

Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry

Update from the Chief Executive



Easy Read



New information about 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 the most senior official to the Inquiry and is responsible for making sure the Inquiry is well-run.



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

The Inquiry will finish its **impact hearings** on the impact of COVID-19 on health and social care by the end of May 2024.



An **impact hearing** is an important meeting:

- to hear how the pandemic affected people
- where we listen to **evidence** - information that proves something is true.



Since October 2023, we have heard many people speak about the impact of COVID-19 in a health or social care setting.



Some of this evidence has been very personal and emotional, especially for people who lost loved ones in the pandemic.



The Inquiry is very grateful to everyone who has given evidence in the last few months.



All the information we get will be checked carefully and will help us with our **investigations** and with writing our reports.

An **investigation** is when we look for facts to find out exactly what happened.



This includes information from:

- **witnesses** at our public hearings

A **witness** is a person who has seen something happen.



- statements to the Inquiry
- the experiences shared by people across Scotland through our listening project Let's Be Heard



Let's Be Heard asked people across Scotland to share their experiences of the pandemic and tell us what lessons they think should be learned.

Looking ahead



The Inquiry will move into a new building with more space at Waverley Gate in the centre of Edinburgh in June 2024.



The extra space will mean more people can take part in our public hearings and evidence sessions.



We will keep **livestreaming** and recording all our hearings on our [YouTube](#) channel.

Livestream means it is shown on YouTube as it is happening.

If you cannot go to a hearing you can watch it later on YouTube.



On the 27 and 28 June 2024 we will have a short 2-day session.

It is for organisations that want to give a final spoken statement about health and social care.



There is more information about this online at covid19inquiry.scot.



In the autumn the Inquiry will hear evidence about how the pandemic affected education and exams.



Then there will then be **impact hearings** about the support available to businesses and people in the pandemic.



These hearings will run until the end of 2024.



First we are hearing how the pandemic affected people.



Then we will hear evidence from the organisations that deliver services.



Then we will hear from Scottish Ministers and other people who made decisions in the pandemic.



2024 will be a busy year because the Inquiry has more investigations into the effect of the pandemic in Scotland.



Many thanks for your support.

