

**Scottish Government Scientific Strategic Advisory Board on COVID-19 Testing
(SABoT)
Terms of Reference (23rd February 2021)**

Context

The Scottish Government Covid-19 Advisory Group was formed in response to the need for additional scientific analysis of the impact of Covid-19 in Scotland. The Advisory Group has identified Covid-19 testing as a priority area on which it will give advice to the Scottish Government and Chief Medical Officer. The Scottish Government and the Advisory Group have agreed to establish a dedicated sub-group to provide additional scientific advice in relation to Covid-19 testing.

The Scottish Government Scientific Strategic Advisory Board on COVID-19 Testing (SABoT) will be a time limited expert group chaired by Professor David Crossman, Dean of Medicine at the University of St Andrews and Chief Scientist (Health) at the Scottish Government. This board will represent a sub-group of the Scottish Government Covid-19 Advisory Group.

This board will consider the scientific and technical concepts and processes that are key to supporting the delivery of Covid-19 testing; and to inform the Scottish Government's strategic use of testing to manage the pandemic. The advisory group will consider emerging scientific evidence and other appropriate sources of information and use it to inform local decisions in Scotland during the pandemic. The advisory board provides expertise and advice to inform Scottish Ministers but does not take a role in policy decision making.

Remit

The Scientific Strategic Advisory Board on Covid-19 Testing (SABoT) will support the Scottish Government and the Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group (and thereby Scottish Ministers and senior clinical advisers) by endeavouring to:

- Provide an ongoing review of testing strategy within Scotland in light of emerging scientific evidence and changing prevalence of the disease
- Recommend strategies for the delivery of testing, including the evaluation of different testing types, considering new methods of testing, and the need to have sufficient testing capacity to meet demand
- Consider emerging evidence to inform current testing priorities and recommend which groups within the Scottish populace should be prioritised for testing
- Provide an expert point of contact with, and strategic input to, the Scottish Government Covid-19 Advisory Group
- Evaluate the efficacy of Covid-19 testing strategy and practice across the UK and thereby provide advice to inform Scottish provision

The Scientific Strategic Advisory Board on Covid-19 Testing will report into the Scottish Government Covid-19 Advisory Group through the chair.

Membership

Chair

David Crossman

Members

Name Redacted

Name Redacted

Rory Gunson

Name Redacted

Matt Holden

Name Redacted

Michael Lockhart

Christine Mclaughlin

Jim McMenamin

Name Redacted

John Nicholson

Niamh O'Connor

Jill Pell

Nicholas Phin

NR

NR

Elizabeth Sadler

Nicola Steedman

NR

Name Redacted

Name Redacted

Kate Templeton

Name Redacted

Janine Thoulass

Name Redacted

Mark Woolhouse

David Yirrell

Secretariat

NR

Attendees/PAs

NR

Name Redacted

NR

Name Redacted

NR

Membership will be kept under review.

Meetings

The Scientific Strategic Advisory Board on Covid-19 testing meets every fortnight for one hour. The meetings are scheduled on Tuesdays between 5pm and 6pm and are held remotely. The frequency (weekly or fortnightly) will be adapted to need.

Information Access and Sharing

9. Documents for this group will be stored on Objective Connect and all members will be given access to this. Any inputs shared with the group for discussion will be considered confidential and not for further sharing without written permission from its author.

Secretariat

10. The Antibody and Surveillance Testing Team will provide Secretariat support to the Group including arranging all meetings and circulating agenda and papers.

11. The Chair will agree the final agenda for each meeting of the advisory group. All members may ask for an item or paper to be included on the agenda. Agendas, supporting papers and minutes of the previous meeting will be circulated to members as soon as is practicably possible. Minutes and actions of the most recent meeting will also be uploaded to Objective Connect as soon as is practicably possible after the meeting.

12. Other than in exceptional circumstances, all members of the Group should endeavour to attend all meetings of the group.

13. Where urgent business is required to be conducted between meetings, the Chair will arrange for members views to be sought by email and the outcome will be reported to the next meeting of the advisory group.