eBuilding Standards Portal where possible.
- 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
- Limited members of the team have been redeployed to provide assistance in providing key services. Please carefully read any automatic replies received via e-mail as their mailboxes may not be monitored in their absence.
- 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](mailto:buildingstandards@pkc.gov.uk)

We are also aware that new government guidance on the closure of workplaces comes into effect on the 28<sup>th</sup> May which may allow some construction sites to re-open providing adequate precautions are in place. We are currently reviewing our internal procedures as well as awaiting any national guidance before allowing our staff to carry out non-essential visits to construction sites. We will continue to provide remote inspections through various means available to us. Should you wish for a site to be inspected please contact the case surveyor directly. Please note, where photographic or video evidence is requested any media provided should be clear and in focus, well lit and appropriately labelled so it is clear for our surveyors to inspect. We hope to have the appropriate measures in place soon to allow site inspections to take place and will communicate this as soon as possible.

For more information on government guidance on Coronavirus please visit  
<https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>