

  
Adult and  
Health[Covid-19 - General](#)[Alcohol and Drugs](#)[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)[Infection Prevention and Control](#)[Justice](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)**Covid-19 - General**[Share pandemic experiences before engagement phase ends](#)

Let's Be Heard, the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry's listening project, is urging people across Scotland to share their experiences of the pandemic before the project's national engagement phase ends on 20 December 2023. The team is keen to hear more from particular communities to ensure the Inquiry's investigations and recommendations are also informed by the specific impacts of the pandemic on members of these groups, such as men, LGBTQ+ people, and people aged under 20 or over 70 years old.



## Alcohol and Drugs

### [UK Government response to Committee report on drugs](#)

The House of Commons Home Affairs Committee has published the UK Government's response to its previous report on drugs. The UK Government states that they will deepen their work across the three priorities set out in their Drug Strategy, but does not accept some of the Committee's recommendations including to reform the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 or to support the introduction of drug consumption rooms in England and Wales, but does respect the independence of the Lord Advocate as Scotland's prosecutorial authority and will not interfere with plans to introduce a drug consumption room in Glasgow, providing those powers are lawfully exercised.

## Alzheimer's/Dementia

### [Annual review for Alzheimer Scotland](#)

The Annual Review for 2022-023 has been published by Alzheimer Scotland, looking back over the year and highlighting the work and projects the organisation has been involved in.

## Infection Prevention and Control

### [Vaccines offered this winter](#)

Public Health Scotland has published a guide for social care workers on the vaccines available for them this winter. Frontline social care workers are eligible for the free flu and Covid-19 vaccines.

## Justice

### [Prison population projections](#)

Short-term Scottish prison population projects for the six month period from October 2023 to March 2024 have been published by the Scottish Government. They have been produced using 'microsimulation' scenario modelling which simulates prison arrivals and departures, to estimate the number of individuals in prison on a particular date in the future, and aim to help inform decision making, planning and policy development. The latest prison population projections to March 2024 show that the overall prison population in Scotland is most likely to either remain stable or rise slightly between October 2023 and March 2024, it is most likely that the remand population will remain stable but it may increase or decrease between October 2023 and March 2024, and it is most likely that the sentenced population will either remain stable or rise slightly; it may rise if the overall rate of transition from remand to the sentenced population increases or if there is a greater inflow of individuals directly from the community into the sentenced population.



## Other Health and Social Care

### [Raising concerns in the workplace](#)

The Care Inspectorate and the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) have issued a joint statement reminding people working in services and employers of their guidance on how to raise concerns in the workplace and the importance of speaking up. To help ensure public protection, people working in social services have a duty to raise concerns and employers are responsible for making sure they can do this in an easy and safe way.

### [Calls for increased pay for social care staff](#)

The Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS) is among the list of 110 organisations which has signed a joint letter to the Scottish Government's First Minister, calling on him to increase pay for social care staff and demonstrate that they are valued.

### [Recruitment campaign launches for adult social care](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a campaign to support the recruitment of more adult social care workers and help address vacancies. The campaign, 'You can make the difference', shows the variety of different care roles available in adult settings, and focuses on the difference someone working in adult social care can make to people's lives, highlighting the rewarding relationship between carer and care receiver.

### [Professional boundaries between social service workers and people they support](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is reminding social service workers about the importance of professional boundaries with the people they support. While some professional boundaries will be clear from your own ethics and values, others are set by organisations responsible for care, such as your employer or the SSSC.

**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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