

**To: Business & Operational Continuity Committee (BOCC)
External Affairs Committee**

Dear member,

This evening the Prime Minister announced in a national address that a third national lockdown would be imposed across England from midnight tonight. Please find the government's guidance [here](#).

In England, these measures will apply from tomorrow (Wednesday), with Parliament recalled to vote retrospectively on the regulations that give legal basis to the restrictions. With the Labour party stating they will support the measures, it is anticipated they will pass. Scotland announced similar restrictions this afternoon, Wales is already in lockdown, and Northern Ireland expected to follow suit shortly.

A significant consequence of the lockdown is the move to remote learning for children of primary, secondary school and colleges age from tomorrow (Wednesday). Colleges, primary and secondary schools will remain open only for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers, in line with the first lockdown in March 2020. Please note that nurseries will remain open.

The government's definition of 'critical workers' is aligned with the same definition of 'key workers' used in March 2020, which is:

“staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)”

We are seeking clarity as to whether – similarly to the first lockdown – firms with staff they consider to be critical and who need to place their children in education will need to provide a letter affirming their critical status. We will forward more information on this issue and others as it becomes Available, and will be updating our existing note on the definition of key/critical workers.

Government guidance on critical workers can be found [here](#).

Please be reminded that the BOCC will be meeting on Thursday 3:30pm-4:30pm to discuss these developments. Should you wish to add specific items for the agenda, please notify Daisy or myself.

Thank you, any questions please let us know.

Rogan