

Subject: CoronaVirus Update No21
Date: Wednesday, 15 April 2020 at 16:30:03 British Summer Time
From: EHA Secretary
Attachments: image001.png, 21. EBN COBR Action Log as at 15.04.20.pdf, 21. MPs Update Actions 1-9 April CV19 Cross Sector Meetings.pdf

Dear Member

Please kindly see below **the EBN Cobra update held today**, from Kris:

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Dear Member,

Today marked the **fifth Eastbourne COBR** meeting and Mark and I wanted to give you our weekly update. This meeting demonstrated how much has been achieved so far in what is quite a short period of time. To that end, I have attached the **Action Log** that is produced after each meeting, for your information. Also attached is the **MP's update from Caroline Ansell**. Below are the specific points relating to hospitality:

Business Rate Grants

We understand that there is a lot of anxiety around the grants and concern of when they will be paid. Firstly if you have received a letter telling you about the scheme, these were sent out last Thursday 9th when the portal went live. As we wanted all eligible members to register for the grants, we gave the information before delivery of the letters. So please do not think that this means your application has not been registered. We have also heard reports that some members may have read that there may not be enough money for all grants to be paid... This is misinformation and **NOT** what has been told to us. Below are the facts as we have been given from all senior stakeholders:

- EBC has already received over £22.5 million from central government into its bank account.
- To date 814 businesses have registered for the grants worth a total of £10 million, which represents 45% of the total case load.
- The value of grants to EHA members is estimated at £1.2 million.
- £7.5 million has been actioned to be paid by the end of today. **Payments should be expected by the end of this week.**
- The further £2.5 million will follow in tomorrow's payment run.
- So far the system has identified 7-8% of fraudulent claims. Depending on the size of grant this is in the range of £651,000 to £1.6 million. This was highlighted to demonstrate how important the automated system has been to keep fraud cases to a minimum.

Police Update

The police confirmed that they have stepped up patrols and shifted their approach to stricter enforcement. They are also having regular meetings with the Strand in relation to the anti-social behaviour that was reported at the last COBR meeting.

Claremont Hotel/Road Closure

On Sunday there was a further collapse of buildings 10 and 11. The Claremont owns one and the Burlington the other, which means various agencies need to assess the damage. This has caused a delay and we will be receiving an update at next week's meeting.

Insurance Update

After a productive meeting last Thursday, we were able to update that the EHA are leading the Insurance project group and offering a triage service to EHA, Chamber and BID members. So far there have been a few cases that have been identified whereby a claim should be indemnified. **If you haven't already done so and would like to access this support, please complete the questionnaire and send through your Policy Wording and Policy Schedule through to the office.** Traction is starting to happen within the press and it's been reported that the FCA are now applying pressure to Insurers. This might be something that is a win for the many but we will explore any avenue to support the membership.

CBILS

Currently no one is aware of any business in the Eastbourne area who has successfully applied and received a CBIL loan. This was stressed by all parties about the fundamental failing of the banks and is being feedback via Caroline to central government.

Eastbourne Recovery Project Group

A project group has been created to start planning for the recovery. The EHA has asked to be part of that to tie in all previously planned PR and campaign activity with around the launch of the new VisitEastbourne website. More details to follow.

Guest accommodation remaining open during lockdown

The issue was raised that there are still establishments selling rooms during the lockdown that could be to the general public. **To be clear, if you are advertising rooms then you should prominently display that it is for key workers only on your website and other OTA's.**

It is expected that we will reach the peak of this pandemic and we have asked for clarification on what measures will be taken for enforcement.

Finally, as we see other countries coming out of lockdown, the hospitality sector is being the last to be released. Mark raised it directly with Caroline that this needs to be on the government's agenda as extra support will be needed the longer this continues. What we do know already is that a strong case has been made through the District Council Network about the financial support needed for coastal towns and especially the importance of Eastbourne. This is in addition to the work with Nigel Huddleston MP the Minister for Tourism.

As always if you have any feedback or need help, please contact us.

With best wishes

Kristian

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