



HS2 Euston works to restart next week

HS2 has said contractors will restart construction work at the London Euston site in a week's time.

HS2 paused work on all but the Midlands sites following the lockdown and has been reviewing working practices to allow the restart.

Work will start on the deconstruction of the west ramp and the removal of the canopy from platform 17 and 18 ahead of a crane being brought in a week later to remove materials.

Scottish building sites ordered to close unless on essential list

Essential projects include:

Those to create or repurpose facilities which will be used directly in Covid-19 related activities projects to create or repurpose facilities which will be used to accommodate key workers, or free up space in facilities to be used directly in Covid-19 related activities projects which are considered essential public services the repair and maintenance of critical infrastructure

The latest guidance also states that any project deemed essential can only continue operating if it can comply with guidance on social distancing, safety and welfare.

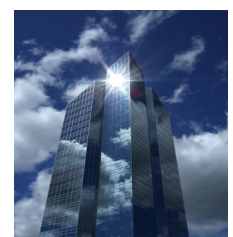
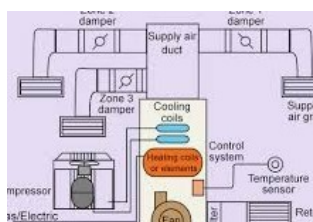
Economy Secretary Fiona Hyslop said:

"We recognise that this is an extremely difficult time for businesses of all kinds, but the Scottish Government's priority is saving lives and fighting Covid-19. To this end, all construction sites should close unless they are essential to the health and welfare of the country during this crisis. I want to make clear our thanks to the construction workers who are continuing to work on these essential projects.

This guidance offers clear and comprehensive advice on how the industry should respond in these unprecedented and difficult times. I am grateful to the STUC, Unite the Union and Construction Scotland for their input.

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Private clients urged not to come after contractors

Public sector clients are being ordered by central government to pay the supply chain even where work is suspended.

But the situation is very different in the private sector where contractors fear liquidated damages claims from clients following any site delays.

Build UK said:

"The response from clients and contractors will be key to the survival of businesses of all sizes.

"There is a choice: fall back on contracts, pay for costly legal advice, and prepare for adversarial disputes or bring the supply

chain together, and collectively look at how construction work can continue without putting workers at risk."

One contractor said: "A lot is riding on how private clients behave once all this is over.

"If they come after us for damages then a lot of firms will go under and the only people who will profit are the lawyers.

"We are doing all we can to keep sites going safely in line with government guidelines.

"But that is not always possible and when it is productivity will naturally be down due to lower numbers of site workers and the ongoing materials supply problems.

"Everyone needs to work together on this. The worst thing the industry could do is turn on each other – we need to work together sensibly from clients downwards to get through this."



NHS and frontline staff

WE SUPPORT YOU

Remember to

" Take a break—"

Good to have a sit back and Think
have a coffee—during the day.

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HVAC - Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) is one of the most energy-intensive systems in commercial and residential buildings. Air ducts are conduits or passages used in HVAC to distribute and ventilate air. Supply air, return air, and exhaust air are the needed airflows in an HVAC system that flow through HVAC air ducts. Ducts commonly also deliver ventilation air along with the supply air. As such, air ducts are one method of ensuring acceptable IAQ as well as thermal comfort.



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The Association of Plumbing & Heating Contractors (APHC) believes there could potentially be an additional serious public health concern surrounding legionella once the current COVID-19 trading restrictions are removed.

The Chief Executive of the APHC, John Thompson, explained: "With restaurants, pubs, sports facilities, bed & breakfasts, hotels, hairdressers and many other leisure establishments being closed for nearly four weeks now, we feel there is an urgent need to raise awareness of the potential spread of Legionnaires' disease once these establishments re-open as action needs to be taken now to stop a possible outbreak."

Legionnaires' disease is a severe type of pneumonia caused by the legionella bacterium. This disease can be serious if not treated immediately. Most people catch Legionnaires' disease by inhaling the bacteria from water droplets dispersed through taps and showers.

The current lockdown means that the plumbing systems of the aforementioned establishments aren't being used. If these redundant systems are not being correctly maintained, which APHC believes could be the case for many establishments, they can relatively quickly become the ideal environment for legionella bacteria to grow, as legionella bacteria multiplies in stagnant water, poorly designed water systems and in water with temperatures between 20oC and 45oC.

Although Legionnaires' disease can be fatal, it is also treatable. However, to complicate matters, the symptoms of Legionnaires' disease are similar to the symptoms associated with COVID-19 - high temperature, feverishness and chills, coughing, muscle pains, headache and diarrhoea with the potential to lead to pneumonia.

John added: "Landlords and employers have a legal duty to assess and control the risk of exposure to Legionella bacteria. Risk assessments, precautionary actions and remedial work can be implemented to protect against Legionnaires' disease. However, we believe the vast majority of landlords and employers are unaware of their legal duty and of the actions that need to be taken.

"These are unprecedented times and never have so many buildings been closed for so long.



These comments by John Thomson, Chief Executive of the AHPC should not be taken lightly

Mobile mast for NHS Nightingale hospital attacked by Covid-19 conspiracists

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought the issue of fake news, conspiracy theories and bad health information back onto the national agenda and governments are at last forcing tech giants to take some immediate and urgent action over posts on their social media platforms that could cost lives.

Much of the fake news these days originates from, or is boosted by, covert operations by antagonistic nation-states - as an investigation to be published here on the *E&T* website next week will show. Before the pandemic, 5G provided the subject matter for conspiracy theories and absurd health scares of various kinds. As Covid-19 spread, the pandemic itself took over as the prime subject for fake news, from MMR-like fake health scares to the wildest of conspiracy theories about biowarfare.

It's not surprising that the two have combined into one with the fake story that 5G is somehow weakening people's immune systems' ability to fight Covid-19. It seems that one didn't come from organised crime or national state actors, though, but rather from David Icke, who some readers may remember in connection with conspiracy theories even wilder than this one.

Back then he was ridiculed, which I felt to be a little unfair on a person who was clearly not thinking straight at all - more mad than bad, in the old manner of speaking. Then it crept into more 'mainstream media' through a TV presenter. *E&T* obviously doesn't report on every crazy conspiracy theory or false health claim about technology, but we did feel this one could not be ignored, for reasons ranging from vigilante damage and violence directed at 5G masts and associated telecoms engineers to its potential to harm the treatment of those most vulnerable to coronavirus via the spread of false information.

I sometimes think it's wisest to refrain from feeding the trolls, but the green ink brigade (as we used to call them in the days of handwritten letters) are not always so easily ignored when their views are amplified by social media.

This was reported by Tim Fryer, technology editor of E & T

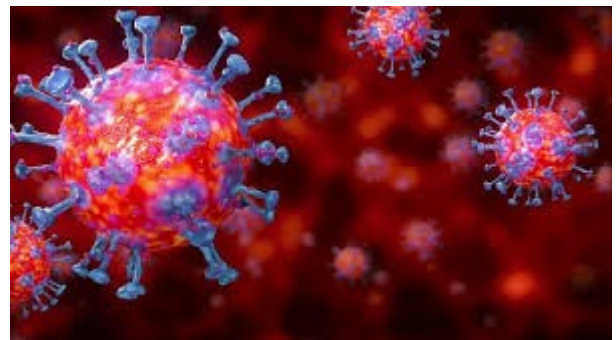
Finally in this issue of our Newsletter we would like to remind everyone

Stay at home if possible

Keep in touch with each other

Stay safe

Keep fighting the fight to get through this strange time



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