




# Adult and Health



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## Covid-19 (General)

### [Monthly update from Inquiry Chief Executive](#)

The Chief Executive of the Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry, Ian Duddy, has published his monthly update for October. It provides updates on the Focused Engagement phase of Let's Be Heard, information on plans to publish summaries of evidence for portfolios in 2025, and an overview of the purpose of public inquiries.

## Alcohol and Drugs

### [Research assesses potential health impact of tobacco minimum pricing](#)

Public Health Scotland has published research by the University of Sheffield which assesses the potential effectiveness of minimum pricing policies for tobacco in reducing smoking rates and improving health. Researchers found that increasing the price of the cheapest tobacco products through minimum pricing could lead to reductions in smoking prevalence, especially among disadvantaged groups where smoking related harms are highest.



### [Recommendations made by Audit Scotland on alcohol and drug services](#)

Audit Scotland has published a report on alcohol and drug services, highlighting the number of people dying in Scotland because of alcohol or drug use remains high compared with other parts of the UK and Europe. The report details the nature of alcohol and drug services and what funding has been made available, noting funding had more than doubled over the last ten years, from £70.5m in 2014-15 to £161.6m in 2023-24. On recommendations, Audit Scotland said the government must work with key stakeholders to identify and agree actions, develop a transition fund, clarify accountability and set out an ambitious but realistic timescale for delivering key national supporting strategies.

## **Equalities**

### [Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming Strategy consultation](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on the draft Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming Strategy. The Strategy will provide the framework so that the Scottish Government and the wider public sector can apply a consistent focus on equality and human rights in policy and service delivery. It will guide the Scottish Government, the wider public sector, and partners to improve embedding equality and human rights into all areas of work.

## **Mental Health**

### [Mental Welfare Commission reports highest number of mental health detentions](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland has published figures on the number of detentions of people in Scotland for compulsory mental health care and treatment, showing a 5.6 per cent increase in the number of detentions. The figures show the number of emergency detentions with a mental health officer present – as required under the Mental Health Act – continued to fall to just 35.8 per cent in 2023-24. The new report also shows how the links between deprivation and mental ill health are continuing, with a disproportionate number of detentions affecting people living in more deprived areas.

### [Data sought on gambling harms](#)

Public Health Scotland is developing a system to collect better data on gambling and its harms in Scotland, reports the ALLIANCE. There is currently very little data on the number of people gambling and how it affects them and Public Health Scotland is aiming to develop understanding of the harms in order to prevent and reduce them.



## Other Health and Social Care

### [UK Government delivers Autumn Budget](#)

The UK Government's Chancellor Rachel Reeves has delivered the Autumn Budget for 2024, with key announcements including additional funding for the NHS, an increase in the minimum wage and an increase in employer's contribution to National Insurance. As part of the Budget, the UK Government announced the establishment of the time-limited Office for Value of Money (OVfM), which will provide targeted interventions through the multi-year spending review and develop recommendations for system reform.

### [Progress made in adult support and protecting in Moray](#)

A review of progress made in adult support and protection services in Moray has been published by the Care Inspectorate and partners, finding significant progress has been made in ensuring adults at risk of harm are safe, protected and supported. The progress review carried out by the Care Inspectorate, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland followed a previous joint inspection of adult support and protection conducted in 2022. The progress review concluded that the Moray partnership's efforts to implement seven priority areas for improvement were timely, rigorous and effective.

### [Scottish Women's Budget Group survey on social care](#)

The ALLIANCE has highlighted a new survey by the Scottish Women's Budget Group seeking views and experiences of people who work in the social care sector. The Group are looking to understand how working in social care impacts on the workers and their families, pay and conditions in the sector and how experiences relate to the Scottish Government's priorities.

### [Common Weal presents proposals to decouple NCS Bill provisions](#)

Common Weal has published a report looking at how certain provisions from the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill could be decoupled from the legislation to improve care. The purpose of the paper is to set out proposals either made within the NCS Bill (in amended form or otherwise) along with other 'stand-alone' proposals made during the co-design process to present Common Weal's vision for care reform.

### [Iriss CEO steps down](#)

Chief Executive of Iriss, Dee Fraser, is leaving the organisation after four years. Stuart Muirhead, currently Iriss' Head of Programmes, will step up to act as Interim CEO.

### [State of Care report by CQC](#)

The Care Quality Commission has published its annual report on the state of health and adult social care in England for 2023-24. The report highlights a number of



challenges facing adult social care, including the rise in the need for social care, modern slavery and exploitation in the sector, and the decrease in residential care home beds. The report notes staff vacancies in care homes were at their lowest rate for the last 3 years, while the number of overseas workers applying for health and care worker visas fell.

### **Disclaimer**

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

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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