

## SMTA Member Update 11

To our SMTA members,

**June 29<sup>th</sup> (we have been told)**

**SUCCESS! (NOT EVEN CLOSE!)**



So, last week I predicted, with a degree of reticence, that we would be opening our showrooms with the launch of phase two of the relaxation from lockdown. With everyone else across the industry and most of the media I expected the date to be at best the 19<sup>th</sup> (today) and at the very worst, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Monday. I even wrote to the First Minister and the Cabinet Secretary requesting that they make every effort to support our industry by allowing the open of the showrooms to be on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Regrettably all this has been in vain and I really don't have any understanding of how they have reached the decision that was announced yesterday.

We have for many months now been told time and time again that all decisions would be guided by the science and the "R Number" coming down. So, with the number of cases dropping and thankfully the number of deaths coming down by an ever improving trend, it was reasonable to expect good news yesterday.

Instead we got the bombshell that we would not be able to open until the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, in actual fact the announcement was so laced with ambiguity that I had to write to the Cabinet Secretary for clarity, the response can be viewed below! You will also note that the restriction on size has been lifted, no doubt also based on science.

Letter on next page/....

**Sandy Burgess,**  
**SMTA Chief Executive**



## Car Showroom Reopening Letter from Scottish Government

*Dear Sandy,*

*Thank you for your e-mail to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture. I have been asked to respond on her behalf.*

*In previous correspondence to you of 8 June, the Economy Secretary confirmed car showrooms would be permitted to reopen part of their sales area in Phase 2, in line with physical distancing guidelines. As outlined in this letter, our guidance is updated and reviewed every three weeks in line with the Scottish Government's lockdown review process.*

*Following today's announcement by the First Minister and publication of the [Updated Route Map](#) which outlines the order in which we will carefully and gradually lift lockdown restrictions, I can confirm that all street-access retail throughout Scotland can re-open from 29 June. This includes car showrooms.*

*Please note, this updated guidance no longer places a restriction on the size of sales area permitted to re-open. For clarity, this means that the previous restriction whereby units larger than 800m<sup>2</sup> would have to wait until Phase 3 to reopen no longer applies.*

*I hope you find this information helpful.*

*Yours sincerely,*

**Daniel Paterson**

*Scottish Government*



**CORONAVIRUS  
UPDATES**

## DVSA UPDATES

**Test Equipment Calibrations**—Vehicle Testing Stations are permitted to continue testing with equipment that has expired calibration – as long as that equipment is believed to be functioning correctly. However, most emission test equipment ceases to function when calibration has expired and in such situations Testing must cease. DVSA and the Garage Equipment Association are aware of this problem. DVSA will be considering whether or not regulations can be temporarily relaxed and the Garage Equipment Association will be working with its members to try to restore normal calibration services as soon as possible.

**New VTS Applications awaiting DVSA Assessment**-DVSA have now issued safe working instructions for Vehicle Examiners to carry out new site assessments in a manner that enables compliance with social distancing requirements. If you are experiencing difficulty getting a site assessment for a new VTS please let us know.

**MOT Tester Annual Training & Assessment**-DVSA's extension to the MOT Tester Annual Training & Assessment deadline for 2019/20 has now ended. Access codes for 2020/21 Training & Assessment are now available from the SMTA. [click here for our brand new flyer and details how to book](#)



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## Exclusive member offer from Just Employment Law

We are conscious that a number of our smaller members will be in need of increased professional support on employment and personnel issues during these difficult times. With this in mind, and in conjunction with our partners, Just Employment Law, the SMTA is pleased to be able to offer all members with up to 10 employees, unlimited expert employment law advice and support from JEL on a retainer basis for a 6 month period – all for a fixed fee of £500 plus VAT (this can be paid in monthly instalments).

Each member who takes up this offer will be assigned their own solicitor from JEL's experienced team and the retainer will also include unlimited drafting on employment matters as well as the drafting of contracts and staff handbooks. The offer is open to any SMTA member with up to 10 employees and the promotion will run throughout the months of June and July. Members wishing to take advantage of this offer should contact JEL directly on 0141 331 5150 / [enquiries@justemploymentlaw.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@justemploymentlaw.co.uk) quoting "SMTA6". Preferential rates are also open to SMTA members who have more than 10 employees and who are in need of support at this time and JEL can be contacted via the same contact details.

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