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Covid-19 - General

[UK Covid-19 Inquiry Module 2 public hearings begin](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry has commenced public hearings for Module 2 of its investigation. This part of the Inquiry will focus on the highest-level decision making and political governance at Westminster. This week, the Inquiry heard from representative witnesses from bereaved groups and heard evidence relating to the impact of the pandemic on certain vulnerable and other demographic groups in society. The Inquiry will also hear from former Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, and current Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, as part of this Module.

[Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry protocol for witness expenses](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has published its protocol and application form for witness expenses. Those eligible to apply include a person attending the Inquiry to give evidence or a person who, in the opinion of the Chair, has such a particular interest in the proceedings or outcome of the Inquiry as to justify such a payment. Guidance on applying for witness expenses has also been published by the Inquiry.



Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Allied Health Professionals Dementia Webinar Series](#)

Alzheimer's Scotland has highlighted the Allied Health Professionals (AHP) Dementia Webinar series. The series continues with a webinar on driving and dementia. It will take place on 25 October between 3.30-4.30 pm.

[About Dementia launches new storytelling resource](#)

A new storytelling resource has been developed to encourage people to talk about their experiences of living with dementia. The resource was co-created by About Dementia and the Village Storytelling Centre. It is aimed at those working with people living with dementia.

Equalities

[Scottish Human Rights Commission responds to a Human Rights Bill for Scotland](#)

The Scottish Human Rights Commission has published its response to the Scottish Government's consultation on a Human Rights Bill for Scotland. The Commission has urged the Scottish Government to consider the legal approach taken to achieve a Human Rights Bill for Scotland, highlighting the UK Government's legal challenge to the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill. The Commission also suggests that there are alternative models for incorporating international human rights treaties into domestic law but notes that further analysis of these different incorporation models is needed.

Justice

[Revised practice guidance for Justice Social Work](#)

The Scottish Government has published a revised version of the Justice Social Work (JSW) practice guidance. The purpose of the revised guidance is to provide social workers and para-professionals working within JSW settings with guidance to carry out their duties in relation to court reports and court based JSW services. It includes an updated template for preparing justice social work reports, which is intended to reduce the duplication of information and provide a more analytical presentation of the information required.

Older People

[New research suggests increase in number of older people facing financial hardship](#)

Age Scotland's Big Survey results suggest that 41% of over 50s in Scotland feel financially squeezed and a further 35% think they will be within a year. The survey results indicate that nearly all respondents who were facing financial hardship were struggling with energy bills, with 79% of people over 50 reporting that they are cutting back on energy and heating. Age Scotland also note that almost half of those



aged over 50 reported cutting back on food, 46% are cutting back on socialising and 41% are cutting back on savings.

Other Health and Social Care

[Updated safer recruitment guidance](#)

An updated version of Safer Recruitment Through Better Recruitment guidance has been published by the Care Inspectorate and SSSC. It will support employers to meet legislative and regulatory requirements for the recruitment and selection of staff. It is especially aimed at employers in social care, early learning and childcare and social work. As part of reviewing this guidance, it was decided that the pre-pandemic position on background checks should be reinstated. Providers are now expected to receive satisfactory background checks before new staff are deployed, apart from in exceptional circumstances.

[New report looks at poverty in Scotland in 2023](#)

The new report published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) suggests that the Scottish Government remains off-track in meeting child poverty reduction targets and that over one million people are still living in poverty in Scotland. It also notes the continuing trend of very deep poverty rising and suggests that almost half of those living in poverty are in very deep poverty. The report looks at whether work is working for people in Scotland and explains the rapid increase of in-work poverty. It suggests that women make up 72% of those trapped in persistent low pay and notes that similarly, single parents, disabled people and carers are often trapped in low pay.

[COSLA annual conference 2023](#)

The Scottish Government has published the First Minister's speech at COSLA's 2023 annual conference. The First Minister spoke about the principles of the Verity House Agreement and the cost-of-living crisis. He noted the results from the David Hume Institute's latest cost of living survey which suggests that more than one in four people are losing sleep over their finances. The First Minister also spoke about climate change and taking climate action, the ongoing work around the National Care Service, and stated that an NHS recovery cannot happen without a social care recovery.

[National Care Service regional events summary reports](#)

The Scottish Government has published six summary reports on the findings of a series of regional events, held over the summer to support the co-design of a National Care Service (NCS). The summary reports include [valuing the workforce](#), [realising rights and responsibilities](#), [making sure your voice is heard](#), [keeping care support local part one](#), [keeping care support local part two](#), and [information sharing to improve care support](#). Easy read summaries of the findings are also available.



[Finalists announced for the Scottish Social Services Awards 2023](#)

The Scottish Government and the Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) have announced this year's finalists for the Scottish Social Services Awards. The finalists will be invited to attend an in-person ceremony on 23 November 2023 at the Science Centre in Glasgow.

[Inspection of the immigration system as it relates to the social care sector](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has published its response to a consultation on the inspection of the immigration system as it relates to the social care sector. In its response, the RCN notes that data on the number of internationally educated professionals working in social care is not available for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, which means that it's not possible to measure international recruitment in the care sector in these countries. The RCN also raised concerns around data on the UK nursing workforce indicating new recruits from countries which are on the 'red list'.

[Consultation on SSSC Register changes](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on the proposed changes to the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) register. The proposed changes include reducing the number of Register parts from 23 to 4, requiring employees to apply for registration within three months of starting a new role and to be registered within six months, and to include more information about the public Register. The Consultation will close on 2 January 2024

Disclaimer

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

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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