

Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry

Update from the Chief Executive

February 2025



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 responsible for making sure the Inquiry is well-run.



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

The work we are doing



The Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry had a busy year in 2024.

We finished our **impact hearings** on:

- health and social care
- education and **certification** – qualifications and exams
- finance, business and welfare



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

- to hear how the pandemic affected people
- where we listen to **evidence**



Evidence is information that proves something is true.

We also got nearly 12 thousand experiences of the pandemic from people across Scotland.





Over the past 12 months the Inquiry's Chair, Lord Brailsford, heard from:

- bereaved relatives
- family members of care home residents
- teachers and students
- business workers and business owners
- many other people who were affected by the pandemic in Scotland



This year the Inquiry will finish its hearings on the impacts of COVID-19 on people living in Scotland during the pandemic.



The **preliminary hearing** was on 22 January.



A **preliminary hearing** is the first important meeting when the Inquiry explains how it will do its work on each subject.



The Inquiry will then hold hearings about:

- **justice** – police, courts and other legal organisations

These hearings will be from 18 to 28 February.



- worship and life events

These hearings will be from 29 April to 2 May.



- and equalities and human rights

These hearings will be from 10 to 20 June.



When we have finished hearing evidence on the impacts of the pandemic in 2025, the Inquiry will then move on to:



- looking at how policies were put in place in Scotland
- looking at the decisions taken by Scottish politicians and their advisers



We know that giving evidence to a public inquiry can be difficult and upsetting for some.

It is not easy to share personal stories with strangers in a formal meeting.



The Inquiry thanks everyone who has already given evidence, information or shared their experiences for our investigations.

We thank everyone who will give us information in the next weeks and months.

Let's Be Heard



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

It has been asking people across Scotland to share their experiences of the pandemic and tell us what lessons they think should be learned.

After getting nearly 12 thousand responses from across Scotland, Let's Be Heard has finished gathering experiences.

The team is now working on **analysing** those responses.

This will add to the information in the [first report](#) we published in 2023.

Analysing means checking it very carefully to understand it better.



In 2025 the Inquiry expects to **publish case studies** from Let's Be Heard.

Publish means to share it for everyone to read.



A **case study** is when we have looked closely at information from one group of people.

Preliminary hearings



The Inquiry has also published [research](#) about its investigations into education and certification.



The research report is a study of how schools were closed and reopened in the pandemic.

The report looks at how this was done in Scotland and in other similar countries.



The reports represent the views of people who wrote them.

They do not represent the final views of the Inquiry.



In the next months we will keep giving you information about what is happening in the Inquiry.

For more information follow the Inquiry on social media:



- [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Bluesky](#)



You can watch our public hearings live on our [YouTube channel](#) where you can also view hearings that have already happened.