audiouk
the audio producers association

21 May 2020

[Note:** All information is correct at the date at the heading of this document. If you're an AudioUK member do please make sure you are signed up to the member bulletin to get the latest updates.**]

Note on government guidance on safe working practices

The government has published a range of guidance on what type of work can be resumed at this stage, and at later stages of the lockdown easing process. The advice given to AudioUK by DCMS is that members should consult this guidance and, if they need to work from outside their homes (e.g. because a full-quality studio sound is required or outside recording is needed), then this is acceptable provided general coronavirus working guidelines are adhered to.

The DCMS acknowledges that at this time there are still 'grey areas', for example content production is not specifically referred to in the guidance, however we are advised that this is seen as being included in work which can be done outside the home if it is not possible to do otherwise.

Some types of production will be more problematic than others, however even when several people are required to be present, for example the recording of an audio drama, then in principle this can resume provided all necessary safe practices are maintained.

Clearly all due regard will need to be paid to the safely of any employees or freelancers involved in any production work being done outside the home. We would advise members take a close look at all the guidance.

Guidance for devolved nations

Note the guidance below, while issued by the UK government, applies to England only. Members living and / or working in any of the devolved nations need to pay regard to any relevant national government guidance:

Wales:
- Welsh Government Coronavirus pages - https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid19
- Creative Wales: https://www.wales.com/creative-wales
- Business Wales - https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice/

Scotland:
- Scottish Government Coronavirus pages - https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/

Northern Ireland:
- NI Executive recovery plan - https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/publications/coronavirus-recovery-plan

UK Government coronavirus working guidance - resources for England

'Our Plan to Rebuild' – Government recovery strategy

The UK Government's main strategy document 'Our Plan to Rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy' was published on Tuesday 12 May: https://tinyurl.com/yc3gkjwq

The immediate advice on work and travel is on p.25-26 and states that *"for the foreseeable future, workers should continue to work from home rather than their normal physical workplace,*

wherever possible", while going on to say that *"workers who cannot work from home should travel to work if their workplace is open".*

On travelling to work the guidance states that "when travelling everybody (including critical workers) should continue to avoid public transport wherever possible. If they can, people should instead choose to cycle, walk or drive, to minimise the number of people with whom they come into close contact. … Social distancing guidance on public transport must be followed rigorously".

FAQs

There is also an online FAQs on what the UK government's new approach means for work in England. Note that section 3.2 on 'critical workers' states that *"if you are not a critical worker, you may still travel to work provided if you cannot reasonably work from home."*

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do#going-to-work--safer-spaces

Working environments advice

New government guidance on how to approach working in some specific working environments, more than one of which apply to audio production:

• Offices and contact centres: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/offices-and-contact-centres

• Construction and other outdoor work: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/construction-and-other-outdoor-work

• The full set of guidance is here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19