

Annex

1. Is it not the case that the First Minister's failure to order lockdown early enough caused the death of 2,000 citizens in Scotland?

The Scottish Government believe the emergence of Coronavirus (COVID-19) is the biggest global challenge that humanity has faced for generations and the measures that are being taken to deal with it must reflect its magnitude.

On 23 April 2020 the Scottish Government published [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): framework for decision making](#). This set out the issues Scotland was facing. It outlined the approach and principles that would guide us as decisions were made about transitioning through and out of the lockdown arrangements. Further updates were made available <https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-scotlands-route-map/>.

As decisions continued to be made, advice from the UK Government Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) and Scottish Government Covid-19 Advisory Group is published online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-group-for-emergencies-sagecoronavirus->



4. Events have shown without doubt that lockdown should have been introduced earlier than it was. Accordingly the expert advice was not competent. Given that background, has that expert/those experts been dismissed? If not why not?

All of our decision making in the approach to responding to Covid-19 is guided by the latest scientific evidence from the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), advice from Health Protection Scotland and our Interim Chief Medical Officer, who provide advice on the effectiveness and suitability of our response.

7. Many members of the public who had symptoms of other conditions or were due to undergo routine health checks failed to report these conditions or did not take up screening appointments. This will result in patients whose conditions would have been picked up had they gone to their GP or out-patient services suffering poorer health and death in some cases for years to come. Why did the Scottish Government not publicise the availability of other health support services in March, April and May of this year?

The NHS remained open for everyone and people were encouraged not to delay accessing any help needed during the pandemic. The NHS is Open campaign was launched on 24 April 2020 and encouraged people to seek medical help for health issues which were not related to coronavirus (COVID-19). The campaign urged people to contact their GP practice, call 111 out of hours or 999 for an emergency.

8. Much has been made of how complex the disease situation has been and continues to be. I don't agree. The disease was much more prevalent in other countries significantly earlier than it became so in Scotland. The intelligent approach in those circumstances was to learn from the other countries where the virus had been encountered. So the Scottish Government should have adopted policies similar to those in Australia or New Zealand. Equally it should not have followed the steps taken in countries like Italy.

Decision making has been and continues to be guided by the latest scientific evidence from the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) and the Scientific Pandemic Influenza Group on Modelling (SPI-M) which feeds into SAGE. SAGE provides advice to both Cabinet Office Briefing Room (COBR) and the group of Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) group. This group consists of the chief medical officers of all of the nations of the UK. Further advice was given to Scottish Ministers by the Chief Medical Officer of Scotland and the Scottish Government Covid-19 Advisory Group.

9. If a politician follows expert guidance and that expert guidance turns out to be wrong resulting in the avoidable deaths of a significant number of citizens don't moralistic considerations mean that politicians should accept responsibility and resign?

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