

Closing Statements relative to Health and Social Care Impact Hearing commencing 24 October 2023 ending May 2024

Pursuant to section 17 of the Inquiries Act 2005 (“the Act”), Lord Brailsford (“the Chair”) of the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry (“the Inquiry”) directs that in respect of the diet of hearings which commenced on 24 October 2023, ending May 2024 (“the hearing”) core participants with leave to appear may, if they so wish:

1. Submit a written closing statement to the Inquiry. Written statements are to be submitted by no later than 12 noon on Monday 17 June 2024; and
2. In framing their closing statements, core participants should have regard to the terms of Appendix 1:
3. Subject to having provided a closing statement in writing by the required date, make an oral submission in support of their primary written statement of no more than 15 minutes. When submitting their written closing statement, core participants MUST state whether they wish to make an oral closing statement. Oral closing statements will be heard on 27 and 28 June 2024.
4. It should be noted that this Direction does not **require** core participants with leave to appear at the hearing to make a closing statement. The decision as to whether to do so is entirely one for each core participant, and core participants should do so only in so far as they consider that it is appropriate and helpful to the Inquiry.



The Hon. Lord Brailsford – Chair of the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry

30 APRIL 2024

APPENDIX 1:

The scope of the evidence to be led at the hearing was set out in the Direction on Opening Statements which can be found [here](#)

The Chair's expectation is that core participants will wish to assist the Inquiry in fulfilling its Terms of Reference. He sees the submission of closing statements as a way of doing so.

The written submission should be a full expression of the core participant's views of the evidence. While not seeking to limit the scope of the submissions, the following should be borne in mind. The Chair would find it particularly helpful if the submissions identified those impacts that are considered were (a) foreseeable, (b) most significant and/or detrimental, and (c) might have been minimised, or excluded, had reasonable steps been taken to do so. Further, it would be of assistance to identify what future investigations and further evidence the core participant considers would be necessary in order for the Inquiry to complete its consideration of the decisions and implementation measures which resulted in, or failed to minimise, the impacts identified.

All matters addressed in the written submission must be within the scope of the Inquiry's Terms of Reference.

The oral submission, which is time limited, should be approached as drawing to the Chair's attention the matters to which the core participant believes require to be highlighted in order for the Inquiry to complete its consideration of the matters referred to in its Terms of Reference.

Where a core participant submits a closing statement, it should be submitted electronically to coreparticipants@scotland.gov.uk and be no longer than 5000 (five thousand) words, using font size 12 point and 1.5 line spacing.

A covering email should indicate whether an oral closing statement is also to be made.