

COVID-19 UPDATE

Wednesday 1st April 2020

The Coronavirus outbreak has caused considerable difficulty in the property market. The Government Advice on home moving during the current restrictions, which was issued last Thursday, whilst providing some clarity has still left an uncertain environment for Energy Assessors in terms of the production of EPCs.

Of course, uppermost in many assessors' minds will be the nature of any support packages available, in particular, to those who are self-employed or running small businesses. PEPA has therefore developed a detailed Resource Kit that covers all the Government and other support packages that assessors may be able to access during the period of heightened restrictions. In addition there are some suggestions on how to approach landlords and other service providers for support (as applicable) as well as how to apply for mortgage and/or rent payment holidays or deferral.

PEPA has also taken the decision to approach Government on three separate issues:

- PEPA is writing to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to ask that sole traders that take income by way of a combination of salary and dividend should be included in the self-employed support scheme. We have also asked the Chancellor to confirm that discharging statutory duties as a Director of a Company does not constitute 'working' in terms of qualifying for furlough support
- PEPA is writing to the Secretary of State in MHCLG seeking absolute clarity on whether Energy Assessors should be entering properties under current restrictions to undertake assessments and if so in what circumstances. We have also asked that MHCLG offers zero register lodgement fees to run from the date that the Government takes control of the Register, currently scheduled for 12th June 2020, to help Assessors once the market starts to recover
- PEPA is writing to the Secretary of State at BEIS, seeking support also from the Chancellor and MHCLG, that a special fund is ring fenced to be used by public sector bodes to commission DEC's and produce Air Conditioning Reports on buildings that are currently unoccupied and where these documents are not current.

The implications of the current crisis on our businesses will not be apparent for some time, however, your safety and that of your family and friends, as well as the safety of your customers and the wider community must be a priority.

PEPA exists to represent and support its member Schemes and by extension the Assessor community where it is able to add value. Normal life will eventually resume once this virus has been beaten and we will get on with the essential job of providing energy certification. We wish you all the very best in these challenging times.



Andy Parkin
PEPA Chairman