

Scottish Covid-19 inquiry establishment - meeting with Bereaved Families for Justice – 14 December 2021

Attendees

Deputy First Minister
Representatives from Bereaved Families for Justice Scotland
Ian Donaldson, Scottish Government
Name Redacted Scottish Government

Introduction

DFM welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanking them for their attendance.

DFM updated everyone on the statement being given to the Scottish Parliament later that day to announce Lady Poole as the chair of the Scottish Covid-19 inquiry and publication of the terms of reference. DFM talked everyone through the terms of reference being published and explained the approach taken in drafting it, including being able to achieve a detailed enough scope without adding constraints for the chair. DFM said there would now be a period of reflection on the terms of reference by Lady Poole, so there was opportunities within this period to discuss any matters of concern with her.

Discussion

The following comments were made in discussion:

- There is no specific reference to nosocomial infection, was confirmed that this could be considered as part of the provision of healthcare services or infection prevention and control.
- Was confirmed that the pandemic planning was not constrained by dates for the start point for investigations, so is covered for the period before 1 January 2020.
- Scope broad enough to cover issues raised.

Conclusion

DFM stressed that the Scottish Government has tried to make remit wide enough to cover the points raised by the group. DFM was grateful for the support provided by the group in the development of the terms of reference.

Families' members said they appreciated this update and the engagement throughout the process, which was conducted on a very straight basis, and welcomed the Scottish inquiry being established.

The meeting ended.