



It is amazing to be back!

We want to take this opportunity to go on record and provide an update in relation to Clinical Audit Support Centre Ltd (CASC). As many of you will know, on 24 April the CASC Directors voluntarily entered into the furlough scheme. This inevitably meant that in line with furlough rules we had to shut down our business. Over the last 82 days we have followed the furlough rules and conducted statutory duties only. It is great that from 16 July we are able to re-open our business.

In these truly extraordinary, unprecedented and difficult times it rapidly became clear that our time would not be best served at CASC as the pandemic reached its peak. It has been a privilege to have spent the last 3 months supporting our partners in their essential work: one as a buyer bringing in huge amounts of PPE and the other serving as a payroll manager for a major British company. Like many of you reading this we have also helped in the shielding of our elderly parents. We have been lucky not to lose any family members or friends to the virus. Our condolences to those of you who have sadly experienced this.

As a business that has historically worked predominantly with healthcare professionals, we know from many of you that have contacted us, just how hard this year has been. We are indebted to the NHS staff (and other key workers) for their hard work and dedication in such testing times. We know of many audit, QI and patient safety professionals that have continued to carry out their vital work. Some have returned to clinical duties or been re-deployed in the effort to combat the virus. We tip our hats to all of you.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank the Government for their financial support since April. Although the furlough scheme has restrictions for the Directors of Limited Companies, we are extremely grateful for the help that our business has received.

Having effectively been in hibernation for over 80 days, our first job will be to review all emails and messages that we have been unable to reply to since April. Our aim is to contact all customers by the end of July. We are also aiming to have all learners that submitted their work to us by the end of February and that have met the relevant requirements, accredited in July. Unfortunately, our accrediting body closed during the pandemic, but they are now processing certificates. Please be patient if you are waiting for us to get back to you or if you have submitted work.

In terms of our wider plans... we will of course endeavour to catch-up on all that has been happening in the world of audit and QI. We will return to Twitter shortly, re-start our blog and jobs bulletin. It has been reinvigorating to step away from these for a while and gain perspective. As fate would have it, we were working on a number of reports and initiatives prior to the pandemic, so these will be released in July/August with a number of zoom meetings to provide more clarity for those interested. We hope to gradually return to training learners in a classroom setting. In the meantime, we will be extending our established distance learning and new virtual training courses.

A few final thoughts. We feel that the true tragedy of this wider tragedy has been the lack of support to care homes. It is for others to look into this in time, but we are proud to have continually championed the social care sector and we will be stepping this up in coming months. We re-iterate our long-held view that it is totally unacceptable that there are no national audits for care homes. This must and will change soon. Also, given our very close proximity to Leicester (a city we love and are hugely proud of), we are very mindful that there is still a long road ahead. Stay safe everybody.