

Long Covid Scotland

<https://www.longcovid.scot/>

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Dear Members of the Health and Social Care Committee,

Request for Oversight on the Implementation of The Scottish Parliament's Long COVID Inquiry Recommendations

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the implementation of the recommendations from the Scottish Parliament's Long COVID inquiry held in March and April of 2023 following the dissolution of the COVID-19 Recovery Committee, subsequently there appears to be a lack of clear oversight and accountability in ensuring that the inquiry's recommendations are being reviewed and are being acted upon by Parliament.

In response to a recent written question (S6W-28986), the Scottish Government stated that there are no current plans to update the Scotland's Long COVID Service publication, despite the inquiry's recommendations being made after it's release. This raises serious concerns about the resources and support available for those living with Long COVID, as well as the transparency around the government's progress in addressing this ongoing issue.

Furthermore, the points raised in the written response (S6W-28986), particularly the lack of plans to update Scotland's Long COVID Service and the NICE guidelines, warrant critical attention.

Since the inquiry, a substantial body of new research on Long COVID has been published internationally. The assertion that no new evidence justifies an update is questionable, given the evolving understanding of Long COVID's symptoms, treatments, and socioeconomic impact.

Policymakers should be actively incorporating this new research to ensure that healthcare responses reflect current knowledge. It is also concerning that the inquiry's recommendations themselves, presented after the Long Covid service guidelines were issued, have not been integrated into any form of update in the Policy.

Given the ongoing impact Long COVID has on many lives, it is crucial that the Health and Social Care Committee step in to provide post inquiry Parliamentary oversight that has been lacking.

The Scottish Government must be held accountable for actively implementing the inquiry's recommendations, and Parliamentary oversight is essential in ensuring this process is transparent and effective. This would also instill greater public confidence that the Committee is taking the issue of Long COVID seriously and working to address it.

We would appreciate the Committee's attention to this matter and would be grateful if you could clarify what steps will be taken to monitor and implement the recommendations in Parliament following the Covid 19 Recovery Committee's dissolution. Additionally, we also urge the Committee to press the Scottish Government to reconsider updating the Scotland's Long COVID Service publication in line with the inquiry's findings and the considerable research that has emerged since 2021.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Ormerod

Chair

Long Covid Scotland

