

24 March 2020

**Deirdre Michie OBE**  
Chief Executive

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Dear Member,

Recognising the speed at which information is coming from Government and that in many cases there are questions specific to our industry, we have been seeking further clarity on your behalf.

We continue to work with Civil Servants and key Ministers on a daily basis as a result of which our industry has been identified as a key sector and we all recognise the need for further clarity in some areas and we are working together to address these. Based on our feedback from Government we offer the following further information at this stage:

In the last week, messages have been provided by Government to the public with clear rule-of-thumb guidance on how to minimise the rate of transmission. This guidance is aimed at preventing the healthcare system capacity being exceeded.

At the same time, key sectors are being urged to maintain essential activities required to keep the nation healthy and fed and with a secure supply of energy to keep the lights and heating on. The Government has mandated that wherever possible, these activities should be done remotely, but they have also recognised that where they cannot – as with offshore oil and gas production, and roles at certain key onshore terminals – then they should be done in the workplace in a way that minimises the risk of transmission.

- As part of a key industry, if you have been identified by your employer as unable to work remotely, you will be allowed to travel to your place of work. The continuing availability of public transport and hotel accommodation and how to ensure our industry key workers maintain access them is another area we are still working on with Government and we hope to have more information to share with you in the next few days.
- International travel – you have seen that the Government has advised those in other countries, on holiday, to return to the UK. This advice is advice to the public, targeted at those currently on their travels. It is not intended for those engaged in essential work. Again, we are seeking further clarity on this and will provide more information as and when available

- Social Distancing – whilst it is appreciated that the general public guidance is to maintain a 2m distance wherever possible, it also recognises that where this is not possible, control measures can be taken. For workplaces, the guidance on managing COVID is clear: where it is not possible to remain 2m away, and where work must continue, controls should be introduced so that the risk of transmission is reduced to as low as is reasonably practicable.

We understand that there will be many questions relating to how this is being implemented in offshore workplaces and associated spaces, as well as helicopters, but communication about specific issues between workforce and companies will help to address any remaining concerns.

This is a very fast moving and challenging situation and we recognise that we do not have all the answers to questions arising but we are working with the UK and devolved governments to seek as much clarity as possible, as quickly as we can, to protect the interests of the companies and people working in our industry.

We will of course do our best to keep you informed through direct communication and by posting information as we get it, on the home page of our website: [www.oilandgasuk.co.uk](http://www.oilandgasuk.co.uk).

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deirdre E Michie". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a long, sweeping horizontal line.

Deirdre Michie OBE  
Chief Executive