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Graham Simpson MSP  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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21 May 2020

Dear Graham

We agreed in Parliament today that I would provide some information on the way forward for construction.

The potential relaxations announced by the First Minister to take effect from 28 May are subject to conditions continuing to improve in the period between now and then. We are obviously hopeful that this will be the case, but that is a critical point to note.

The Construction Scotland (CS) Phased Restart Model and revised site operating procedures will publish shortly. We will continue to work closely with Trades Unions, as confirmed by the First Minister today, to ensure that the workforce feel safe to return to work. In parallel, Scottish Government is also refreshing the guidance for construction.

Phases 0 and 1 of the industry Model referred to today are Planning and pre-start Site Preparation respectively. The six steps of the model are set out below.

- Phase 0: Planning
- Phase 1: Covid-19 Pre-start Site prep
- Phase 2: "Soft start" to site works (only where physical distancing can be maintained)
- Phase 3: Steady state operation (only where physical distancing can be maintained)
- Phase 4: Steady state operation (where physical distancing can be maintained and/or with PPE use)
- Phase 5: Increasing density/productivity with experience

The site operating procedures set out the measures that businesses need to take to operate safely and within the physical distancing guidelines. They have been developed by industry

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with input for the Health and Safety Executive, Health Protection Scotland and the Trades Unions.

I should stress that today's announcement does not signal an immediate change in Scotland's lockdown policy although, of course, the First Minister published our route-map today. The position is still that non-essential construction should remain closed on a precautionary basis. I look forward to being able to confirm a start date for Phases 0 and 1 as soon as it is safe to do so.

I am unable to advise on the timing in relation to moving from Phase 1 to 2. As outlined by the First Minister, these arrangements will be kept under close review and future relaxations will be dependent upon progress in tackling the virus.

You may also find helpful a letter I published earlier today, which you can access via this link: <https://gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-letter-to-construction-leadership-group/>

I hope this clarifies the position on the queries you raised.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Stewart', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**KEVIN STEWART**

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