

# Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry

## Summer 2023 newsletter



## Welcome



Welcome to the summer 2023 edition of the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry newsletter.

The Scottish COVID-19 **Inquiry** is a team of people who are finding out what happened during the COVID-19 pandemic in Scotland.



An **inquiry** is a review into what went well and what could have been done better.

## Preliminary Hearing



A **preliminary hearing** is the first important meeting when the Inquiry explains how it will do its work.

The Inquiry's **preliminary hearing** for health and social care was on 28 August in Edinburgh.



It was shown live on the [Inquiry's YouTube channel](#).

You can watch it, and read what was said on the [Inquiry website](#).



There is also a [short film](#) on the website that was shown at the hearing.

It recognises the suffering that COVID-19 caused to the people of Scotland.

## How the hearings will happen



An **investigation** is when a person or organisation looks for facts, figures and information to find out exactly what happened.



The Inquiry has 3 themes at the **investigations** and hearings:

- health and social care
- education and young people
- finance, business and welfare



For each theme, the Inquiry will look at:

- the effect of the pandemic
- how things were put in place to keep us safe
- how important decisions were made



The next hearings start on 24 October in Edinburgh.

They will be about the effects of the pandemic on health and social care.



Hearings will stop for the festive period and start again in February until Easter.

There will then be hearings about the effects of the pandemic for the other 2 themes.



The UK Covid-19 Inquiry is looking at how the pandemic was handled across the UK.

It will hold hearings about Scottish matters in January.



The Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry's hearings will stop for a while to let people and organisations from Scotland to be at the UK hearings.



In July the Inquiry had a session about the COVID-19 virus.

You can watch it on our [website](#).



The website also has **transcripts** and reports from the session.

**Transcripts** are documents that show what was said at the session.

## Chief Executive to the Inquiry



In July, Ian Duddy became Chief Executive to the Inquiry.

This means he is the most senior official to the Inquiry and is responsible for making sure the Inquiry is run well.

## Let's Be Heard



Let's Be Heard is a way for everyone in Scotland to take part in the Inquiry by:

- sharing their experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic in Scotland



- telling us how it affected them



- telling us what should have been done differently so that Scotland is better prepared in future



More than 3 thousand people and groups have shared their experiences with Let's Be Heard.

We would like to keep hearing from more people all over Scotland.



We would also like to hear from more people in:

- West Lothian
- North and South Lanarkshire
- Fife
- Highland and Islands



We would like to hear more from minority ethnic groups too.



People can share their experiences with the Inquiry by:

- completing the online form at: <https://lbh.covid19inquiry.scot/>



- printing a form from the website and posting it to us at Freepost SCOTTISH COVID-19 INQUIRY

You do not have to put a stamp on the envelope.



- asking for a paper form by:
  - emailing [LetsBeHeard@covid19inquiry.scot](mailto:LetsBeHeard@covid19inquiry.scot)
  - or by leaving a voicemail on 0808 175 5555



We have:

- an [Easy Read](#) form
- [translations](#) into Polish, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, Gaelic and Urdu
- a [form for children and young people](#)



You can have a [group discussion](#) and take part as a group, family or organisation.

We have an [engagement guide](#) online to help you do this.



When possible, the Let's Be Heard team would like to listen and take notes at group discussions.



The national engagement part of Let's Be Heard will stop on 20 December 2023.

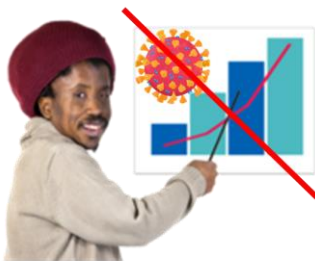


## Long COVID



**Long COVID** is the health problems that last or develop after someone has had COVID-19.

The Inquiry's investigation will look at long COVID as part of checking how Scotland responded to the pandemic.



The Inquiry cannot look at research into the future treatment of long COVID.

## Website updates



A **protocol** is a document that shows how something will be done.

There are [protocols](#) on the Inquiry website.

The website has a new page about [hearings and presentations](#).



The website will have:

- **livestreams** – a way to watch hearings when they are happening
- transcripts and recordings of hearings that have already happened



## Get in touch



We will put news, reports and information about upcoming hearings on our [website](#).

[Sign up](#) to get emails with the Inquiry's latest news.



Email us at [contact@covid19inquiry.scot](mailto:contact@covid19inquiry.scot)

- if you have questions about the Inquiry
- if you need accessible versions or a translation of any part of the website



You can write to the Inquiry at:

Freepost SCOTTISH COVID-19 INQUIRY