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## **Covid-19 - General**

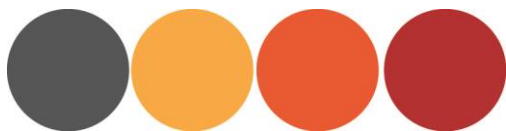
[Video explainer on sources used to inform inquiry](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry has produced a video explaining the sources of evidence it uses to inform its investigations and reports. The sources can be classified into six main groups: from expert witnesses, voluntary and mandatory calls for evidence, witness testimony, academic research, and the Inquiry's listening project, Let's Be Heard.

## **Child Protection**

[Child protection laws in England to be strengthened](#)

The Home Secretary has introduced plans to better protect children from sexual abuse. The proposals include a legal requirement for anyone in regulated activity relating to children in England, including teachers or healthcare professionals, to report it if they know a child is being sexually abused. Those who fail to report child sexual abuse they are aware of, falling short of their legal duties, face being barred from working with young people.



## Early Learning and Childcare

### [Council phases out PVI-based ELC places for parents commuting to capital](#)

City of Edinburgh Council has announced plans to phase out funded childcare in private and independent nurseries for families who live outside of Edinburgh. Parents who commute into the city from areas such as the Lothians and Fife will be affected if they use private or independent nurseries. The council also confirmed that places will be available in local authority settings in Edinburgh for families who live elsewhere.

## Health

### [NHS in Scotland 2023 report published by the Auditor General for Scotland](#)

The report states that significant service transformation is required to ensure the financial sustainability of Scotland's health service, and calls on the Scottish Government to develop a clear national strategy for health and social care to address the pressures on services. The report also notes that the NHS is still struggling to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, and that increasing demand is adding to capacity issues.

## Human Rights & Equalities

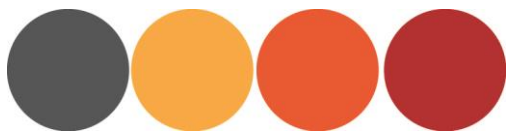
### [UNCRC \(Incorporation\) \(Scotland\) Act guidance published for consultation](#)

The Scottish Government has published statutory guidance on [Part 2](#) and [Part 3](#) of the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024. The guidance is intended to provide accessible information which supports public authorities to understand and fulfil their duties under the act. The aim of Part 2 of the Act is to ensure that children's rights in Scotland are protected to the fullest extent possible through the requirement for all public authorities, including Scottish Ministers, not to act incompatibly with the UNCRC requirements. Part 3 sets out duties on Scottish Ministers to prepare and publish a Children's Rights Scheme, produce Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessments and reporting duties of listed authorities and of the Scottish Parliament. The government has opened a consultation on the statutory guidance which closes on Thursday 16 May.

## Looked After and Accommodated Children

### [Keeping the Promise Progress Report published by SCRA](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration has published a second progress report on its Keeping the Promise Route Plan, two years after the Plan's publication. The report reflects on the SCRA's Keeping the Promise activity over the past year, including the Taking Control of my Hearing scrapbook pilot, the launch of the Language Leaders principles and the Hearings System's Working Group report.



## Other

### [Update on Codes of Practice Review](#)

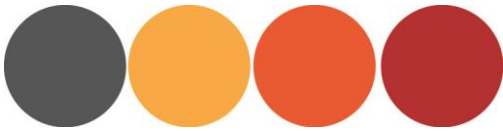
The SSSC has issued an update on its review of the Codes of Practice. Following two years of consultation and engagement with registrants, employers, learning providers, people experiencing care and other stakeholders, the SSSC Council will be asked to approve the revised Codes at their 26 February meeting. A number of changes have been made following the review, including updated wording, a more “positive and empowering” tone, clearer links to the Health and Social Care Standards, and greater focus on relationships, trauma and risk enablement.

### [Consultation on SPSO Strategic Plan](#)

The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman has opened a consultation on its Strategic Plan for 2024-2028. The consultation invites stakeholders to give views on the [draft plan](#) which covers the following strategic themes: access to justice through everyday rights; agile capacity; and standards and impact.

### [Consultation analysis on proposed changes to SSSC register published](#)

The Scottish Government has published an analysis of responses to its consultation on the proposed changes to the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) register. The Scottish Government consultation, separate from the SSSC’s wider consultation on ‘A Register for the Future’, gathered views on some of the proposed changes to the register, including reducing the number of parts, amending timescales for registering, and what information is included on the public register. As a result of the positive responses to both consultations the Scottish Government will proceed with the proposals to make three changes to the SSSC register: reducing the register to four parts, reducing the timescales for applying to 3 months, and making changes to the Public Facing Register which will mean more information will be made available to the public.



## 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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