



**28.04.2020**

### **KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Health Secretary, Matt Hancock, led tonight's government announcement.**

Mr Hancock was joined by Professor Angela McLean, the chief scientific adviser to the Ministry of Defence, and Professor John Newton, the UK's testing coordinator. The focus of the government's announcements and journalists' questions was on the number of NHS staff deaths and the increase in testing.

### **The main announcements this evening were:**

- 21,678 have now died of coronavirus in hospital. 4,343 deaths in care homes have been recorded since Easter. Going forward the government intends to publish figures for deaths in both hospital and care homes.
- There has been a 14% decline in the number of coronavirus related hospital admissions.
- The use of public transport has fallen by 20%.
- Mr Hancock stated that there remained a real risk of a second peak and the social distancing rules would not be relaxed any time soon.
- Professor McLean set out the five tests before the government would lift the lockdown. It includes whether a second peak is likely, whether the NHS has capacity and if there is a consistent fall in deaths.

**Elsewhere in Covid-19 news....**

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

## **BUSINESS/CYBER**

### Finance scheme for small businesses

1. Small businesses will benefit from a new fast-track finance scheme providing loans with a 100% government-backed guarantee for lenders. The Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, said the new Bounce Back Loans scheme, which will provide loans of up to £50,000, would help bolster the existing package of support available to the smallest businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The government will provide lenders with a 100% guarantee for the loan and pay any fees and interest for the first 12 months. No repayments will be due during the first 12 months.

### Temporary ban on statutory demands and winding up petitions

2. The government has announced that it will temporarily ban the use of statutory demands (made between 1 March 2020 and 30 June 2020) and winding up petitions presented from Monday 27 April, through to 30 June, where a company cannot pay its bills due to coronavirus. This will help ensure these companies do not fall into deeper financial strain. The measures will be included in the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill, which the Business Secretary Alok Sharma set out earlier this month.

## **DISCLAIMER**

*The above is not intended to be legal advice. Specialist advice should be sought for individual cases where necessary.*

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