



Adult
and
Health

[Covid-19](#)[Justice](#)[Mental Health](#)[Workforce](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)**Covid-19**[Scottish Inquiry Chief Executive's update](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has published an update from its Chief Executive for April 2025, covering prisoner case studies, health and social care impact witness statements, autumn hearings on Covid measures and implementation and decision-making hearings.



Covid-19

[Timetable for worship and life events impact hearings](#)

The Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry has published the timetable for its worship and life events impact hearings, due to take place from 29 April to 2 May 2025, and is now accepting requests to attend.

These hearings will highlight issues and impacts in relation to:

- restrictions on routine religious observance
- restrictions on religious and non-religious celebratory events, including weddings, baptisms, funerals, coming-of-age celebrations and religious holidays
- the closure of religious buildings used for both worship and wider community activities
- the delivery and reception of remote pastoral support
- the ability to receive pastoral support at home
- the ability to practice religion in non-traditional settings, including prisons, schools, hospitals, hospices and airports

Justice

[Statistics covering justice and safer communities](#)

The Scottish Government has published 'Safer Communities and Justice Statistics Monthly Data Report: April 2025', with summary statistics covering a number of important justice and safer communities areas. The publication contains statistics on crime in general, policing, hate crime, community safety, criminal and civil proceedings, criminal justice journey times, and prisons.

[Private prison to be prosecuted for Covid death](#)

HMP Addiewell, Sodexo Ltd and NHS Lothian are to be prosecuted for their alleged failures to properly manage the medical care of a prisoner who contracted Covid-19 and died, the BBC reports.

Mental Health

[eLearning module on Adults with Incapacity Act \(Scotland\) Act 2000](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission have launched an eLearning module focusing on the application of the Adults with Incapacity Act (Scotland) Act 2000 (AWI). Following on from the module 'An Introduction to the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000', the new module aims to assist the workforce to further develop their knowledge on key areas such as the principles, rights-based practice, capacity, decision-making and consent, supported decision-making, substitute decision-making, deprivation of liberty, and AWI Act reform.



[Promoting the mental health of people living with long term conditions](#)

An evaluation published by the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) and Mental Health Foundation (MHF) has reportedly found that the mental health and wellbeing of people living with long term conditions can be improved and sustained through partnership working. 'Tools in the Toolbox' evaluated the work of Living Well: Emotional Support Matters over the last three years to promote the mental health and wellbeing of people living with long term conditions. The evaluation of this work reportedly finds that due to Living Well, staff and volunteers were able to enhance their work further, build on their knowledge, and benefit from specific 'tools' provided to undertake new mental health promoting activities, delivery partners reported a culture change emerging within their organisations, with mental health and wellbeing beginning to be embedded across a wider range of activities, policies and processes, and people with long term conditions had their mental health and wellbeing directly promoted, as well as experiencing general positive impacts such as an increased sense of pride or achievement.

Workforce

[Adult social care workers minimum pay uprated to reflect minimum rate of pay](#)

The Scottish Government has updated their factsheet on the minimum rate of pay for adult social care workers in Scotland. The minimum rate of pay for adult social care workers delivering direct care in Scotland increased from £12 to £12.60 per hour from April 2025.

[Survey of social work, social care and children and young people workforce](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) have published the findings of their 'Have Your Say Workforce Wellbeing Survey'. The survey report provides insights from people working in the social work, social care and children and young people workforce on a wide range of topics, including wellbeing, pay, terms and conditions, support, access to training and qualifications and general experiences of working in the sector. The findings will help the SSSC and key partners, including Scottish Government, to find out more about the experience of working in this field, as well as informing the development of national policies that have an impact on this sector and approaches on how best to support the workforce.

[Continuous professional learning \(CPL\) requirements](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) are publicising the changes to continuous professional learning (CPL) requirements for core learning elements. They have moved away from recording hours and days to focus on key skills and knowledge required at important career stages, such as induction, change of role and return to practice, and CPL requirements include core learning elements suitable for you based on your work and career.



[Survey report on qualification barriers in social care](#)

Scottish Care has published a report analysing survey responses on challenges regarding mandatory qualifications and barriers to accessing those qualifications. The report, 'Overcoming Qualification Barriers in Scottish Social Care: A Survey Analysis', based on survey data from independent sector social care services, suggests that sufficient resourcing from key policy and funding stakeholders has not aligned with the drive for full registration, resulting in "substantial barriers" to accessing and funding qualifications, and calls on the Scottish Government and all key stakeholders to urgently invest in the social care workforce.

Other Health and Social Care

[Help shape our next Corporate Plan](#)

Our current [Corporate Plan](#) set out our vision, purpose, and values for the 2022-2025 period. It also set out our business model, strategic objectives and the key principles we would follow to help us achieve these. We are now developing our new Corporate Plan, taking into account the changing landscape of health and social care. We want everyone with an interest in care and in what we do, to have the opportunity to share their views about our strategic outcomes and help shape our new Corporate Plan. Complete our survey or sign up for one of our online events [here](#).

Disclaimer

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on key developments concerning adults and health related issues.

Each item in the bulletin has a hyperlinked headline that will take the reader to the original source.

We collate items from our parliamentary and Scottish Government monitoring covering health and social care news from throughout the UK, and current research and policy development. We use a variety of sources for the bulletin, including alerts from [Newsdirect](#), [Community Care](#), [Children & Young People Now](#) and [ISD Scotland](#).

We aim to be representative rather than comprehensive, so we try to cover only the main Scottish stories, along with some stories from the rest of the UK. The purpose of the bulletin is to alert readers to items of interest. It should be noted that these items are the works of others and are neither authorised nor endorsed by the Care Inspectorate, with the exception of publications which are identified as Care Inspectorate publications.

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