

5-11 July 2024



bulletin



Adult  
and  
Health



[Covid-19 - General](#)

[Justice](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

[Workforce](#)

### **Covid-19 - General**

[Hearing dates for economic module in UK Covid Inquiry](#)

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry has announced hearing dates for Module 9 'Economic Response', which will examine the economic interventions taken by the UK Government and Devolved Administrations in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This will include the economic support for business, jobs, the self-employed, vulnerable people, and those on benefits, and the impact of key economic interventions. It will also consider additional funding given to relevant public services and the voluntary and community sectors. The first Preliminary hearing for Module 9 will be held on 23 October 2024 in London.



## Justice

### [Journey times in the Scottish Criminal Justice System](#)

The Scottish Government has published a bulletin which provides information on an accused person's criminal justice journey time from offence date to case conclusion or verdict in 2023-24. The bulletin provides insights about the duration of different stages of the justice journey, with the key findings showing that the percentage of accused whose case was closed by COPFS or who got a verdict in Scottish criminal courts within one year of the offence date increased in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23. The bulletin notes that there are differences in an accused person's journey time depending on the type of court their case is allocated to and on the type of crime.

### [Consultation on proposed changes to the long-term prisoner release process](#)

The Scottish Government are seeking views on a proposal to bring forward the point at which some long-term prisoners are released into the community. The government is considering extending the period which some long-term prisoners must spend in the community before the end of their sentence from 6 months to one third of the sentence length (i.e. release following two thirds of sentence). The proposal is part of a range of measures designed to address the rising prison population and is also intended to better support the reintegration of long-term prisoners. The consultation closes on 19 August 2024.

## Mental Health

### [New delivery plan published for Scotland's suicide prevention strategy](#)

The Scottish Government has published its year 2 delivery plan for Scotland's suicide prevention strategy. The delivery plan covers the period from April 2024-March 2026 and sets out the actions that will be progressed in the next two years, as well as the progress made in 2023/2024. It provides a breakdown of the key activities to be progressed over the next two years, identifies partner organisations who will support implementation, and includes indicative budgets for the delivery of each action. It is noted that a budget of £2.6 million has been confirmed for 2024/25 to support the delivery of the plan.

## Other Health and Social Care

### [Summary of co-design findings relating to the National Care Service published](#)

The Scottish Government has published a series of reports summarising its findings from previous engagement and co-design events relating to the National Care Service. The reports cover a number of themes including [complaints and redress](#), [information sharing to improve social care support](#), and [supporting those who face barriers to engage with the government](#).



### [PHS research highlights barriers to vaccine uptake](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published findings from research exploring attitudes towards vaccination among people living in areas of high relative deprivation and barriers and motivators to vaccination. The report notes that the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted views of vaccination and that a lack of trust in the Covid-19 vaccine has also extended to other newly developed vaccines. The report also notes that practical barriers were less likely to be the main reason for not getting vaccinated, however a number of practical factors were identified that could make vaccination easier.

### [Health and social care integration authority planning and performance reporting statutory guidance](#)

The Scottish Government has published a consultation analysis report following its consultation on health and social care integration authority planning and performance reporting statutory guidance. The report notes that while responses to the consultation were generally supportive of the broad approach and structure taken to re-draft the guidance, feedback also highlighted possible areas for action and improvement. An [easy read version](#) of the report has also been published.

### [New report highlights the impact of welfare reform on health inequalities](#)

PHS has published a report looking at the impacts of post-2010 Welfare Reform and economic change in Scotland on health and health inequalities. The report concludes that in Scotland, adverse health trends occurred during the post-recession period (2010-2019), following the implementation of Welfare Reform, including an increase in absolute and relative inequalities among adults aged 15–44.

### [Independent review of NMC's culture highlights safeguarding concerns](#)

An independent review of the Nursing and Midwifery Council's (NMC) culture has highlighted safeguarding concerns, and found that people working in the organisation have experienced racism, discrimination and bullying. The review was commissioned by the NMC following concerns about the organisation's culture and included lived experiences from over 1,000 current and former NMC colleagues and more than 200 panel members who sit on fitness to practise hearings. The review made a number of recommendations for the organisation, including developing an Anti-racist Action Plan and an urgent review of the NMC's responsibilities regarding the delivery of safeguarding requirements. The NMC has accepted the recommendations set out in the report and [promised to deliver a culture change programme](#).

### [Call for views on the Scottish Parliament's new BSL plan](#)

The Scottish Parliament has launched a consultation on its new British Sign Language (BSL) Plan 2024-2030. The consultation looks to gather views on 21 proposed actions to improve access to parliamentary information and services for the BSL community. The call for views will close on 23 August 2024.



### [Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill consultation analysis](#)

The Scottish Government has published an analysis of responses received to its consultation on the proposed Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill. The Bill's aim is to “further improve decision making and the implementation of the National Performance Framework to ensure that all policy and delivery is focused on increasing the wellbeing of people living in Scotland, both now and in the future”. The report states that the majority of respondents (61%) agreed that a statutory definition of ‘wellbeing’ is required and 67% of respondents agree that a statutory definition of ‘sustainable development’ is required. It also notes suggestions to strengthen duties for national outcomes and sustainable development, and clarifying who the duties apply to.

### [Results of UK General Election](#)

The House of Commons Library has published the results of the UK General Election. Labour won a majority with 411 seats, up 209 on their total from the 2019 election and has formed a new Government. The Conservatives won 121 seats, down 244 from their 2019 total of 365 seats, and the Liberal Democrats gained 61 seats for a total of 72, while the Scottish National Party won nine seats, down from 48 in 2019.

## **Workforce**

### [New vision for working cultures across health, social care and social work workforce](#)

The Scottish Government has launched its vision to enhance working cultures across health, social care and social work workforce, Improving Wellbeing and Working Cultures (IWWC). IWWC is aimed at everyone working in teams, managers and leaders across health, social care and social work. An action plan will be launched in summer 2024, with an ‘In Action’ guide, which will expand on the vision and describe what individuals, teams and organisations can do to embed and promote good workplace culture, also due to be developed this year.

**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.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted on this site.