

Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry

Closing Statements relative to the impact hearings in respect of Education and Certification and Business and Welfare commencing on 5 November 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 5 November 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 29 January 2025; and
2. In framing their closing statements, core participants should have regard to the terms of Appendix 1.
3. 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "L. Brailsford", with three dots below it.

The Hon. Lord Brailsford – Chair of the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry
30 October 2024

APPENDIX 1

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.

Where a core participant submits a closing statement, it should be submitted electronically to coreparticipants@coronavirusinquiry.scot and be no longer than 2500 (two thousand five hundred) words, using font size 12 point and 1.5 line spacing.