

Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry

Autumn and Winter 2023 Newsletter



Easy Read



Welcome



Welcome to the autumn and winter 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.

A **pandemic** is an infectious disease that has spread across the world.

Let's Be Heard

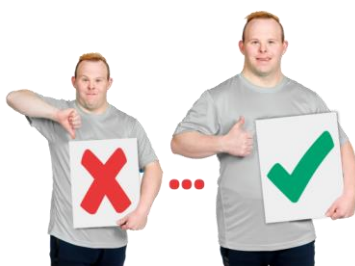


Let's Be Heard is a way for everyone in Scotland to take part in the Inquiry by:



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

- telling us how it affected them



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



The first Let's Be Heard report is online: [Let's Be Heard: Sharing Respondents' Pandemic Experiences, Impacts, and Lessons to be Learned in Scotland.](#)



It gives information about the first things we have found out since the project's national engagement phase started on 23 May 2023.

This report was published before the national engagement phase ended on 20 December 2023.



More than 4 thousand people have already shared their experiences, and the lessons they think should be learned so that Scotland is better prepared in future.

Applications to be a core participant

A **core participant** is a person or organisation with a special interest in the Inquiry.



The Inquiry has now received core participant applications from people with an interest in the Inquiry's **term of reference** about education and certification.

Terms of Reference explain what the Inquiry can look at.



The Inquiry's [Core Participant Protocol](#) explains the rights that core participants have.



The Chair to the Inquiry will look at the applications and decide who should be a core participant.

Applicants will be told what has been decided in January 2024.

The list of current core participants is on the Inquiry website: [covid19inquiry.scot/](https://www.covid19inquiry.scot/).

Impact hearings start



An **impact hearing** is an important meeting to hear how the pandemic affected people.

The Inquiry's health and social care impact hearings started in October in Edinburgh.



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

It is holding hearings about Scottish matters in January.



The Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry's hearings stopped halfway through December 2023 and are due to start again in March 2024.



The Inquiry's past hearings can be viewed on the Inquiry website or the Inquiry's [YouTube channel](#).

Witness statements and **transcripts** are also on the Inquiry website.

Transcripts are documents that show what was said at a session.



The Inquiry has split its investigation into 3 themes:

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

For each of these themes, the Inquiry will follow this order:

1. the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
2. how changes were made across Scotland
3. how the most important decisions were made





When impact hearings on health and social care are finished, the Inquiry will move to impact hearings about education and young people.

For more information please visit the [Hearings section](#) of the website.

Get in touch



As the Inquiry goes along we will put news updates and information on our website.

Please email us at:

contact@scottish-covid-19-inquiry.scot if you:

- have any questions
- have correspondence for the Chair to the Inquiry
- need accessible information or a translation of information on the website



You can also write to the Inquiry using this address:

Freepost SCOTTISH COVID-19 INQUIRY





If you are a journalist and have a media enquiry, please email us at media@covid19inquiry.scot

You can sign up for emails with Inquiry news at: covid19inquiry.scot/newsletter-signup

