

**COVID-19
Weekly Roundup**

17 April 2020

BACKHOUSE
JONES

Driver Licensing

Driver Medicals – Suspended until further notice

A D4 medical report will not be required when applying to renew a lorry or bus licence until further notice.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/temporary-suspension-of-the-requirement-for-a-medical-for-hgv-and-pcv-drivers/>

Vehicle Maintenance

Enforcement of Direct Vision Standard Postponed until February 2021

Transport for London are to temporarily postpone the enforcement of the new Direct Vision Standard (DVS) and HGV safety permits until February 2021 to allow the freight industry to focus its resources on the COVID-19 response:

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/enforcement-of-direct-vision-standard-postponed-until-february-2021/>

Drivers' Hours

Temporary Relaxation of the EU and GB Drivers' Hours Rules – Extended

The temporary relaxation of the EU and GB drivers' hours rules has been extended until 31 May 2020.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/temporary-relaxation-of-the-enforcement-of-the-eu-and-gb-drivers-hours-rules-extended/>

Temporary Relaxation of the EU and GB Drivers' Hours Rules – Operator obligations

Operators whose drivers make use of the temporary relaxations (which apply until 23:59 hours on 21 April) *must* adapt their existing drivers' hours and tachograph analysis systems to manage this additional compliance obligation. Current tachograph analysis software will not be configured to take account of the relaxations and will instead report wholesale infringements where the relaxations are relied on. Operators and transport managers must therefore conduct a detailed review of every infringement to establish whether in fact it is an infringement or whether one of the relaxations applies (and, if it does, has the driver complied with the relaxed rules *and* produced/handed in the required records). This is a labour intensive and time-consuming process *but* it is vital for enforcement purposes. We, in conjunction with Foster Tachographs and Transport Compliance, can undertake this analysis exercise for you:

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/expertise/products/drivers-hours/>

Procurement Policy Notice

Does your business have any contracts with a public body or a contract for services you were going to provide in the near future which is now in jeopardy due to the coronavirus pandemic?

For HGV operators, this could include contracts for highway maintenance services or environmental services:

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Public-Sector-Contracts-HGV.pdf>

For PCV operators, this could include contracts with the Local Authority for concessionary fares or the local school for a bus service:

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Public-Sector-Contracts-PCV.pdf>

Read BHJ's advice note on Procurement Policy Note (PPN) 02/20 - Supplier Relief due to COVID-19 here:

<https://www.backhousejones.comn.uk/advice-note-procurement-policy-note-02-20-supplier-relief-due-to-covid-19/>

Finance Packages

Chancellor Expands Loan Scheme for Large Businesses

Rishi Sunak has announced that the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme will now provide financial support to all viable firms impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/business-interruption-loan-scheme-expanded-to-support-large-businesses/>

New £500 million Economic Resilience Fund launched for Wales

First Minister, Mark Drakeford, has announced a £500 million Economic Resilience Fund to support the Welsh economy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/500-million-economic-resilience-fund-announced-to-support-welsh-businesses/>

Scottish Government announces additional support for businesses

The Scottish Government has announced further funding to help businesses affected by COVID-19.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/scottish-government-announces-additional-support-for-businesses/>

Greater Manchester Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme

The Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership (GM LEP) has approved £3 million funding to support businesses in Greater Manchester affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/3-million-funding-announced-to-support-business-in-greater-manchester/>

Employment

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme - Extended

HM Treasury has announced that the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (the Furlough scheme) has been extended from 31 May 2020 to the end of June.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-extended/>

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme - Eligibility Cut-Off Date Extended

The Government announced on 15 April 2020 that the eligibility cut-off date for Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is to be extended to 19 March 2020 (formerly the date was 28 February 2020). The implication of this is that, potentially, thousands more workers can be furloughed.

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme - Online Portal

HMRC has also confirmed that the portal for making claims under the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will open on 20 April.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-online-portal-opens-20-april-2020/>

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme - BHJ Guidance

Read our full guidance on the Furlough scheme (which incorporates the latest updates from the Government) here:

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-19-15-April-2020-EMPLOYMENT-OPERATOR-GUIDE.pdf>

Contracts of Employment – the law has changed

On 6 April 2020 the right to contract of employment for employees and workers became mandatory for employers to issue from day one. What needs to be included within these terms, has also been broadened.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/contracts-of-employment-the-law-has-changed/>

Cross Sector Collaboration

The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) (supported by RHA, FTA and CPT) is calling for cross-sector collaboration to ensure that as a country we are equipped to respond to the Coronavirus crisis.

The CILT believes that we can work together to meet this challenge and is providing a service to match organisations together so that those

who have capacity can help those in need, by making available staff, vehicles and expertise to support the supply chain.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/cross-sector-collaboration/>

BHJ Support

At Backhouse Jones, we are assisting, supporting and advising literally hundreds of operators each and every day of the crisis. We understand how the coronavirus pandemic is affecting transport businesses and have put together a range of support packages to help including **FREE telephone advice, FREE updating webinars and an online COVID19 Resources Hub:**

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/covid-19-support-packages-for-operators-from-bhj/>

Weekly Roundup – 9 April 2020

Read BHJ's previous weekly roundup of all things COVID19:

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID19-Weekly-Roundup-9-April-2020.pdf>

Webinar – 9 April 2020

Listen again to BHJ's webinar from 9 April 2020 – focusing on all things COVID19 and the implications for the road transport sector:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/2990719312676814851>

Please note: This publication does not constitute legal advice

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