

Can window cleaners still go out to work?

In response to the many enquiries to ask if you can still go out to work.

This is to confirm Government advice states tradespeople working alone and those providing a community services can continue.

Work carried out in people's homes, for example by tradespeople carrying out repairs and maintenance, which includes window cleaners can continue, provided that the tradesperson is well and has no symptoms.

Again, it will be important to ensure that Public Health England guidelines, including maintaining a 2 metre distance from any household occupants, No handling of cash payments.

No work should be carried out in any household which is isolating or where an individual is being shielded, unless it is to remedy a direct risk to the safety of the household, such as emergency plumbing or repairs, and where the tradesperson is willing to do so. In such cases, Public Health England can provide advice to tradespeople and households.

No work should be carried out by a tradesperson who has coronavirus symptoms, however mild.

Coronavirus bailout will compensate Self-employed and early news indicates the Chancellor will announce a scheme through which the state will pay money into self-employed peoples bank accounts to reimburse their losses. Officials have discussed plans which will mean peoples income being assessed on the basis of a blended mixture of the self-employed persons revenue and profits over the past 3 years, then you could be paid a significant proportion of your usual income up to a capped amount. Keep up to date on this at: <https://www.gov.uk/>

Commercial is more confusing: with many customer premises closing, but the first question is to assess whether the work is essential.

However, The BCC stance is that if you provide a service to an institution or business that is classified as critical, necessary and relevant (security provision in hospitals; social care; courts; government estate; supermarkets and the food supply chain; the transport network; national infrastructure and utilities), and their employees are classified as 'Key Worker' and the services you provide is required to enable them to continue to function safely it means your staff are also deemed to be part of the 'Key Worker' group. This is because without your support/services these critical functions may not be able to operate.

The BSA have received the following information from the Cabinet Office:

'The definition of "key workers" applies (at the moment) to school and childcare provisions. The PM's Monday announcement is work from home if you can. Both are left with employers to decide at the moment. Under the definition of key workers, employers could argue that cleaners to hospitals and supermarkets are included. As long as the employers say the cleaners are essential to the provision of key goods or services, they should be included'.

Meantime, take advantage of the Government support offered:

The Chancellor has set out a package of temporary, timely and targeted measures to support public services, people and businesses through this period of disruption caused by COVID-19.

This includes a package of measures to support businesses including:

- a Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

Take care and stay safe!