

SCOTTISH COVID-19 INQUIRY

Health and Social Care Impact Hearings

Supplementary Information for Attendees at Regus, 93 George Street, Edinburgh

Regus, George Street

The Inquiry is providing a private viewing room at Regus George Street, just a short distance away from the Inquiry's temporary hearing venue. Proceedings will be broadcast in a comfortable room, laid out with a combination of theatrestyle and soft seating. As a courtesy to others, please do not make telephone calls, or conduct meetings in the viewing room.

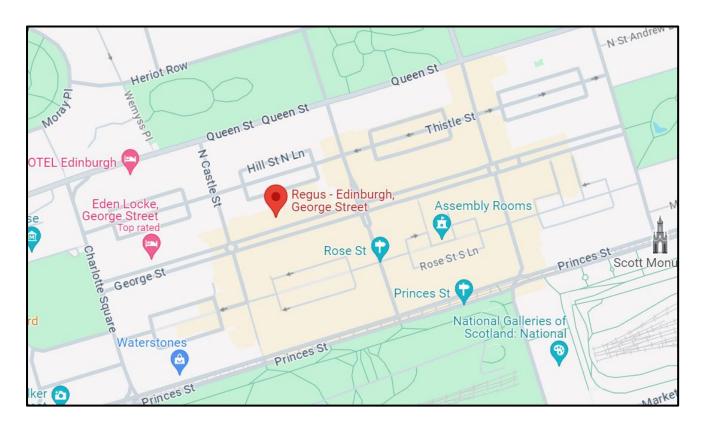
In addition, a separate room will be available for use by any attendees who are upset or distressed during the proceedings and need to take time out of the viewing room.

There is a small bookable consultation room for core participants' representatives to meet with their group members. This room has desk space and seating for up to five people. To enquire about reserving this space, please email hearingsandwitnesses@covid19inquiry.scot.

A designated room for accredited media to follow the hearings is also in this building. Media enquiries, including accreditation applications and media room attendance requests, should be directed to media@covid19inquiry.scot.

Where is the venue?

Regus, 93 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3ES.



How do I get to the venue?

By train: Edinburgh city centre is serviced by two railway stations, Waverley, which is a 15-minute walk to the venue, and Haymarket, which is a 20-minute walk.

By bus: There are several bus stops on Princes Street, both eastbound and westbound. These stops service Lothian Buses, Lothian Country Buses, East Coast Buses and the Airlink 100. For more information and for bus timetables visit Lothian Buses.

By tram: The closest tram stop for Regus is on Princes Street. From there, it is just short 5-minute walk to the venue. For more information and for tram timetables visit <u>Edinburgh Trams</u>.

By car: The postcode for the venue is EH2 3ES.

Is there parking at the venue?

There is limited car parking available on George Street. Parking charges of £15 per day apply. The Inquiry cannot reserve parking for attendees.

There are a restricted number of pay-and-display parking spaces available on St Andrew Square and Queen Street.

There is also multi-storey parking at Castle Terrace at the west end of Princes Street, or at St James Quarter at the east end, both of which are within a 15-minute walk from the venue.

Bike parking is available on George Street.

What will happen when I arrive at Regus?

Attendees will be able to access the venue between 9am and 5pm.

On arrival at the venue, signage will be visible at the entrance to direct you to the Inquiry suite, where you will be provided with a visitor pass and lanyard.

Please only attend if you have received confirmation from the Inquiry that a space is reserved for you.

All attendees will register with Inquiry staff and be issued with a numbered visitor pass. You should always display your pass whilst in the building and return it at the end of the day.

Self-service tea, coffee and water will be available in the viewing room from 9am.

Before the hearing begins, a member of Inquiry staff will provide housekeeping information.

Members of the media will be met at the entrance and directed to the media room by a member of the Inquiry communications team where accreditation will be checked, and a media lanyard provided.

How long will hearings last?

Ordinarily, hearings will begin at 9:45am and run until approximately 4:15pm. There may be occasions when hearings begin earlier than 9:45am. Please check the hearings calendar on the Inquiry's website for details or the Inquiry's social media account on X (formerly Twitter) for regular updates on session start times. There will be breaks during proceedings, including at lunchtime.

Can I attend without having registered in advance?

Space in 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 livestream on the Inquiry's <u>YouTube channel</u>, if you are able to. Media representatives wishing to attend in person should contact

<u>media@covid19inquiry.scot</u>. The <u>Hearing schedule</u> is published on the Inquiry website and you can contact us at <u>hearingsandwitnesses@covid19inquiry.scot</u> to enquire if we have any places available. The Inquiry will notify people by email who have been allocated a seat.

What should I do if I have accessibility needs?

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

What COVID-19 measures are in place?

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

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

All spaces at Regus are ventilated by natural means. There is controllable heating in each room.

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 <u>YouTube channel</u> if you are able to. Please also let us know if you can no longer attend so we can make arrangements to give your space to someone else.

Smoking

Smoking and vaping inside Regus are prohibited.

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.

The Inquiry cannot guarantee the security of any personal items.

Is wi-fi available at the venue?

Complimentary guest wi-fi is available throughout the Regus building, and each room has electrical sockets for charging devices.

Where can I purchase something to eat or drink?

Shops and cafes are located on George Street and nearby Rose Street.

Self-service tea, coffee and water will be available in the viewing room throughout the hearings.

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

Yes, a video recording of each hearing will be available to watch on demand on the Inquiry's <u>YouTube channel</u>. The recordings will also be accessible 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* are helping to 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 <u>Let's Be Heard - Sharing</u> Scotland's COVID Experience.