

Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry

Update from the Chief Executive

July 2024



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What is the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry?



The Scottish COVID-19 **Inquiry** is a team of people who are finding out what happened during the COVID-19 **pandemic** in Scotland between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2022.



An **inquiry** is a review into what the public were concerned about and what could have been done better.

A **pandemic** is when an infectious disease or virus spreads to lots of countries across the world.



Ian Duddy is the Chief Executive of the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry.

This means he is responsible for making sure the Inquiry is well-run.



The rest of the information in this document is his update.

New information about the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry



The Inquiry is now looking at how the pandemic affected education and exams.



It will then look at how the pandemic affected business and welfare.



We will start our next **hearings** on 4 November 2024 and finish them by 20 December 2024.

A **hearing** is an important meeting.

Core participants who would like to appear at the education and exams impact hearings can apply on the [Inquiry website](#).



A **core participant** is a person, a group or an organisation with a special interest in something the Inquiry is investigating.

Let's Be Heard



[Let's Be Heard](#) is the Inquiry's participation project.

It continues to gather personal experiences from people and families affected by the pandemic in Scotland.

The Let's Be Heard team is now working to get information from groups that:

- have been hard to reach
- have been more affected by COVID-19 than other groups
- we have not had many responses from



This includes:

- business owners
- minority ethnic groups





- religious groups



- children and young people



- people living in the countryside or on Scotland's islands

Hearings and investigations



The Inquiry recently moved into its permanent home at Waverley Gate in Edinburgh.

It has office space for our staff and a space called a suite where hearings will happen.



There is a short video about the hearings suite on [YouTube](#).



The hearing suite has been designed in a trauma informed way.

Trauma is the emotions someone feels when something terrible has happened like a frightening event.



Trauma informed means we understand how trauma can make people feel and behave.



The hearing suite gives core participants and witnesses the space and comfort they need to be treated with **dignity**.

Dignity means being treated in a way that is as thoughtful as possible.



When we are not in hearings, the Inquiry's investigations continue including:

- getting evidence from **public services** – services we all use like schools, hospitals and councils



- carefully checking and understanding **research** that the Inquiry has asked for

Research means getting facts, figures and information about something.



We put the [research](#) on our website.

What will happen in the next few months



In 2025 the Inquiry will look at how public services responded to the pandemic in Scotland.



The Inquiry will then look at:

- how decisions were made about policies
- how policies were put in place



We thank everyone who has given information to the Inquiry.

