



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Published 25 March 2021
SP Paper 1022
9th Report (Session 5)

COVID-19 Committee

COVID-19 Committee: Annual Report 2020-21



Published in Scotland by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body.

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COVID-19 Committee

Remit: To consider and report on the Scottish Government's response to COVID-19 including the operation of powers under the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act, the Coronavirus Act and any other legislation in relation to the response to COVID-19 and any secondary legislation arising from the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act and any other legislation in relation to the response to COVID-19.



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Committee Membership



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Introduction

1. This annual report covers the work of the COVID-19 Committee ('the Committee') from 21 April 2020, when it was first establishedⁱ, to 24 March 2021, after which the Scottish Parliament will go into the campaign recess period from 25 March to 4 May 2021. The Scottish Parliament agreed on 3 March 2021 to vary Standing Orders so that committees could not meet during the pre-election campaign period (with the exception of the COVID-19 Committee, which may be convened in an emergency). This decision was taken in response to the Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Act 2021 which provides that the Scottish Parliament will not be dissolved until 5 May 2021 to permit the Parliament to meet to legislate for a new polling date if required.
2. The Committee's remit was to scrutinise the Scottish Government's response to COVID-19 for the duration of the operation of the powers under the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act, the Coronavirus Act and any other legislation in relation to the response to COVID-19. Secondary legislation relating to COVID-19 that was made using existing, pre-pandemic powers, was scrutinised by other subject committees according to their respective remits.

Meetings

3. The Committee met 37 times during the reporting period, no meetings were held entirely in private, and 3 meetings included items in private. The reasons for taking business in private were to consider the Committee's work programme and to consider the evidence heard during meetings.

Figure 1: The COVID-19 Committee meeting virtually.



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ⁱ Motion [S5M-21506](#).

Membership changes

4. Previous Members of the Committee during the reporting period included—

- Shona Robison (Scottish National Party), (21 April 2020 to 10 December 2020) (replaced by John Mason).
- Ross Greer (Scottish Green Party), (21 April 2020 to 30 September) (replaced by Mark Ruskell).
- Stewart Stevenson (Scottish National Party), (21 April 2020 to 30 September) (replaced by Stuart McMillan).
- Adam Tomkins (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party), (21 April 2020 to 20 August 2020) (replaced by Maurice Corry).
- Murdo Fraser (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party), Convener (21 April 2020 to 20 August 2020) (replaced by Donald Cameron).

Figure 2: Previous Members of the COVID-19 Committee.



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The work of the Committee

5. The core of the Committee's work has been to look at Coronavirus related legislation. This started with the Committee's work on the Coronavirus (Scotland) No 2 Bill and includes its scrutiny of subordinate legislation, extensions to the legislation and the Scottish Government's reports to the Parliament that are required under the Coronavirus (Scotland) Acts.

Coronavirus legislation

Coronavirus (Scotland) No 2 Bill

6. The [Coronavirus \(Scotland\) No 2 Bill](#) and its accompanying documents were introduced on 11 May 2020. The Bill was intended "to respond to the emergency situation caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic."
7. At its meeting on [12 May 2020](#), the Committee took evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from Michael Clancy, Director, Law Reform, and Gillian Mawdsley, Policy Executive, The Law Society of Scotland.
8. Due to the urgent need for the bill, the Committee wrote to Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs, rather than produce a report. The Committee recommended to the Parliament that it supported the general principles of the Bill, but also recommended that —

” It is essential that post-legislative scrutiny of the coronavirus legislation is carried out at an appropriate time following the end of the emergency situation.

Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs responded to the Committee in a letter dated 19 May 2020. The correspondence has been published on the [Committee's webpage](#).

9. Shortly thereafter, on [19 May 2020](#), the Committee considered the Coronavirus (Scotland) Bill at Stage 2, including proposed amendments to the Bill.
10. Following a Stage 3 debate in the Chamber on [20 May 2020](#), the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Bill passed by a vote of For 76, Against 0, Abstentions 0. The Bill became an [Act](#) on 26 May 2020.

September 2020: Expiry/Extension of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Acts

11. On 26 August 2020, the Committee launched a call for views asking respondents to comment on the Scottish Government's intention to expire some of the provisions in Coronavirus Scotland Acts early and to extend the operation of other provisions in the Acts to 31 March 2020, as set out in the following two instruments—
 - [SSI2020/249: The Coronavirus \(Scotland\) Acts \(Early Expiry of Provisions\) Regulations 2020](#)

- [The Coronavirus \(Scotland\) Acts \(Amendment of Expiry Dates\) Regulations 2020 \[Draft\]](#)
12. The call for views closed on 3 September 2020 and the Committee received [17 submissions](#) from a wide range of stakeholders.
 13. Following the call for views, on [9 September 2020](#) the Committee took evidence on the Scottish Government's proposals from—
 - Linda Bauld, Bruce and John Usher Professor of Public Health and Centre for Population Health Sciences Co-Director, University of Edinburgh;
 - Sarah Booth, Legal Officer, Scottish Human Rights Commission;
 - Michael Clancy, Director, Law Reform, The Law Society of Scotland; and
 - Helen Martin, Deputy General Secretary for Policy, Political Liaison and Equalities, Scottish Trades Union Congress.
 14. The Committee then used the evidence gathered to question Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs at its meeting on [16 September 2020](#).

Coronavirus Acts: reports to the Scottish Parliament

15. The Committee took evidence on the [first](#) and [second](#) two-monthly reports to the Scottish Parliament on the Coronavirus Acts from Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs at its meetings on [24 June 2020](#) and [2 September 2020](#).
16. On 9 October 2020, the Committee launched the call for views on the Scottish Government's [Coronavirus Acts: third report to Scottish Parliament](#), to assess how the Scottish Government's powers were used over the third reporting period in August and September 2020.
17. The consultation was based on the provisions highlighted in the Scottish Government's [Coronavirus Acts: third report to Scottish Parliament](#).
18. The consultation closed on 19 October 2020 and received 33 responses, which have been published on the [Scottish Parliament's Citizens' Space webpage](#).
19. The Committee concluded its inquiry on [28 October 2020](#) in an evidence session with Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs.
20. The Committee also took evidence on the [fourth](#) two-monthly report to the Scottish Parliament on the Coronavirus Acts from Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs at its meetings on [17 December 2020](#).
21. The Committee considered the [fifth](#) two-monthly report to the Scottish Parliament on the Coronavirus Acts as part of its COVID-19: next steps inquiry.

Other secondary legislation

22. During the reporting period the Committee also consulted on the following secondary legislation, further information can be found on the [Committee's webpage](#)—
- [The Criminal Justice \(Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications\) \(Coronavirus\) \(Scotland\) \(Regulations 2020\) \(SSI 2020/137\)](#)
 - [The Release of Prisoners \(Coronavirus\) \(Scotland\) Regulations \(2020\) \(SSI 2020/138\)](#)
 - [The Social Care Staff Support Fund \(Coronavirus\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020 \(SSI 2020/188\)](#)
 - [The Care Homes Emergency Intervention Orders \(Coronavirus\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020 \(SSI 2020/201\)](#)
23. In total, the Committee considered 56 Scottish Statutory Instruments during its reporting period—
- 47 Made affirmative
 - 2 Draft affirmative
 - 6 Negative instruments
 - 1 Laid only

The Committee's Scottish Statutory Instruments reports can be found on the [Parliament's webpage](#).

Thematic work

Options for easing lockdown restrictions (April - July 2020)

24. On [24 April 2020](#) the COVID-19 Committee agreed that as part of its scrutiny approach it would seek evidence on possible options for the Scottish Government's "exit strategy" from the first lockdown and the extent to which this could involve a phased approach across different localities within Scotland.
25. The Committee issued a [call for views](#) which closed on 29 May 2020 and received 79 written submissions. These were published on the [Committee's webpage](#).
26. Following the call for views, the Committee wrote to John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, who responded on 18 July 2020. The correspondence has been published on the [Committee's webpage](#).

COVID-19 Framework for Decision Making and Scotland's Route Map

27. In April 2020 the Scottish Government set out Scotland's approach to transitioning out of the first lockdown in the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): framework for decision making](#). The implementation of the framework was reviewed on a three-weekly basis.
28. At its meeting on [30 September 2020](#) the Committee took evidence from John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and Jeane Freeman MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport on the Scottish Government's [COVID-19: Framework for Decision Making – Scotland's Route Map Through and Out of The Crisis](#), following the announcement of additional measures being introduced.
29. At its meeting on [4 November 2020](#), the Committee took evidence from the First Minister on the Scottish Government's [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Scotland's Strategic Framework](#), which introduced a local levels system in Scotland. The Committee also considered the secondary legislation that gave effect to the framework—
 - [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(Restrictions and Requirements\) \(Local Levels\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020 \(SSI 2020/344\)](#)
 - [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(Restrictions and Requirements\) \(Local Levels\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2020 \(SSI 2020/347\)](#)

Figure 3: Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister, giving evidence to the COVID-19 Committee at its meeting on 4 November 2020.



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30. At its next meeting on [18 November 2020](#), the Committee took evidence from Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs and considered the motions on the following regulations—
- [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(Restrictions and Requirements\) \(Local Levels\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020 \(SSI 2020/344\)](#)
 - [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(Restrictions and Requirements\) \(Local Levels\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2020 \(SSI 2020/347\)](#)
31. A new scrutiny arrangement was agreed between the parliament and government around this time, which meant that the Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs ('the Cabinet Secretary') and Professor Leitch attended the Committee on a weekly basis. The Committee would like to thank the Cabinet Secretary and Professor Leitch for their time and the evidence provided to the Committee.

Figure 4: Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs and Professor Jason Leitch, National Clinical Director, Scottish Government, giving evidence to the COVID-19 Committee at its meeting on 18 November 2020.



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Impact of restrictions over winter

32. The Committee launched a short inquiry into the 'Impact of restrictions over winter' in November 2020, as part of a wider look at the Scottish Government's ongoing response to COVID-19. The purpose of the inquiry was to consider the social and economic impacts of restrictions over the winter and holiday period. The Committee took evidence from a range of stakeholders within the business, travel, education, faith and third sectors over the course of two meetings on [18 November 2020](#) and [10 December 2020](#).
33. At its meeting on [18 November 2020](#), the Committee took evidence on the impact of ongoing restrictions on individuals, businesses and communities. The Committee heard from—
 - Dr Liz Cameron OBE, Director and Chief Executive, Scottish Chamber of Commerce;
 - Matt Crilly, President, National Union of Students (NUS) Scotland;
 - Willie Macleod, Executive Director, UKHospitality (Scotland);
 - Dr Maureen Sier, Director at Interfaith Scotland; and
 - Adam Stachura, Head of Policy and Communications, Age Scotland.

Figure 5: Witnesses giving evidence to the COVID-19 Committee at its meeting on 18 November 2020.



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34. The Committee then took evidence from John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills on the social and economic impact of restrictions over winter at its meeting on [3 December 2020](#).

Figure 6: John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, giving evidence to the COVID-19 Committee at its meeting on 3 December 2020.



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35. Finally, at its meeting on [10 December 2020](#) the Committee took evidence from stakeholders within the travel and transportation industries on the economic impact

of restrictions over winter. This session also focused on how to safely manage increased travel arising from the planned easing of restrictions over 5 days in the Christmas holidays. The Committee heard from—

- Gordon Dewar, Chief Executive, Edinburgh Airport;
- Robbie Drummond, Managing Director, CalMac Ferries Ltd;
- Alex Hynes, Managing Director, Scotland's Railway; and
- Alastair Wilson, Director, Wilson's of Rhu Ltd.

Figure 7: Witnesses giving evidence to the COVID-19 Committee at its meeting on 10 December 2020.



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Vaccination Programme

36. At its meeting on [17 December 2020](#), the Committee heard from experts and stakeholders in the field of vaccine development, approval and delivery to understand how vaccination may be used in the response to COVID-19. It provided an opportunity for the Committee to discuss relevant issues, such as safety, effectiveness, the practicalities of delivery and prioritisation of the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines. The Committee took evidence from—

- Mr Steve Hoare, Director of Quality, Regulatory Science & Safety, the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry;
- Professor Wei Shen Lim, Chair of COVID-19 Immunisation, Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation;
- Professor Andrew Pollard, Professor of Paediatric Infection and Immunity,

University of Oxford; and

- Dr Christian Schneider, Chief Scientific Officer, National Institute for Biological Standards and Control, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.

Figure 8: Witnesses giving evidence to the COVID-19 Committee at its meeting on 17 December 2020.



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37. A few months later, at its meeting on [11 February 2021](#), the Committee took evidence from stakeholders about the progress being made in the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines. The session provided Members with an opportunity to discuss relevant issues, including: procurement and supply of vaccines; the role of general practitioners and health boards in delivering the vaccination programme; vaccine uptake and hesitancy, including within ethnic minority communities; and Scotland's role in supporting international cooperation on global COVID-19 vaccination programmes. The Committee took evidence from—
 - Grant Archibald, Chief Executive, NHS Tayside;
 - Danny Boyle, Policy and Parliamentary Officer, BEMIS Scotland; and
 - Dr Andrew Buist, Chair, General Practitioners' Committee Scotland, British Medical Association.
38. Following this, the Committee concluded its inquiry by [taking evidence](#) from Jeane Freeman MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport on Scotland's COVID-19: Vaccination programme.

Figure 9: Jeane Freeman MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, giving evidence to the COVID-19 Committee at its meeting on 11 February 2021.



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COVID-19: next steps

39. The main thematic work of the Committee in 2021 has been the COVID-19: Next steps inquiry, which focused on scrutinising the Scottish Government's strategic response to COVID-19 going forward, including its refreshed strategy and the expiry of its emergency powers.
40. The Committee's evidence-gathering on this inquiry has included a range of perspectives, including—
 - evidence from the public on their views and experience of the public health response;
 - evidence from public health experts on the development of the pandemic going forward;
 - evidence from stakeholders on the use of emergency powers.

Evidence from the public: Citizens' Panel

41. To make sure that the Committee could hear representative views from members of the public, the Committee agreed to convene a citizens' panel to take place in January 2021. As a result, the [COVID-19 Citizens' Panel](#) was established to discuss and respond to the following question—

"What priorities should shape the Scottish Government's approach to COVID-19 restrictions and strategy in 2021?"

42. The panel comprised of 19 individuals who were broadly representative of Scotland's population. The panel met virtually over four Saturdays in January and February 2021 and their findings were published in a [report](#) on 18 February 2021.
43. Following this, the Committee took evidence from five members of the panel at its meeting on [18 February 2021](#).

Figure 10: Members of the Citizens' Panel giving evidence to the COVID-19 Committee at its meeting on 18 February 2021.



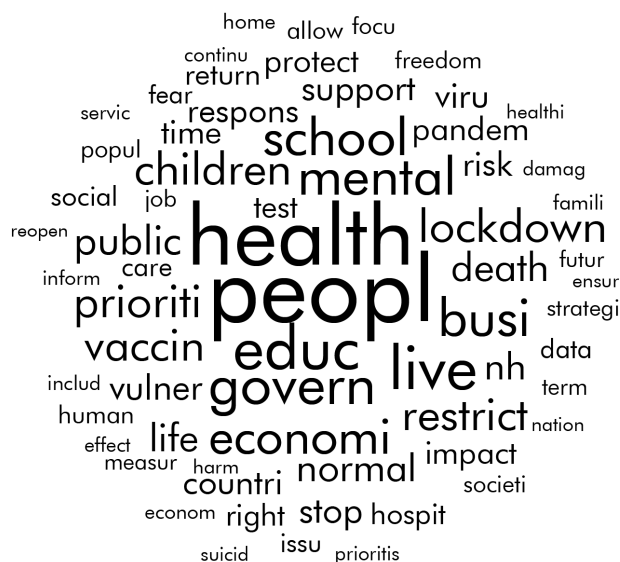
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Evidence from the public: Call for views

44. In addition to the Citizens' Panel, on 1 February 2021 the COVID-19 Committee launched the call for views [COVID-19 legislation: next steps](#). The consultation was published on the Committee's webpage and asked respondents to address the following questions—
 - Should Part 1 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Acts be extended to September 2021?
 - Are sufficient equality and human rights safeguards in place to extend the powers?
 - What impact might the pre-election recess period have on the governance and scrutiny of Scotland's COVID-19 response? How can this be addressed?
 - What can be done to support the public to understand and comply with the public health restrictions in 2021?
 - What priorities should inform the Scottish Government's strategy and response to COVID-19 in 2021?
 - If a similar emergency happens again, what powers should be re-used? What powers should be modified?
45. The consultation closed on 19 February 2021 and received more than 800

responses, which have been published on the [Scottish Parliament's Citizens' Space webpage](#).

Figure 11: This word cloud shows the frequency of words used in response to the question "What priorities should inform the Scottish Government's strategy and response to COVID-19 in 2021?". This visualisation uses stemmed words. This means the inflections at the end of words have been removed and only the root of the word is provided. For example, restrictions, restriction, and restricted become restrict.



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Evidence from public health experts on the development of the pandemic going forward: national and international perspectives

46. As part of the COVID-19: next steps inquiry the Committee also took evidence from public health experts on the development of the pandemic going forward. At its meeting on [25 February 2021](#), the Committee heard from the following expert witnesses in epidemiology, providing national and international perspectives on the shape of Scotland's strategy moving forward—
- Professor Michael Baker MNZM, Professor of Epidemiology, University of Otago, Wellington;
 - Professor Sian Griffiths OBE, Emeritus Professor, The Chinese University of Hong Kong; and
 - Professor Mark Woolhouse, Chair of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, University of Edinburgh.

Figure 12: Witnesses giving evidence to the COVID-19 Committee at its meeting on 25 February 2021.



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Evidence from stakeholders on the use of emergency powers

47. The third session of the inquiry focused on taking evidence from stakeholders on the use of emergency powers.
48. At its meeting on [4 March 2021](#), the Committee heard from the following stakeholders on the Scottish Government’s emergency powers to respond to COVID-19 and what can be learned about using emergency legislation for the future—
 - Michael Clancy OBE, Director of Law Reform, Law Society of Scotland;
 - Iain Smith, National and Local Policy Manager, Inclusion Scotland;
 - Calum Steele, General Secretary, The Scottish Police Federation; and
 - Alison Watson, Director, Shelter Scotland.

Figure 13: Witnesses giving evidence to the COVID-19 Committee at its meeting on 4 March 2021.



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Evidence session with the First Minister

49. The Committee concluded its COVID-19: next steps inquiry in an evidence session with Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister, and Dr Gregor Smith, Chief Medical Officer, Scottish Government on [10 March 2021](#). At this meeting, the Committee took evidence on the Scottish Government's refreshed strategic framework, as well as the underpinning subordinate legislation—
 - [The Coronavirus \(Scotland\) Acts \(Early Expiry and Suspension of Provisions\) Regulations 2021 \(SSI 2021/93\)](#)
 - [The Coronavirus \(Scotland\) Acts \(Amendment of Expiry Dates\) Regulations 2021 \[Draft\]](#)
50. At its following meeting on [11 March 2021](#), the Committee took evidence from Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs on the extension and expiry regulations, before taking the motion on the extension regulations.

Public engagement and innovation

51. The Committee used innovative approaches to involve and inform the public and stakeholders in its work. The Committee achieved this by seeking input in its work through calls for views, a citizens' panel, stakeholder evidence sessions and the Scottish Parliament Information Centre's academic network.
52. The Committee had an open invitation for people to submit views on any of its business and published call for views on its inquiries and subordinate legislation that it deemed to be of particular significance, focusing particularly on the Scottish Government's two-monthly reports to parliament and the government's proposals to extend the emergency legislation to March 2021 and September 2021 respectively. As a result, the Committee received responses from a wide range of stakeholders, including individual members of the public and organisations. The Committee then used these submissions when scrutinising the work of the Scottish Government in regular evidence sessions.
53. At its meeting on [26 November 2020](#), the Committee agreed to convene a citizens' panel in January 2021 to answer the question "What priorities should shape the Scottish Government's approach to COVID-19 restrictions and strategy in 2021?". This was the Scottish Parliament's first virtual Citizens' Panel and comprised of 19 individuals, who were broadly representative of Scotland's population. The panel gave the Committee an understanding of the public's perspective on key issues as part of its evidence gathering for the COVID-19: next steps inquiry. The Committee took evidence from representatives of the panel at its meeting on [18 February 2021](#) and used this evidence to inform its evidence session with the First Minister on [10 March 2021](#).
54. Following a request to the Scottish Parliament's Academic Network, in April and May 2020, nearly 200 people with expertise across a wide range of topics, offered to join the Scottish Parliament's Information Centre's (SPICe) COVID-19 Register of Experts and support the parliament in its scrutiny of COVID-19. The register included experts mainly from Scottish universities, spread across a very broad range of topics, including health, but also covering the wider impacts of COVID-19 on economy and society.

The Committee asked the experts on the register to provide a summary of the issues relating to one of the following topics—

- The strategic framework
- The evidence base
- Protecting those at risk

55. The consultation closed on 30 November 2020 and received 18 responses. A summary of the submissions has been published on the [Committee's webpage](#).

Equalities and human rights

56. The Committee has mainstreamed equalities throughout its work, including a focus on the impact of COVID-19 on inequality and human rights. For example, the Committee considered the equality and human rights impact of requiring people to stay at home during lockdowns. At its meeting on [12 May 2020](#) the Committee took evidence from the Law Society of Scotland on the human rights implications of the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Bill at Stage 1. Following this, at its meeting on [19 May 2020](#), the Committee agreed amendments that ensured information about the incidence of domestic abuse is collated and monitored during the pandemic. As a result, the bill was amended such that section 15A of the first Scottish Act and section 13 of the second Scottish Act require Scottish Ministers to take account of any information about the nature and number of incidents of domestic abuse occurring during the pandemic.
57. The Committee has also kept a watching brief on the human rights impact of the provisions relating to adults with incapacity, taking oral and written evidence from witnesses throughout the reporting period, including the Law Society of Scotland and the Scottish Human Rights Commission.
58. The Committee has also considered the equality and human rights impacts of requiring people to limit their social contact as part of general social distancing guidance. During the inquiry 'Impact of restrictions over winter', for example, the Committee heard from Interfaith Scotland on the impact of the restrictions on faith communities and Age UK about the difficulties faced by isolated older people. As part of its 'next steps' inquiry, the Committee also took evidence from Shelter Scotland on the extension of the Scottish Government's proposals to extend the Coronavirus (Scotland) Acts to September 2021 and how the provisions it contained could lessen the impact of COVID-19 on people who are homeless or in temporary accommodation.
59. The Committee's work has also considered the importance of an inclusive approach to communication. During the 'COVID-19: next steps' inquiry, the Committee took evidence from Inclusion Scotland and Shelter Scotland about how the Scottish Government could make its COVID-19 communication strategy more inclusive. The Committee continued this focus as part of its 'vaccination programme' inquiry, in which it took evidence from BEMIS Scotland and the British Medical Association on vaccine uptake hesitancy within ethnic minority communities, challenges faced in targeting the hard-to-reach communities and the importance of inclusive communication.
60. Witness gender diversity information is included in committee annual reports as part of the Scottish Parliament's Witness Diversity Action Plan. The Committee took evidence from 68 witnesses, of which 63% were male and 37% were female during the reporting period. Due to the nature of the Committee's remit, the Committee has taken evidence from Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs 23 times and Professor Jason Leitch, National Clinical Director, Scottish Government 17 times, respectively, during the reporting period. This has had affected the diversity of witnesses in terms of the number of times that the Committee has heard from male or female witnesses at its meetings.

Advisers

61. At its meeting on [26 November 2020](#), the Committee agreed to appoint two advisers—
 - Professor Linda Bauld, Bruce and John Usher Professor of Public Health and Centre for Population Health Sciences Co-Director at the University of Edinburgh; and
 - Dr Helen Stagg, Reader/Associate Professor (Chancellor’s Fellow) in Infectious Disease Epidemiology at University of Edinburgh.
62. The Committee would like to thank the advisers for providing Members with a weekly analysis of Ministerial statements and the latest public health data to assist Members in their scrutiny work.

