

# Members' Briefing

## REVENUE & CUSTOMS GROUP

To: **All Members**

cc: **Branch Secretaries, Group Executive Committee, Equality Chairs, VOAC** (for info)

Can this Briefing be circulated via HMRC IT systems: **YES**

Website: **YES**

Action to be taken: **For the attention of all members in Wales**

Date: **29 March 2022**

Ref: **R&C/MB/016/22**

### **UPDATE FOR MEMBERS IN WALES**

#### **Wales remains at Covid Alert Level Zero**

- **No change in Welsh Government guidance around WFH**
- **Staff in Wales should continue to work from home until further notice**
- **Serious Incident Protocol meeting held on 24 March 2021**

On 25 March the Welsh Government updated its response to Covid-19 by lifting a number of legal restrictions, including on the wearing of face coverings in certain settings and on the holding of large unlicensed music events. However, in his written statement, First Minister Mark Drakeford confirmed *that "Coronavirus is still prevalent across Wales-and the UK. Wales will remain at alert level zero" and "due to the increased pressure on the NHS we will be moving more cautiously than signalled"*

#### **PCS letter to HMRC**

[PCS wrote to HMRC on Friday 25 March outlining our understanding of the announcement](#) and in particular, highlighting that Welsh Government guidance still states that *"The most effective way of minimising the risk of exposure to coronavirus in workplaces is to enable some or all staff to work from home as often as possible"* and that *"Allowing people to work from home and making necessary adjustments may be identified as a reasonable measure"*

#### **No change in guidance for members in Wales**

HMRC have now confirmed to us that there will be no change to policy on returning to the office in Wales at this time. An intranet message is due to be published on the Wales Regional Centre pages on 29 March confirming HMRC's position.

**Staff in Wales should continue to work from home unless they are designated as either critical workers or they have sought permission to attend the office for wellbeing reasons.**

The next review by the Welsh Government is due on the 14 April and the situation will be looked at again by HMRC and any further changes in Welsh Government guidance will be considered.

#### **Serious Incident Protocol meeting**

On 24 March, PCS also attended a Serious Incident Protocol meeting concerning an increase in positive cases as well as increased levels of occupancy in Ty William Morgan, Cardiff. The meeting was held

following a request from PCS. A full report of actions agreed at the meeting will be published by HMRC in due course however it was agreed at this meeting that all staff at the site would be reminded of the Covid 19 reporting process and policy that remains in place in our Welsh offices to ensure a safe working environment for those staff who are required to attend the office. We would ask that all members in Wales ensure that they are up to date and are following the published guidance.

PCS remain in regular communication with local site leads and continue to monitor any positive cases.

If any members have any queries or concerns about the information in this briefing, we encourage you to get in touch with your local PCS representative.

### **Join PCS today**

If you've read this briefing and you aren't yet a member of PCS, then [join today](#).

### **Get involved!**

Remember, HMRC applies restrictions on the content of union circulars distributed using the department's email system, so make sure that you stay in touch with your union. You can find your membership number in your latest email digest from PCS.

If you haven't already done so, let PCS have your personal/non-work email address and your mobile phone number. We'll only use it to keep you informed about PCS matters. You can update your details securely online by registering for [PCS Digital](#) or by contacting your local PCS rep, and asking them to enter your details securely on the PCS Organising App.

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