

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

# SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT (SGoRR)

## COVID-19 - SITUATIONAL REPORT 22

New information in **RED**

Contact:  [ents@gov.scot](mailto:ents@gov.scot)  
Head of SGoRR authorising:

This is an **OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE** Document  
Onward release without prior approval of Head of SGoRR is  
**STRICTLY PROHIBITED**  
Contact Head of SGoRR at  [s@gov.scot](mailto:s@gov.scot) for  
approval if you need to share beyond the circulation lists

Information correct as of 19:00 hrs on 27 March 2020

1

# Overview

## Scottish test numbers – 27 March 2020 @ 1400

- A total of **12,273** Scottish tests have concluded. Of these:
- **11,214** tests were confirmed negative
- **1059** tests were positive
- **33** patients who tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have died

## Health board – Positive cases

Ayrshire and Arran	75
Borders	28
Dumfries and Galloway	47
Fife	41
Forth Valley	81
Grampian	45
Greater Glasgow and Clyde	299
Highland	33
Lanarkshire	140
Lothian	139
Shetland	24
Tayside	107
Orkney	0
Western Isles	0

## FM statement on 27 March contained:

- Continue self-isolation to ensure the best chance of tackling the outbreak.
- Collective national endeavour to slow down the spread of this virus
- Police have new powers to enforce the lockdown rules.
- £3.8m extra funding for NHS mental health support services.
- NHS inform website for details of helplines and services.
- CMO estimates 65,00 people will have the virus in Scotland.
- Scotland only beginning to see steep acceleration of cases meaning many more deaths, and acute pressure on intensive care beds.

## Suspected or confirmed cases of COVID 19 in ICU or combined ICU/HDU

Total Number of C19 Inpatients (Confirmed and Suspected) In Hospital at Midnight on 27/3/20 was **672** up from 575 on 26/3/20 (17%) and up from 149 on 18/3/20.

- The latest management information from the new aggregate return from Boards shows that there were **72** suspected or confirmed cases of COVID 19 in ICU or combined ICU/HDU at midnight (27/03/20) last night, of which 62 are confirmed and 10 are suspected.
- WardWatcher remains our source of bed capacity and occupancy, however it is in transition as Boards add and amend information on the extra capacity which they are putting in place. The latest data at 9am this morning showed a total of 356 available beds in ICU or combined ICU/HDU (excluding neuro units and Golden Jubilee). This means that there were 209 empty beds in these units at 9am today.
- There are three types of Significant Facility across the Scotland (i) ICU (ii) combined ICU/HDU and (iii) HDU.
- We understand our figures relate to those in ICU or combined ICU/HDU - we understand the vast majority of these are ICU beds at Level 3.
- We do not receive information on those COVID 19 patients (suspected or confirmed) specifically in HDU. However we are currently receiving information on the total number of COVID 19 patients (suspected or confirmed) in any type of acute beds.
- As this is new information we will continue to quality assure the information as the data flow continues.

## Health Workforce

- There have now been 1,291 confirmed expressions of interest (26th March 23:59), which are being processed by the Healthcare Professional Registration Team. A more detailed breakdown (23 March) indicates that 42% of expressions of interest come from Nurses and 20% from Doctors. Other professionals include Dental Professionals; Healthcare Scientists; and a range of AHPs.
- Figures published (27 March – 10:00) indicate that 11,354 staff, or just under 7% of the workforce, are reporting as absent due to either having confirmed COVID19, displaying symptoms or self isolating.
- There is a pressing need to ensure school and child care provisions remain accessible during public and school holidays for key workers to ensure workforce capacity is not unnecessarily affected.
- We have issued advice from CMO supporting an accelerated return for key workers. Advice specifically about the testing of key workers was issued to Health Boards on 24th March.
- The cross-SG group established to promote co-ordinated messaging to support staff wellbeing across Health and Social Care is developing a comms plan to take effect from Monday. The plan will outline themes, supporting materials and circulation routes, to ensure as wide a reach as possible. Linking with key contacts within the system will help to streamline messaging.
- We are moving towards a national approach to recruitment and deployment, to accelerate the expansion of workforce capacity and will make an announcement by the end of this week. NES will act as lead employer, and where possible, expedite administrative processes.
- A letter has been issued to Trade Union representatives and the NHS workforce, to reassure staff regarding the distribution of 1.5m FFP3 respirations which have passed their expiry date, but have passed stringent quality assurance testing. A letter will also be sent to all NHS Scotland Staff. The Cabinet Secretary has agreed for **release of these masks**.

**For a fuller briefing on Health and Social Care please contact SG Coronavirus Hub at [SGCoronavirus@gov.scot](mailto:SGCoronavirus@gov.scot)**



# Education, Children & Families

## Key Points

- The Scottish Qualifications Authority issued a statement on 24 March confirming that, given current public health advice, it is not requiring schools and colleges to submit learner coursework for marking, in Higher and Advanced Higher courses. In addition, all other National 5 coursework due to be uplifted in April and May will not now be submitted for marking. The SQA will provide further details on the estimation of grades, that it needs from teachers and lecturers to inform certification and fuller details of our approach to certification, in the coming days.
- **Separated families:** Revised content on the Parentclub website states – “If there is a court order or formal agreement in place, you should stick to the arrangements it sets out unless you or one of your household are self-isolating. If you have a more informal arrangement with your partner or ex-partner, you’ll need to discuss what’s best for your kids.”
- **External pressures on CSWOs:** Some CSWOs reporting concerns about significant pressures on services which may escalate, including in child protection. These are said to be due to staff absence, because of lack of childcare and self-isolation.
- Further public health guidance in development for schools and childcare settings providing emergency childcare, for publication asap.
- Urgent work underway to prepare for introduction of secondary legislation on Monday to revoke the duty on local authorities to provide 1140 hours of early learning and childcare offer from 1 August.

## General Points

- Scottish Social Services Council is working with NHS Education for Scotland to clarify the minimum training requirements for social care workers, to allow deployment to other roles as required. We have written formally to local authorities to provide guidance that in plans for supporting young people, local authorities and partners prioritise the needs of those who experience deprivation, those who have complex additional support needs, and those who are looked after, at risk of coming into care, and those on the child protection register. SSSC are developing a system to manage the temporary register of social workers ahead of commencement. SSSC are working with COSLA and SWS to consider how to match social workers on the register with current social work staffing shortages.
- **Child counselling:** NSPCC highlighting increase in overall demand for childline – over 900 sessions about coronavirus, nearly 600 in week beginning 16 March, with 20% delivered from Aberdeen and Glasgow bases.
- **Disclosure Scotland** are prioritising checks for healthcare, social work and social care, prisons, justice and pharmaceutical roles and are now no longer accepting paper applications.
- **SNCT Agreement** was issued yesterday (26 March) on pay protection for supply teachers in contract and information on Spring break issues for teachers in hubs.

# Education, Children & Families

## Secure Care

- Concerns raised by providers 26 March about sustainability (staffing absences – self-isolation and underlying conditions the main issues) and need for specific guidance on critical frontline worker status re testing and PPE. All young people tested so far have been Covid negative. All providers affected to some degree – but managing at present
- The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) operating virtual hearings. Some emerging issues with certain legal representatives indicating intentions to challenge the new model. SCRA making contact with agents directly to explain the circumstances and invite written submissions by secure email prior to the hearing. Emergency Bill will alleviate.
- **Police Scotland** reporting drop in referrals across areas of vulnerability, including child protection. Not clear if this is due to a reduction in opportunities to report/access to services. High risk and critical work continuing
- Work underway with NES and the SSSC working with COSLA to explore a **national approach to recruitment and deployment** to accelerate the expansion of social care workforce capacity

## Looked after Children

- Some concerns being raised across different care settings about need to test staff to safely maintain continuity of care. Calls from lobbying groups about foster care pressures and the need for sick pay have been rebuffed by the sector. Working on guidance/principles to support decision making in all care settings.
- Following school closures, a range of local solutions being put in place to support vulnerable children. Social Work Scotland are collating and sharing examples of adjustments / plans being put in place by local areas.

## Advanced Learning and Science

- All universities have plans in place to support vulnerable students during the COVID 19 outbreak. This is a blended approach of online support and resources as well as access by phone.
- All universities, excluding OU, have student accommodation open and are providing support to those who have chosen to stay or are not in a position to leave.
- In colleges Student funding payments are being made as normal and in line with the published timetable. Financial hardship support has also been made available. All colleges will continue to pay bursaries, childcare (if required), and Educational Maintenance Allowance.
- Minister for FE and HE and Science has issued invitations to key stakeholder to join the COVID-19 RESPONSE: HIGH LEVEL MINISTERIAL GROUP which will meet virtually on 2nd April.
- A letter has been prepared for the Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science to send to university and college principles regarding student accommodation and support.



# Education: Local Authority Statistics

**Daily Monitoring: The estimated results for Scotland (as at 27 March 2020) based on these responses (and carry overs from yesterday) are as follows:**

- There were **514** LA educational and early years settings open today (27/03/2020)
- There were **2,048** teaching staff working in these LA educational and early years settings today (noting Glasgow didn't provide a teaching/support staff breakdown so all staff have been included as support staff)
- There were an additional **807** ELC practitioners, ELC lead practitioners and ELC managers working in these LA educational and early years settings today
- There were a further **1,776** support staff working in these LA educational and early years settings today (noting Glasgow didn't provide a teaching/support staff breakdown so all staff have been included as support staff)
- There were **3,172** children and young people attending these LA educational and early years settings today (only **0.4%** of the ELC and pupil roll)
- Of which there were **1,872** children and young people were of key workers (i.e. **78%** of all pupils attending excluding 3 LAs who didn't provide this breakdown)
- Of which there were **588** children and young people were vulnerable (i.e. **25%** of all pupils attending excluding 3 LAs who didn't provide this breakdown)
- A further **5,667** children and young people only attended for a free school meal
- Removing the 1 LAs who completed a return but had no settings open today (i.e. Moray), then **0.4% of the ELC and pupil roll had children and young people attending schools today**
- In order to achieve 1% of the ELC and school roll physically attending LA settings, then **7,673** children and young people would need to be physically attending.
- Based on today's estimated figures, this means we would have needed an additional **4,500** children and young people to physically attend LA settings today.

# Economy & Business

- The COVID-19 outbreak is having a major impact on the economy. Measures to contain the outbreak have affected consumption and business activity.
- Financial markets generally remain more stable than in recent weeks, particularly Bond markets, however the FTSE 100 and 250 have fallen c. 5%-6% over the day while Brent Crude Oil price has slipped further to \$24 (17 year low).
- The Scottish Government have established a team to liaise with relevant employers and local authorities to resolve any emerging issues in relation to keyworkers. The team are responding to a high volume of correspondence from members of the public, businesses, MSPs and MPs regarding what are critical businesses; who should or should not be going to work, and fair work related matters. There continues to be ongoing confusion within the public domain about who should or shouldn't be going to work; employers not adhering to fair work practices; confusion regarding the rules surrounding the job retention scheme.
- Cab Sec wrote to public bodies, local authorities, third sector and business representative organisations and employers on 26 March, urging them to align their workplace practices with the fair work principles outlined in the Covid-19 Fair Work Statement. Public bodies have been asked to reply to SG outlining the action they are taking in this regard, by 24 April.
- The gap is narrowing between the projected demand for ICU ventilators and the supply. Should have enough to cover demand in 6 weeks. Still an urgent need to source more for the shorter term (with a pinch point expected in the next 3-4 weeks). Clinicians are looking at converting anaesthetic machines to plug the gap. Procurement and logistics teams are working together to get more ICU machines here faster.
- The Minister spoke with the Cabinet Office programme team for the BEIS ventilator challenge yesterday. They recognised several Scottish companies are involved in both increasing manufacturing capacity for existing ICU-spec ventilator models, and designing 'new to world' solutions. Mr McKee continues to engage with these companies and others capable of manufacturing existing designs. Scottish Enterprise and National Manufacturing Institute Scotland (NMIS) are fully geared up to assist efforts in supply of NHS needs and/ or production of components.
- The Minister for Trade, Investment and Innovation issued a letter to all enterprise agency account managed companies and our Global Scots network to maximise our reach to Scottish companies that may be able to contribute to our efforts. He issued a further letter to business groups yesterday. A team is established and fielding incoming offers.



# Economy & Business

- There continues to be more offers from the alcoholic drinks industry, and while no longer liable for alcohol duty (if supplying for sanitiser production for the NHS), EU biocide licensing regulation is still a barrier to suppliers. This was escalated yesterday and we expect clarity on how to proceed today. Progress continues in joining up suppliers and manufacturing capability. Further to the order placed on Wednesday for 100,000l of product for the NHS within the next two weeks, we have found suppliers to work with a Grangemouth-based company to produce sanitiser in Scotland at scale (subject to overcoming the EU regulatory barrier).
- Addressing the shortage of PPE is critical. The global picture is changing rapidly and although the group had managed to overcome international export barriers to free up the pipeline releasing hundreds of thousands of masks, further intervention from overseas government coupled with reduced raw materials is proving a challenge. Work continues to source and enable a regular continuing supply. A reduced deficit still remains, and the group are following some promising leads with alternative suppliers, as well as ongoing effort to explore and enable options with new manufacturers. We may be close to securing production line that would provide us with 7 million medical grade masks. We have also received a 1.5 million share of revalidated masks from the UK stock.
- The group is in dialogue with a company who may be able to source 120k test swabs from China. A sample is being tested by NHS Lothian before the order is placed. Further potential suppliers have been identified and are being followed up.
- Positive response by the tourism sector on communication channels and support being provided from both SG and UKG. Some outstanding issues on self-employment, furloughs and support for self-caterers. A letter on the latter is expected to issue today indicating the inclusion of self-catering business in the support package. Cab RET will speak today with VisitScotland on how it is responding to the crisis, and plans for future recovery.
- Business leaders remain concerned about the divergent guidance from UK Government and Scottish Government regarding Essential businesses/ social distancing. Also highlighted tensions between employers, employees and unions on the issue.
- Business rates relief (different approach SG vs UKG) and confusion as to whether relief was per property or per rate payer was raised as a key issue.
- Business leaders were raising concerns about the support from banks in relation to UKG funding initiatives and noted a number of negative examples.

# Waste Services

- A number of local authorities have announced significant changes to waste collections as a result of workforce absences. All are managing to maintain residual (landfill) bin collections but many are scaling back collection of garden and food waste, and some have suspended all recycling collections. Most have now shut local recycling centres. Local authorities are working to source additional capacity from within their own resources, including roads workers, and we are working on identifying spare capacity in the commercial waste collection industry, which has seen a major drop off in business.
- A key risk is concern from workers about ability to maintain social distancing within a bin lorry environment and availability of PPE, as well as concerns about transmission from handling waste from infected households. There are signs of industrial unrest which could create significant risks to maintaining even a basic waste collection service. Refuse collectors at South Lanarkshire Council are reported to have walked off the job on 26 March but we understand interim arrangements are being put in place locally to allow services to resume. Urgent public health advice is being sought.
- At present major waste disposal facilities (landfills, energy from waste plants) are operating normally but there are concerns about whether plants sorting recyclable material will stay open. This could lead to the landfilling or incineration of recyclable material, which is prohibited under regulations, if there is no other option.

# Resilience Partnerships

- Following the establishment of a MACC, the Scottish Resilience Partnership (SRP) Sub Group activities have paused and transferred over to the Strategic Coordination Group (SCG). **The second meeting of the SCG took place on Friday 27 March. Points raised:**
- Pressing need for information flow out of SG health to help local areas plan for their communities.
- Local areas are standing by to commission contracts for excess body storage so further information/modelling of excess death figures would be much appreciated.
- Importance of volunteer platforms being linked in to Local Resilience Partners (LRPs) to match up support with priority tasks. Partners would appreciate clarity on expectation for volunteer cohort within current public messaging on social distancing.
- Information flow arrangements into and out of SCG in progress. Intention that Cat 1 responders, local areas and partners provide reports through Resilience Direct.
- Work ongoing to establish best way to brief out of SCG and thought being given to simplify processes and avoid duplication.
- DFM had a virtual meeting with SRP members on Thursday 26th March. **Next meeting arranged Tuesday 31 March.**

## Shielding

- Call with LA chief executives to discuss local Shielding arrangements and SG expectations held on 27 March.
- Local areas requests for clear 'asks' from central government in relation to shielding their communities. Guidance for LRP drafted, intent to issue evening of 27 March 2020.
- 6000 letter issued 26 March, 90,000 letters expected to be issued to high-clinical risk individuals 27-28 March. Local areas ensuring support in place to deal with queries, data is being received by local area named contacts.
- Ongoing work to establish reporting on local area readiness for shielding, including route for escalating issues. Raised at SCG on Friday 27 March, actions being progressed



# Transport

**Aviation**

- Arrangements being finalised to start skeleton Loganair scheduled service from Glasgow hangar and Aberdeen Airport to each island airport starting from 30 March. The booking system discourages non island residents.

**Ferries**

- CalMac's reduced timetable, operating approximately 40% of the winter timetable, runs for an initial three-week period from today, 27 March, and will be subject to continual review.
- Number of staff reported by CalMac as self-isolating is 186 (+8 since yesterday). CFL state staff absences are starting to increase pressure on operations. Number staff reported by SNF as self-isolating remains at 23.
- Agreed to postpone implementation of annual fares increase on CHFS network. News release issued 26 March 2020.
- Western Ferries have approached Scottish Government via Michael Russell MSP seeking financial support to continue services. TS engaging and will provide further advice to Ministers.

**Ports**

- Marine and Coastguard Agency (MCA) have relaxed the vessel and seafarer certification process by extending the length of times ships and companies have to complete different audits.

**Freight**

- Mr Matheson T/C with Nicola Mallon, his counterpart in the Northern Ireland Executive at 14:00 on 27 March, regarding NI ferry routes. Concern from Stena about drop in passenger numbers affecting viability of route.

**Rail**

- A further revision to passenger timetable will be implemented Monday 30th March focussing on key workers.
- Wabtec train maintenance depot in Kilmarnock announced today that they are to close permanently and are starting formal consultation with employees. Scottish Enterprise have been in discussion over the past weeks and in the lead.

**Bus**

- Bus operators continue to reduce services focussing on those which serve the needs of key workers
- Borders Buses offering free bus travel to NHS workers as of today

**Major Projects**

- Transport Scotland has instructed the managed shut down of all live major construction projects including A9 Berriedale Braes, A9 Luncarty to Pass of Birnam, A92/A96 Haudagain Improvements and A77 Maybole Bypass. This instruction will lead to financial and programme implications



# SG Business Continuity

- All major buildings across SG Central Belt estate now closed with the exception of St Andrews House and Atlantic Quay 5. Essential work and core corporate services will continue.

# Communications

## Planned proactive activity/story of the day

- FM media briefing
- MR: Announces that new laws from the UK Coronavirus Bill to ensure people follow necessary social distancing measures have come into force in Scotland. News release issued.
- Minister for Finance Ben Macpherson: News Release - New business rates reliefs for aviation industry. News release issued.
- CH announces additional £3.8 million SG funding for NHS 24 digital mental health services. News release issued.
- MG: Animal Welfare guidelines article issued to Press and Journal

## Known reactive activity / external issues

- FH: letter to public sector organisations advising them to take action to support suppliers during the coronavirus outbreak - linked to new SG procurement guidance being published (news release and twitter).
- AD: Welcomes Crimestoppers doorstep crime awareness campaign. Quote in news release.
- UK Gov announcement of new testing programme for frontline health and social care staff. This was made by Michael Gove at the UK press conference on Friday. A proactive line from CMO welcoming the scheme is with CMO and Cab Sec for clearance.

## Social Media

- Video on social distancing measures put in place - (@scotgov Twitter, Facebook)
- 100% rates relief for heavily impacted sectors - (SG LinkedIn)
- Explainer video on how to download an isolation note directly from NHSInform - (@scotgov Twitter)
- Video urging people not to call 999 or 101 for information on coronavirus - (@scotgov Twitter)
- Video clip from the FM's press conference on staying at home over the weekend - (@scotgov Twitter, Facebook, Instagram) scheduled for 7.30pm

# Communications

## New/Main work

### Financial Guidance

- Working with the Money Talk team and SSS to develop campaign informing the public of financial help available

### Essential Key Workers

- Developing proposal for messaging to support Key Workers

### Support/Working with celebrities

- Considering how to work with media to develop programming and content that helps support people during lock-down. Also working with celebrities and influencers to amplify messages for general population, parents and young people

### Parent Club

- Brief in development for family wellbeing campaign to go to SpAds for approval before commencing development
- Equal Protection campaign live and being adapted for TV to support parents' mental health and positively deal with children's behaviour at this time - driving to PC website

### Mental health

- Working on commissioning insight gathering for general public campaign about looking after your mental health / building resilience during 'lockdown' also reviewing how to adapt for young people and parents

### Gen Pop – UK ad adapts

- When out of home' A3/A4 posters for outdoor sites with guidance on distancing and precautions to take when outside, to be added to toolkit

### Vulnerable Groups

- TV ad running with Jason Leitch, looking to develop radio version ASAP, BBC Radio Scotland currently running a version for radio.

### Food supply

- Ads encouraging people to buy only what they need updated, live and increasing presence in digital outdoor sites

# Communications

## Scotland Care / Community

- Currently reviewing to tie in with new ask around volunteering, updating scripts/press/radio for approvals, 1/04; Ready Scotland site to be updated accordingly; Policy / Digital working on a sign up portal for volunteers

## Rural communities and islands travel

- Backlash from those criticising Prince Charles has decreased, social posts continue to run to encourage folk visiting the highlands and island to go home

## Advertising Template / Social distancing TV

- Continuing to progress preferred option for template approach for health messaging
- Awaiting further creative response (using preferred template) to communicate how easily the virus spreads, and separately, the importance of social distancing when out (2 metre safe zone) and importance of total compliance with guidance around staying at home

## Door Drop for every Scottish Household

- We continue to progress with developing door drop for Scotland, with ministers Monday afternoon, 30/03 and understand the UKG continue to plan for UK-wide door drop.

## Eviction Legislation

- Agency briefed to develop comms, will go live when legislation goes through next week, 03/04 (TBC)

## Campaign tracking

- Summary of the YouGov poll carried out for Scottish Government on 24 and 25 March has been provided to ministers. Next wave of research results due 02/04.
- Setting up campaign tracking for marketing activity by w/c 6-April (TBC)

## Other / BAU

- Translation and infographics continue to be developed.



# Justice

COPFS	Total staff absence 255 = (14.2%)	Covid 19 absence 213 = (11.8%)
SCTS	Total staff absence 1286 = (71%). 596 (33%) are non working absences (sent home, not sickness related)	Judiciary Absences 99 = (52%)
Police Scotland	Police Officer total absence 2484 = (14.4%)	Police Staff total absence 1185 = (23.5%)
SFRS	Covid 19 absence 1832 = (10.6%) Total staff absence 777 = (10.6%)	Covid 19 absence 860. = (17.1%) Covid 19 absence 442 = (6%)
	Workforce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmed cases – 2, RDS FF and Support Staff member</li> <li>442 live cases:</li> <li>13 Operations Control;</li> <li>215 Wholetime Firefighter, 5 Watch Duty System;</li> <li>101 Retained Duty Firefighters;</li> <li>34 Wholetime Firefighter Day Duty Firefighters;</li> <li>4 Flexi Duty Officers;</li> <li>73 Support staff.</li> <li>Appliance availability – Business as usual;</li> <li>Increase in OC staff being carefully monitored;</li> <li>Increase in FDO staff being carefully monitored;</li> <li>Workplace affected by closure- none currently.</li> </ul>	
SPS	Total staff absences 940 = (21.3%) Covid 19 absence 602 = (13.6%)	Prisoners in isolation 113 =(1.4%) Confirmed cases – 2
PIRC	Total staff absence 12 = (15%)	Confirmed cases – 1 Self-isolating – 4

## Absences/ Reported illness

### LIVE ISSUES

- Police Scotland** - Measures to record activity relating to new legislation are being put in place on existing police systems and regular analysis will be undertaken.
- There has been a significant decrease in the volume of persons being processed through custody suites throughout the force with 105 being recorded on 26th March, down from 224 on the 26th February 2020.
- Public sensitivity to persons perceived as being non-compliant with self-isolating directive continues, and this is reflected in both calls reported to Police Scotland and across social media. This can be illustrated by there being 303 Op Talla tagged incidents on 26th March which related to public nuisance.
- SCTS** –Coronavirus Act 2020 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) provisions – following Scottish Regulations coming in to force on 26 March, SCTS colleagues (Fines Unit and Legislation Implementation Team) are continuing to liaise with SG and justice partners to support the implementation of the revised FPN provisions – including how to manage risks surrounding manual workarounds introduced to allow the processing of new cases reported.
- SFRS** - Requests coming in locally regarding Digital Connectivity looking to utilise fire stations to assist vulnerable groups. This is contrary to SFRS Guidance on access to stations and social isolation

# Justice contd.

## Live Issues cont.

- **Additional Duties for Firefighters** - The SFRS Chief Officer is in regular contact with the Scottish Government, the Chief Constable and the Chief Executive of the Scottish Ambulance Service. At this point there has been no specific request for SFRS firefighters to drive ambulances in Scotland or to undertake any other additional work. There is also no requirement at this time for SFRS to help with the movement of bodies. Discussions are underway as part of the Scottish resilience arrangements, on how SFRS and others work together.
- **SPS** - There remains 1 confirmed prisoner case within HMP Kilmarnock, with 1 confirmed prisoner case having recovered and subsequently tested negative. There is 1 confirmed prisoner case from HMP Dumfries. The individual was admitted to hospital on 26.03.20 and was tested as a precaution and remains in hospital for treatment at this time.
- A member of NHS Staff working within HMP Kilmarnock tested positive for COVID-19 on 26.03.20. There are further staff and prisoner tests results from this site outstanding.
- A member of SPS Staff working within HMP & YOI Polmont also tested positive for COVID-19 on 26.03.20.
- **National Crime Agency** – The recognition of NCA key worker status in Scotland appears to be inconsistent within Council Authorities and has caused some personnel difficulties in relation to remaining productive within the workplace.
- **SPA Forensic** - Forensic Services have now implemented an Emergency Service Delivery Model.

## ORGANISATIONAL RESPONSES

- **SCTS** – On 26 March, three custody cases were successfully linked to Hamilton Sheriff Court via video link. Four police custody sites with VC are currently available with a further three joining on stream next week.
- **COPFS** - A protocol between COPFS, SCTS and Law Society of Scotland re personal hygiene measures and social distancing has been published. Four staff sent home, a communication system has been put in place to ensure regular access to updates and information.
- **SPS** - Within SPS HQ, a COVID-19 Co-ordination Hub is well established within and staffed 7 days per week
- **SFRS** - Business Continuity and response plans now in place to support operational response being carefully evaluated over weekend period.
- **NCA** – A robust Gold structure, reporting and daily briefing cycles are in place. Tasked operations are being prioritised to ensure undernoted are prioritised.

# Parliament, Legislation and Gov't Business

## Legislation

- LCM for UK Covid Bill passed by Scottish Parliament 24 March. Royal Assent was given on 25 March.
- Scottish Regulations **made on 26 March** to put in place enforcement measures concerning social distancing as announced earlier in the week. Those can come into force immediately under the emergency procedure in the Bill. There then needs to be a Scottish Parliament vote within 28 days (though the clock stops during recess).
- Coronavirus (Scotland) Bill is being instructed for introduction on 31<sup>st</sup> March with the intention that all three stages take place on 1 April. Provisions proposed include measures to:
  1. Ensure the justice system is able to deliver essential services
  2. Ensure that public services, business and consumers can still operate despite new restrictions (e.g. extended moratorium on debt relief; extended and more flexible deadlines for FOI; suspending timescales set out in the Social Security (Scotland) Act; delaying ballots for Business Improvement Districts)
  3. Measures to ensure that renters are protected while confined to their homes
  4. Sunset provisions contained in the Bill and a requirement for Ministers to report on the use of the powers in the Bill.
- On 25 March Mr Russell agreed in principle the provisions to be included in the Bill and has **written to** the First Minister and Cabinet on that basis.
- Mr Russell is seeking build cross-party consensus within the Parliament for the Bill.
- Scottish Covid SSI programme being prioritised following SG-wide trawl. PLU is seeking agreement with the Parliament that Covid-related and high priority affirmative SSIs are put to plenary on 1 April.
- Discussing rescheduling of wider (non-Covid) legislative programme with Scottish Parliament officials.



# Parliament, Legislation and Gov't Business

## Parliament

- There will be no Parliamentary Business, including committee business, until 1 April.
- A Committee of the Whole Parliament will take place on 1st April to consider emergency Scottish Government legislation and First Minister's Questions.
- Parliament putting in place measures to enable debates to proceed on social distancing basis
- Parliamentary sitting patterns post-Easter recess being considered by Mr Dey and Parliamentary authorities

## Elections

- Powers to vary Scottish Parliament and local by-election dates included in UK Covid Bill. Retrospective provisions flowing from the Clackmannanshire by-election will not be included in the Scottish Parliament Emergency COVID Bill, and a new date will be set using existing Ministerial powers in consultation with the Returning Officer.



# International

## FCO Travel Advice

The FCO updated its travel advice on 23. UK nationals currently travelling overseas (as opposed to resident overseas) are strongly advised to return. Country specific travel advice will continue to be updated to reflect the changing restrictions.

## EU Travel Restrictions

EU leaders on 17 March agreed to restrict travel to and within the Schengen area (i.e. the EU minus Ireland and plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) with restrictions likely to last till mid-April at minimum. A number of Member States have additional unilateral controls in place.

EU leaders met yesterday (26 March) but failed to agree a pan EU fiscal response to the crisis. New proposals will emerge in the next fortnight.

## Issues emerging over repatriation of British Nationals overseas

We continue to raise consular support requests with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (who lead on providing consular assistance). We understand the FCO and DfT are in discussions with the aim of chartering flights to repatriate UK nationals in large numbers (as seen in Peru on 26 March). The Foreign Secretary raised the need to resolve repatriation issues during his meeting with the G7 on 25 March.

A delegation of Chinese clinicians and government officials will arrive in London on 28 March and plan to travel to Scotland early next week. They have offered to share best practice and donate equipment (masks and two ventilators) and have requested a video conference with the FM. We're in touch with the FCO and are likely to suggest a video conference with appropriate NHS Scotland clinicians be organised with the delegation whilst in London rather than travel to Scotland.

Sweden is pursuing a starkly different approach to tackling the virus than the rest of Europe. Despite having one of the lowest per capita provisions of intensive care beds in the EU, the Public Health Authority refuses to "take draconian measures" and so society is functioning as normal with few restrictions in place and borders open.

Germany's death rate is relatively low. The precise reason for this is not easy to identify but the high testing rate, the higher incidence of infection amongst younger generations, and a well-resourced health system with high numbers of intensive care beds are all contributing factors.

The OECD has moved to support the global economic response, warning that economies could see an annual GDP decline of 2% per month of containment. It has called for urgent coordinated global action and launched an online COVID-19 policy hub to centrally disseminate OECD analysis.

# AOB

**Communities and Local Government Coordination Unit:**

- On the house moves issue (RoS application record closure and UKG house move guidance), we are developing our own house move guidance and working closely with RoS, Law Society of Scotland, UK Finance and Homes for Scotland. In the meantime, we're advising that "Scottish Government is aware of, and broadly supportive of, UK Government advice on home moving during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak issued on 26 March 2020. There are some differences between the Scottish and English systems and we are urgently considering developing a version adapted for Scotland. In the meantime, people in Scotland should follow this UK Government guidance, insofar as it applies. We advise home movers who need to move in the coming days to contact their solicitors

**National Emergencies Trust COVID-19 Appeal**

- The National Emergencies Trust appeal has so far generated £12m of donations UK wide. In Scotland the fund is being distributed by Foundation Scotland's (FS) Relief, Recovery & Resilience Fund. The fund's primary focus is providing immediate funding support to constituted community groups and charities that are responding to the coronavirus pandemic by providing the following. It will be live by cop today on the FS website. 22 applications received in the pre-launch phase have been pre-approved and grants issued by Friday.

**Social Security Scotland:**

- As of 24 March 2020 we are no longer able to provide our normal inbound telephony service, and have put in place a message advising clients that staff are unable to answer their call due to Covid-19. Clients are directed to our online service which is fully available and can provide further information. Clients also have the option to leave a message via voicemail, which we will aim to respond to within 48 hours using staff with mobile phones from within their home.

**Funeral service – sector concern**

- The Scottish Government as advised by Scotland's Inspector of Cremation (a ministerial appointee) has been made directly aware of significant concerns and difficulties the funeral sector is facing in managing funeral services across Scotland. This is specifically the difficulty in keeping attendees to 'immediate family' only. The Inspector reports that, despite best efforts of staff, this lack of adherence to NHS advice by attendees to funeral services as highlighted by the sector is placing crematorium staff at increased risk of infection and subsequently increases the risk cremation capacity could be affected, so has directly advised that it would be beneficial to halt funeral services. Policy officials are engaged and will link with Comms in this regard.

## Slide Notes

### Slide 1:

Fuel – also applies to gas and electricity