

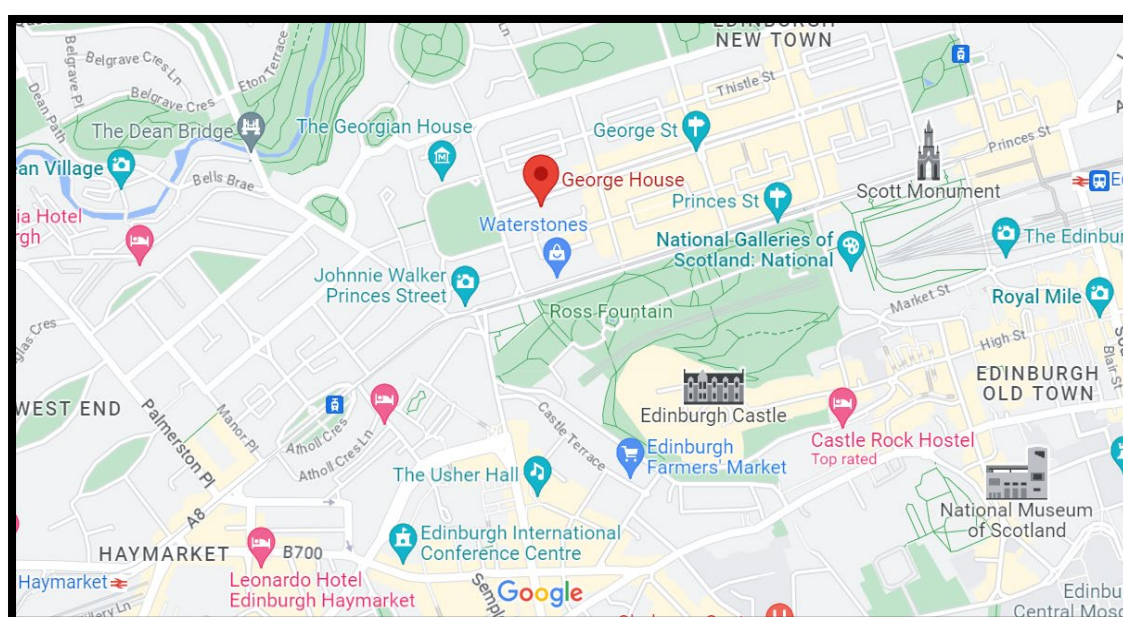
SCOTTISH COVID-19 INQUIRY

Health and Social Care Impact Hearings

Supplementary Information for Attendees at George House

Where is the venue?

Hearings will take place in George House, 126 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4HH.



How do I get to the venue?

By train: Two railway stations service Edinburgh's city centre - Waverley and Haymarket. The venue is a 15-minute walk from either station or three minutes on the tram.

By bus: There are several bus stops on Princes Street, both eastbound and westbound, as well as on Hanover Street and Frederick Street. These stops service Lothian Buses, Lothian Country Buses, East Coast Buses and the Airlink 100. For more information and for bus timetables visit: [Home - Lothian Buses](#)

By tram: The closest tram stops for George House are Princes Street and West End. These stops are approximately five minutes' walk from the venue. For more information and for tram timetables, visit <http://edinburghtrams.com/>.

By car: The postcode for the venue is EH2 4HH.

Is there parking at the venue?

There is no car parking available at the hearing venue. However, there are a restricted number of pay-and-display parking spaces available on St Andrew Square and Queen Street. Parking on George Street has been suspended for the festive period. A temporary suspension of parking is in place at Charlotte Square for the first week of November 2023.

There is also multi-storey parking at Castle Terrace, at the west end of Princes Street, which is a 10-minute walk away. Parking charges apply. The Inquiry cannot reserve parking for attendees.

What should I do if I have accessibility needs?

If you have any accessibility needs, please contact us via email at hearingsandwitnesses@covid19inquiry.scot, or by telephone on 0808 164 0222, and a member of the team will be happy to help.

What will happen when I arrive at the hearing?

Please only attend George House if you have received written confirmation from the Inquiry that a space is reserved for you. The [Hearing schedule](#) is published on the Inquiry website and you can contact us at hearingsandwitnesses@covid19inquiry.scot to enquire if we have any places available. The Inquiry will notify people by email who have been allocated a seat.

On arrival at the venue, a member of the Inquiry team will check your name against the list of registered attendees and issue a visitor pass.

You should display your pass at all times while attending the hearing and return it at the end of the day.

Can I bring someone with me?

Spaces are reserved only for those who have requested to attend in advance and have received confirmation that this request has been accommodated. If you have not requested to attend in advance, please email us at hearingsandwitnesses@covid19inquiry.scot to enquire if we have any places available.

How long will hearings last?

Ordinarily, hearings will begin at 10am and run until approximately 4pm. There may be occasions when hearings begin earlier than 10am. Please check the [hearings calendar](#) on the Inquiry's website for details.

All attendees should arrive in good time to be seated in the hearing room for the start time.

There will be breaks during proceedings, including at lunchtime.

What happens if I arrive late for the hearing?

In the event you arrive late for the hearing, you will be allowed into the room at an appropriate break in proceedings.

What COVID-19 measures are in place?

The health, safety and wellbeing of all those attending hearings is a priority for the Inquiry.

Hand sanitiser and disposable face coverings will be available for use by all attendees.

The ventilation in the hearing room is mechanical, which provides ventilation to British Council for Offices standard.

We ask that, in the event that you are feeling unwell, you please do not attend and follow the hearing via the broadcast on the Inquiry's [YouTube channel](#), if you are able to. Please also let us know if you can no longer attend.

Can I bring a bag?

For security reasons we advise that you do not bring a bag, though small bags (such as handbags and backpacks smaller than A4 size) are allowed. Bags may be subject to search on arrival.

There are no cloakroom facilities available at the venue and we recommend that you do not leave any personal belongings, papers, or documents unattended anywhere in the venue.

The Inquiry cannot guarantee the security of any personal items.

Can I take my phone into the hearing room?

Phones and electronic devices are allowed, though they should be on silent mode at all times while you are in the hearing room. You should not make or accept phone calls, take photographs or make video or audio recordings in the hearing room.

Hearings should proceed without disruption or interruptions. Anyone attempting to disrupt a hearing may be required to leave the venue.

Can I eat or drink in the hearing room?

Eating and drinking is not allowed in the hearing room, with the exception of water.

Who will be in the hearing room?

As well as the Chair and Counsel to the Inquiry, there may be a variety of people present, including legal representatives, security staff, Inquiry staff and members of the public.

Can I attend without having registered in advance?

Space in the hearing room and [the viewing room](#) is limited and it is recommended that members of the public who have not registered in advance follow the hearing via a broadcast on the Inquiry's [YouTube channel](#) if you are able to.

Anyone wishing to attend in person should request a seat in advance. The Inquiry will notify people by email who have been allocated a seat. If you have not already requested to attend, please [contact us](#) to enquire if we have any places available.

All media enquiries should be directed to media@coronavirusinquiry.scot.

Is wi-fi available at the venue?

Complimentary guest wi-fi is available in the hearing room.

Will emotional support be available during the hearing?

A separate room will be available for use by any attendees who are upset or distressed during the proceedings and need to take time out of the hearing room.

Inquiry staff trained in trauma-informed practice will be available to provide emotional support and signposting to specialist support organisations. A [CRUSE Scotland](#) bereavement counsellor will also be available onsite.

Where can I purchase something to eat or drink?

Shops and cafes are located on George Street, Rose Street and Princes Street.

The hearing is being broadcast. Will I be filmed?

Cameras will be located at the rear and sides of the room and facing to the front. You should be aware that you might be captured occasionally on wide angle or room overview camera shots.

I am not able to attend or watch hearings on the day. Can I watch them later?

Yes, videos of each day's hearing will be available to view on demand on the Inquiry's [YouTube channel](#). The videos will be accessible via a link on the Inquiry's website.

How can I share my experience of COVID-19?

Let's Be Heard is the main channel for people to share their experiences of the pandemic and any lessons they believe should be learned from the response to the pandemic in Scotland.

Experiences shared with *Let's Be Heard* will help guide the Inquiry's investigations and inform its reports. This will include identifying any disproportionate or unequal impacts on particular groups or communities.

Further information on Let's Be Heard can be found at [Let's Be Heard - Sharing Scotland's COVID Experience](#).