



Public Health  
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Sandra Edwards  
LongCovidSOS

Sent by email: [info@longcovidssos.org](mailto:info@longcovidssos.org)

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21 July 2020

Dear Ms Edwards and signatories

### **SOS from LongCovid Sufferers**

Thank you for your letter of 7 July to Duncan Selbie at Public Health England (PHE) regarding people with long term symptoms of COVID-19. I have been asked to reply on his behalf.

While PHE supports and delivers evidence-based public health communications and guidance and provides expert advice to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), other Government departments and scientific advisory groups, we do not commission research, develop care pathways or clinics in the NHS, or have jurisdiction over any economic interventions during COVID-19.

I realise it is frustrating to be redirected to a different government department at such a challenging time, however the questions you have raised in your letter would be best addressed by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). You can find their contact details [here](#).

I'm sorry we could not be of more direct assistance on this occasion. As this is a rapidly changing situation we advise you to keep looking at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and the [PHE blog](#) for the latest guidance and information.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Ellie

Enquiries and Correspondence Officer  
Public Health England



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LongCovisSOS Team  
info@longcovidsos.org

Our Reference: 202000058578

Your Reference: Urgent SOS from LongCovid sufferers

04 August 2020

Dear LongCovidSOS Team,

Thank you for your e-mail of 7 July 2020 to Mr John Connaghan CBE, Chief Executive of NHS Scotland, regarding the impact of coronavirus on patients who are still recovering from having contracted the virus. I have been asked to provide you with a response.

We are aware of the emerging evidence about the physical and mental health impacts on the population as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We also recognise that rehabilitation is critical to ensuring our population's recovery from the impacts of the pandemic and the long-term sustainability of the health and social care system.

Several teams in the Scottish Government are addressing different aspects of recovery from COVID-19 infection. This includes a clinical guideline for health care professionals, which will pull together recommendations on measures to support recovery from COVID-19 infection. The work is currently in phase one, which focuses on creating a briefing document capturing the context in Scotland, including the epidemiology and scale of the problems experienced by patients in Scotland.

We are also developing a Framework for supporting people through recovery and rehabilitation during and after the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This will prioritise understanding of how people have been affected by the virus while identifying and supporting interventions that aid recovery for this population.

It will be important that people are supported and empowered as they rehabilitate from the physical, psychological and social effects of the past few months to regain independence and build resilience to remain healthy and active.



The Recovery and Rehabilitation Framework will provide clear principles, priorities and objectives to support planning to meet increasing demand and to provide high quality person-centred rehabilitation in different settings including prioritising the development of digital and online resources. We expect to publish the Framework in August 2020.

As well as this we are prioritising research studying the short, medium and long term direct physical and mental health impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on individuals and identifying interventions to maximise outcomes. Research will be vital to better understand and manage the health and social care consequences of the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic beyond the acute phase, to help mitigate the impact of subsequent phases of the pandemic and its aftermath.

The Chief Scientist Office is funding a study looking at the longer-term consequences of coronavirus (COVID-19) on lung health and the National Institute for Health Research has issued a UK-wide call for research to better understand and manage the health and social care consequences of the global COVID-19 pandemic beyond the acute phase. However it is worth highlighting to you that research studies are unlikely to report initial findings until 2021 or later. <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/covid-19/funding-longer-term-recovery-and-learning-research.htm>. This research, and emerging evidence globally, is informing the likely long term psychological and physical effects of the pandemic across Scotland but the clinical findings and our knowledge are continually evolving.

I would also like to highlight that the UK Allied Health Professionals (AHP) also published a statement in May outlining our four nations' collective strategic priorities and approach to AHP rehabilitation leadership during and after coronavirus (COVID-19). This also recognised that "Rehabilitation is critical to ensuring our population's recovery from the impacts of the pandemic and the long-term sustainability of the health and social care system". You can view the full statement on the Scottish Government's website - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-allied-health-professionals-role-in-rehabilitation/>.

Locally, mobilisation plans will look to how services develop in the recovery and redesign phase, these will include consideration of a blended model of service delivery moving forward to support access to the right help from the right person.

You may also wish to be made aware of guidance that was published on Ready Scotland's website, which includes information about support available to people affected by coronavirus (COVID-19) - <https://www.readyscotland.org/coronavirus/where-to-find-additional-support/>.

I hope you have found this information useful and I wish you all the best during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

Jemma McGuffie

**TQUPQ : Strategic Planning and Clinical Priorities**





**Professor Chris Jones**  
**Dirprwy Brif Swyddog Meddygol**  
**Deputy Chief Medical Officer**  
**Dirprwy Gyfarwyddwr Gofal Iechyd Poblogaeth**  
**Deputy Director Population Healthcare Division**



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

via email:  
info@longcovidssos.org

16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Long Covid SOS Team

Thank you for your letter of the 7th July about the long term effects of those who have been ill with COVID-19, who are continuing to experience the debilitating symptoms of the virus and the impact this is having on their quality of life. As you rightly acknowledge, this is a novel disease with the NHS facing an unprecedented challenge in trying to stop the spread of the virus as well as treating patients both within the community and acute settings.

Through Health and Care Research Wales, the Welsh Government is involved in the UK wide research endeavour to investigate potential treatments (vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics) in response to the coronavirus pandemic. This includes involvement in the UK Urgent Public Health (UPH) Panel which has been set up to prioritise approval of crucial studies for the effective care of the severely ill as well as patients in the community.

In regard to the long term effects of the virus, there is an awareness that research is necessary to evaluate the impact of the disease. An example of this is the Post-Hospitalisation COVID-19 Study (PHOSP-COVID). This is a major UK wide study approved by the UPH panel and established to follow up patients previously hospitalised with the virus to assess the impact of COVID-19 on patient health and recovery and to inform the development of care pathways to help patients recover as fully as possible after having experienced the disease.

Prevention of the virus is also a key concern and the Welsh Government is engaged in the UK Vaccines Taskforce established to coordinate research effort to develop and deploy a vaccine for COVID19. NHS Wales has played a significant role in the CV002 vaccine study, sponsored by the University of Oxford and funded by CEPI (Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations) UK Research and Innovation. Led in Wales by Public Health Wales and hosted by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, over 400 participants primarily from health care settings took part in this important trial which has completed recruitment.

Further information about active studies is available via the Health and Care Research Wales website: <https://www.healthandcareresearch.gov.wales/covid-19-research/>

Wales is also involved in a number UK Research funding prioritisation panels, with Health and Care Research Wales recently supporting the new National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) England 'Recovery and Learning' call, which will look at the medium and longer term consequences of COVID-19. The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is inviting applications to better understand and manage the health and social care consequences of the global COVID-19 pandemic beyond the acute phase. This call is an important part of the UK's



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response to provide high-quality and timely evidence to support system recovery and learning, specifically on health outcomes, public health, social care and health service delivery across the UK and to mitigate the impact of subsequent phases and aftermath. Applicants are encouraged to study populations with a high disease burden and which have been historically under served by recent research activity. Special consideration should be given to inclusion of ethnic and socio-economic groups that appear to be at higher risk of COVID-19.

Additionally, as the evidence began to emerge identifying the rehabilitation needs of people directly and indirectly affected by COVID-19, the Welsh Government published a national rehabilitation framework in May (<https://gov.wales/rehabilitation-framework-continuity-and-recovery-2020-2021>). This has been underpinned by specific guidance for the four identified population groups (<https://gov.wales/rehabilitation-needs-people-affected-impact-covid-19-guidance>).

Further work continues to produce guidance on how to measure demand and the outcome of rehabilitation care for people. Health boards are working with their local authority and third sector partners, using this national guidance to plan the rehabilitation services to respond to the anticipated needs of their populations.

I hope my response to your open letter addresses some of your concerns and illustrates how Wales is playing a key role in the UK-wide research effort in delivering the growing portfolio of research into COVID-19.

Yours sincerely

**Personal Data**

**PROFESSOR CHRIS JONES**