



## COVID-19 - General

### [New variant in Scotland](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed that three cases of a COVID-19 Variant of Concern first identified in Manaus, Brazil, have been identified in Scotland. Health protection teams, including local clinicians, have assessed each case and their contacts, and are arranging protective measures for this small number of potentially exposed individuals.

### [Primary school children to return full-time](#)

All remaining primary school children are set to return to school full-time from 15 March, with all secondary pupils returning on a part-time basis from that date, the Scottish Government has confirmed. Regulated childcare, including breakfast and after-school clubs, for primary pupils will also re-start on 15 March as part of the Phase 2 return.

[COVID-19 - General](#)

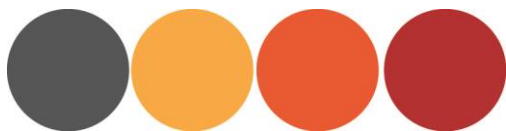
[Child Protection](#)

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Care](#)



## **Child Protection**

### [Context of child migration schemes](#)

A report on the policy and practice contexts that informed UK child migration schemes between the 1880s and 1960s has been published by the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. The report also includes the experiences of Scottish children migrated to Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and considers the extent to which those responsible for safeguarding the health and wellbeing of children in care, failed in their duty to protect these children both whilst they were in care in Scotland and once they had been migrated.

### [Helping children and young people to recognise signs of online harm](#)

A campaign has been launched to help children and young people recognise the signs of online harms including child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSE). Part of a coordinate response from the Scottish Government, Police Scotland and Child Protection Committees Scotland, the CSEthe Signs initiative aims to raise awareness among those aged 11 to 17 and their parents and carers of what constitutes CSE, and where they can go for advice and support if they have concerns.

## **Human Rights**

### [Child rights-based approach to sustainable development](#)

The Children & Young People's Commissioner Scotland has published his speech to the UN Human Rights Council on the annual day on the rights of the child, discussing accelerating Sustainable Development Goal implementation through a child rights-based approach. The Commissioner talks about how Scotland has used tools to ensure that children are not overlooked or left behind, such as Sustainable Development Goals in the National Performance Framework, incorporation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into our domestic Scots law, and the role of Children's Rights Impact Assessments.

## **Justice**

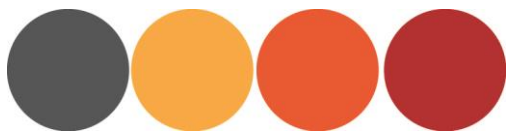
### [Update on virtual hearings](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration has updated their website to include a new section with guidance, tips and frequently asked questions on Virtual Hearings.

## **Mental Health**

### [Impact of pandemic on equalities and human rights](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Equalities and Human Rights Committee has published a 'Report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on equalities and human rights'. In



relation to the mental health of children and young people, the Committee asks for assurances for the Scottish Youth Parliament's Equalities and Human Rights Committee that the Scottish Government's new plan will help ensure mental health and wellbeing remains at the heart of the Scottish Government's response to coronavirus, and associated funding, will deliver increased availability of mental health support and address any backlog of support to children and young people.

### [Waiting times for services](#)

Statistics for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) waiting times for the quarter ending 31 December 2020 have been published by Public Health Scotland. 4,091 children and young people started treatment at CAMHS, which is an increase of 59 (1.5%) patients from the previous quarter, and an increase of 207 (5.3%) patients from the same quarter the previous year. Nearly three quarters (73.1%) of children and young people were seen within 18 weeks, compared to 60.6% for the previous quarter and 66.4% for the quarter ending December 2019. The Scottish Government standard states that 90% of children and young people should start treatment within 18 weeks of referral to CAMHS.

### [Specialist services for mental health assessment and treatment](#)

A new Workforce Specialist Service offering confidential mental health assessment and treatment will be available for health and social care professionals. Any person in one of the regulated professions within health and social care can get support from a multidisciplinary team on a range of issues such as stress, anxiety, depression or addiction, with a focus on the impact this may have on a person's work.

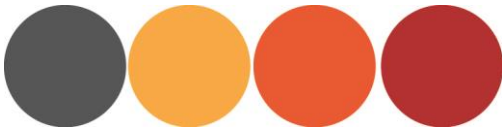
## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Ethical international recruitment](#)

The UK Government's Department of Health and Social Care has announced a strengthening of their ethical approach to the international recruitment of health and care workers, aligning with the World Health Organization's advice on ethical recruitment to promote effective, fair and sustainable international recruitment practices. Similarly to the UK Government, the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport has published a revised [Code of Practice](#) setting out principles and practices for the ethical international recruitment and appointment of all international health and social care personnel in Scotland.

### [Online channel for disclosures](#)

Disclosure Scotland has launched a new digital channel to apply for PVG level disclosures. The new online PVG service will become the main application process for most PVG applications. Organisations enrolled with Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services (VSDS) can access PVG Online through VSDS. To find out more, please contact Disclosure Scotland at [response@disclosurescotland.gov.scot](mailto:response@disclosurescotland.gov.scot)



### [Children in Scotland chief to step down](#)

Jackie Brock has announced that she will be standing down as Children in Scotland's Chief Executive in the spring. Arrangements, which have been approved by Children in Scotland's Board, will be put in place to cover the period following Jackie's departure, with responsibilities shared by three department heads in the charity's Leadership Team.

#### **Disclaimer**

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on the key issues concerning children and young people.

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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