

# COVID-19 Remote Working: Case Studies & Top Tips

The outbreak of the coronavirus COVID-19 has impacted the way we work. The prospect of having to work from home can be a daunting prospect.

The following text outlines how a person who usually works from home, has adapted to the new COVID-19 way of working.

Please see The Council's [pages](#) for the latest information on COVID-19.



If you have any questions, queries or are looking for further advice, then please do not hesitate to get in touch at [edinburghworkplaces@stantec.com](mailto:edinburghworkplaces@stantec.com)

## Introductions

### Kirsty Davison – Stantec

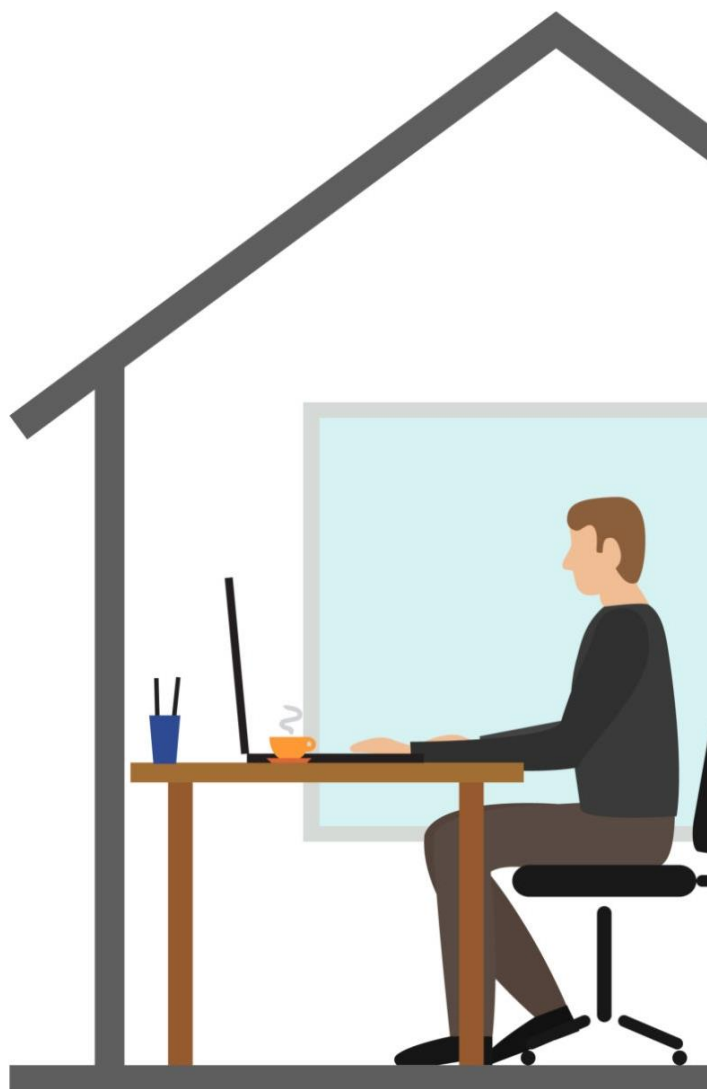
Kirsty Davison is an Associate Transport Planner in Stantec's Scotland Transport Team and is currently the Project Manager for the City of Edinburgh Council's Workplace Travel Planning Project. She is located in Glasgow but has been working from home one day a week since March 2017.

I've always been fortunate that my employers have supported flexible and agile working and I've been working one day a week from home at Stantec since 2017.

Stantec was very good in accommodating this life-style decision, so I was in some ways better prepared for a long stretch of working from home.

When working remotely I always try to start my day at the same time as I would a normal day in the office and, over time, have got better at taking the necessary breaks and lunch hour.

I really like being able to focus and work through tasks without interruption and, a big plus for me [because I live too far from work to walk or cycle] is the chance to reduce my travel time.



## COVID-19 & Working from Home



This has been a huge change for me personally and for our family. There are two of us working from home every day and an 8-year-old to be home-schooled and I've typically maintained my usual working set-up from the kitchen while my partner has the spare room-come study.

This has definitely impacted on the usual working from home arrangements: there are more distractions in the kitchen than anywhere else, but it has also brought huge benefits to us as a family that probably couldn't have been foreseen.

The main impacts are that the working day is more piece-meal and I don't get the same 'run' at tasks that I had working from home pre-social-distancing, but it is elongated (and there is flexibility to make up the time elsewhere) so on the whole it seems to balance out.

### Tips for Remote Working

In the Stantec Transport Team we've set up a few mechanisms to help us stay in touch and keep everyone informed about our working day and routine.

We have a daily log-in on Microsoft Teams which is updated by everyone working each day and we have routine calls every second day throughout the week. Some of these are to deal with regular operational aspects such as resource and business operations, but we'll also use it to talk about our experiences and the ways we are overcoming the current situation.

I think if you are successful in an office environment, you will definitely be successful as a remote worker. ***It's really about remaining focussed and driven by tasks.***

I've learned that ***productivity varies on a day to day basis for everyone***, so sometimes you have to just go with it.

### COVID-19 & Behaviour Change

We should be capitalising on making best use of the existing infrastructure and quieter roads and informal paths and networks that we do have, to keep confidence levels and thereby volumes of walkers and cyclists up too.

There has been a strong desire for new active travel infrastructure over the last few years and a utopian network is every travel planners dream, but it's not always practical. We need to make more of adapting the infrastructure we do have and follow some of the basic principles of repurposing.

Leadership is key to long term change, as is ambition. Why would we regress to a travel and behaviour situation which is ultimately detrimental to our health, wellbeing and environment? It's generally unheard of in social history terms, so we should all resist reverting to the old norm and continue with the journey to the new.