

Clarification regarding critical workers classification – Plumbing and Heating professionals

SNIEF has sought clarification from the government on whether our members fall under the critical workers classification.

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has responded with the following:

“No construction occupation is included in the definition of critical worker in its entirety, because most do a combination of essential (e.g. emergency plumbing repairs) and non-essential (e.g. fitting out new bathrooms) work.

Where construction firms or workers are undertaking essential work, for example emergency plumbing jobs in homes, to work in hospitals or schools, they fall within the definition of key workers, and the guidance is intentionally flexible to allow this. Up until now, the guidance has been purely for the purposes of allocating school places. This may change, but we are still working through the implications of tonight’s announcement. However, if any of your members do need a school place, the best approach is for their employer to provide them with a letter explaining the work they will be doing, to present at a school. This is no guarantee of a place, as numbers of available places can change, but is the approach we recommend.”

SNIEF along with the Construction Industry Coronavirus Forum have already requested a statement from the Scottish Government to clarify the position.