

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 07 September 2021 19:55

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Drought A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; News Desk; Communications Education & Skills [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Livey D (David) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross)[redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Mackintosh E (Emily) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Minister for Children & Young People Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training

**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query: Scottish Labour release - ventilation in schools - P&J

No worries and many thanks, [redacted 38(1)(b)] . I'll issue now.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Sent:** 07 September 2021 19:44

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Drought A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; News Desk Communications Education & Skills [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Livey D (David) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Mackintosh E (Emily) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Minister for Children & Young People Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query: Scottish Labour release - ventilation in schools - P&J

Apologies, I replied on earlier copylist which may not have been picked up by Duty Comms.

Cab Sec has cleared.

[redacted 38(1)(b)] (he/him)

Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills

T: [redacted 38(1)(b)] | M: [redacted 38(1)(b)] | E: [cabsecES@gov.scot](mailto:cabsecES@gov.scot)

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

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**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Sent:** 07 September 2021 19:41

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Drought A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; News Desk Communications Education & Skills [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Livey D (David) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ;

Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Mackintosh E (Emily) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Minister for Children & Young People Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training

**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query: Scottish Labour release - ventilation in schools - P&J

[Cab Sec has cleared. Thanks](#)

[redacted 38(1)(b)] ([he/him](#))

[Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills](#)

T: [redacted 38(1)(b)] | M: [redacted 38(1)(b)] | E: [cabsecES@gov.scot](mailto:cabsecES@gov.scot)

[The Scottish Government](#) | [St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG](#)

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Sent: 07 September 2021 18:16

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Drought A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; News Desk Communications Education & Skills [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Livey D (David) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Mackintosh E (Emily) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Minister for Children & Young People Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query: Scottish Labour release - ventilation in schools - P&J

Copying in late duty colleague [redacted 38(1)(b)] . Please reply on this chain.

Thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[Senior Media Manager](#)

[Communications Education & Skills](#)

Desk: [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

[Scottish Government](#) | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Sent: 07 September 2021 17:50

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Drought A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; News Desk Communications Education & Skills [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Livey D (David) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Mackintosh E (Emily) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Minister for Children & Young People Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training

**Subject:** FOR CLEARANCE: Media query: Scottish Labour release - ventilation in schools - P&J

**PO/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills**

The P&J have asked for a response to the below news release from Scottish Labour who have called for a review of the school estate – they claim that 60,000 pupils are learning in schools in poor condition and the issue of ventilation has been ignored.

Grateful for clearance on the following lines by 7pm if possible.

SpAds and policy colleagues are content.

Many thanks  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Schools buildings across Scotland are in their best condition since recorded figures began.

“We are providing local authorities with an additional £10 million to ensure that schools and childcare settings have access to CO2 monitoring. This is on top of £90 million COVID logistics funding already provided to councils.

“Many local authorities have already reported progress in addressing ventilation issues in the school estate using our guidance, much of which has been in place since last year. We have asked councils to complete assessments of their schools and early learning and childcare settings by October half-term – subject to sufficient supplies of CO2 monitors being available for purchase.”

## **MARRA: 60,000 PUPILS IN POOR CONDITION SCHOOLS AS VENTILATION IS IGNORED IMMEDIATE**

Commenting on the School Estates Statistics, School Labour has called for a ‘pandemic proofing’ review of Scotland’s school estate.

The new figures show nearly 60,000 pupils attend schools rated to be in a ‘poor’ or ‘bad’ condition – over 8% of all pupils.

Scottish Labour has warned that these figures may be masking the true scale of the problem by not taking account of whether schools are fit for purpose in terms of Covid safety.

Commenting, **Scottish Labour’s Education spokesperson Michael Marra said:**

“Almost 60,000 of pupils are in schools that are not fit for purpose – that is not good enough.

“We are eighteen months into a pandemic, but we still have no idea how which schools are safe or what quality of air children are breathing.

“There urgently needs to be a real assessment of classroom ventilation, with robust action taken to improve air quality in classrooms which fail. The SNP have wasted an entire summer by not doing this.

“Ventilation is a crucial aspect of school safety now, and reports on the school estate must include this from now on.”

**ENDS**

**Notes**

[Report](#)

**Table 4.1: Condition of all schools and the number of pupils on their school roll**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Pupils on school roll</b>		
C - Poor	60,836	58,148
D - Bad	1,050	855
Condition not recorded	0	0
C - Poor or D - Bad	61,886	59,003

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Education & Skills

Desk: [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 07 September 2021 17:46

**To:** Lively D (David) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Mackintosh E (Emily) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Drought A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; News Desk Communications Education & Skills [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: SPAD VIEW: Media query: Scottish Labour release - ventilation in schools - P&J

Thanks David. I'll get this up for clearance.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

[redacted s30(b)(i)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Education & Skills

Desk: [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)

**From:** Lively D (David) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 07 September 2021 17:44

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Mackintosh E (Emily) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Drought A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; News Desk; Communications Education & Skills [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: SPAD VIEW: Media query: Scottish Labour release - ventilation in schools - P&J

Edit from me.

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 07 September 2021 17:33

**To:** Livey D (David) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Mackintosh E (Emily) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Drought A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; News Desk Communications Education & Skills [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: SPAD VIEW: Media query: Scottish Labour release - ventilation in schools - P&J

Copying in late colleagues to take forward.

Please respond to this email trail.

Thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 07 September 2021 17:03

**To:** Livey D (David) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Mackintosh E (Emily) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Drought A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; News Desk Communications Education & Skills [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** SPAD VIEW: Media query: Scottish Labour release - ventilation in schools - P&J

Thanks both,

**Spads** - The P&J have asked for a response to the below news release from Scottish Labour who have called for a review of the school estate – they claim that 60,000 pupils are learning in schools in poor condition and the issue of ventilation has been ignored.

Are you happy with our response?

SG Spokesperson said:

[redacted s30(b)(i)]

Thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

**Sent:** 09 September 2021 19:11

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

**Cc:** News Desk ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser)[redacted 38(1)(b)] ) Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

; Mackintosh Emily [redacted 38(1)(b)] Chief Medical Officer [redacted 38(1)(b)] DCMO Health COVID19 [redacted 38(1)(b)] Leitch J (Jason) Chief Nursing Officer [redacted 38(1)(b)] DG Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)] Minister for Public Health, Women's Health & Sport [redacted 38(1)(b)] Minister for Mental Wellbeing & Social Care (redacted)  
**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE - media query - Ambulance waiting times - Daily Record

Thanks, Cab Sec is content to clear.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Deputy Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care – Humza Yousaf  
Scottish Government  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 09 September 2021 17:48

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** News Desk [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Drummond C [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Mackintosh E (Emily) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Chief Medical Officer [redacted 38(1)(b)] DCMO Health COVID19 [redacted 38(1)(b)] Leitch J (Jason) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Chief Nursing Officer [redacted 38(1)(b)] DG Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Minister for Public Health, Women's Health & Sport [redacted 38(1)(b)] Minister for Mental Wellbeing & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** FOR CLEARANCE - media query - Ambulance waiting times - Daily Record

Hello [redacted 38(1)(b)] /PO colleagues

We've been asked about a specific case of a patient having to wait for an ambulance.

The journalist has also approached SAS and their draft line is below for info,

Grateful for clearance on lines below which have been agreed with policy colleagues and spads

Thanks  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

*(Duty comms colleague [redacted 38(1)(b)] cc-ed)*

## **LINES TO CLEAR**

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We are sorry that Mrs and Mr Anderson had to go through this and for the added anxiety that this will have caused them at an already stressful time. It is vitally important there are no unnecessary delays for ambulances taking patients to

hospital and we continue to work closely with the Service and with Health Boards across Scotland to ensure ambulances are cleared as quickly as possible.

“Like all areas of our NHS, our ambulance service faced significant challenges as a result of the global pandemic. Despite the pressure coronavirus has brought upon our ambulance service, which serves some of the most rural areas in the UK, in 2020-21 crews responded to over 70% of highest priority calls in under 10 minutes and more than 99% in under 30 minutes.

“The ambulance service is carrying out a national review of demand and capacity to ensure it has the resources in place to meet current and projected future demand. This review resulted in an additional £20m is being invested in the service.”

**Background:**

The Scottish Ambulance Service’s ongoing national review of demand and capacity will also help to ensure it is working as efficiently as possible and has resources in place to meet both current and projected future demand. We are committed to supporting this work with £20 million additional funding for the Service this financial year.

**FOR AWARENESS**

**A spokesperson for the Scottish Ambulance Service said:**

“The NHS as a whole is experiencing significant sustained pressure across Scotland, as a result of pressures exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, and this is regrettably causing lengthy hospital patient handovers. Our staff are working incredibly hard during this challenging time to ensure the sickest patients are prioritised first. While we can’t provide further details due to patient confidentiality, we’d like to apologise to Mrs Anderson and her husband for the delay.

"In response to these pressures, we have escalated in line with our plans to maximise resource provision, placed all clinically trained staff on frontline duties, sought support from partners whilst working with health boards across Scotland to minimise delays."

**Query**

Good morning. I spoke to a man this morning whose wife waited 20 hours for an ambulance and then spent a further three hours in the back of an ambulance on Tuesday morning to wait to get inside the hospital. Sheila Anderson of Flat 3/3 704 Dumbarton Road, Thornwood, Glasgow, G11-6RB first called for an ambulance at 1.20pm on Monday.

She did so on the instruction of medical staff at the Golden Jubilee Hospital from where she had been discharged two days previously after having a hip replacement operation. She had called them

Medical staff thought she was having a severe reaction to a nerve blocking injection and said she should dial 999.

The family were told there was a large volume of calls and she may have to wait a while but they did not expect that long a wait.

And her husband, George, was upset when he called back at 6am to be told very abruptly: "Unless her condition has changed don't call back, This is an emergency service."

The ambulance arrived at 9.20am on Tuesday and she was transported to the QEUH where she spent more than three hours waiting in the back of the ambulance. George says the current triage system is not working because symptoms can be interpreted in different ways depending on which administrator is spoken to. Looking for a Scottish Government comment.

### **Ambulance waiting times unacceptable, Sturgeon admits**

[redacted 38(1)(b)] PA Scotland

13:47 - 9 Sep 2021

Nicola Sturgeon has admitted that wait times for ambulances are “not good enough”, with patients now waiting an average of six hours.

Challenged by Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross over deteriorating response times for the emergency service, the First Minister argued that problems had been “significantly exacerbated” by the coronavirus pandemic.

Speaking at First Minister’s Questions, Ms Sturgeon acknowledged that the long waits being reported were “not acceptable” and insisted the Scottish Government were working with the Scottish Ambulance Service to improve the situation.

“We know the pressure the ambulance service is under right now because of many of the other pressures in our National Health Service that have been caused and indeed exacerbated in some respects by the pandemic,” she said.

“While any individual wait is unacceptable – and we need to work to resolve that – it is worth bearing in mind that, despite all of the challenges and despite our ambulance service serving some of the most rural areas in the UK, over 2020-2021 our crews responded to over 70% of the highest priority calls in under 10 minutes and over 99% in under 30 minutes.”

Douglas Ross argued that problems “started long before Covid-19”, citing Scottish Ambulance Service surveys from 2018 and 2019 suggesting a fifth of the workforce believed there were not enough staff.



“Just yesterday, the Unite convener of the Scottish Ambulance Service said serious adverse events have been on an upward trajectory; since the start of the year they have gone through the roof,” Mr Ross said.

Ms Sturgeon replied: “There were pressures before Covid but I don’t think anybody can or should deny that those pressures have been significantly exacerbated by Covid.”

Quoting the figures for the week ending September 5, Ms Sturgeon said ambulance crews responded to 10,435 emergencies and the response time for immediately life-threatening incidents was nine minutes and 30 seconds, describing it as “not good enough”.

Emergencies in the “amber” category of risk experienced an average wait of 21 minutes 26 seconds, Ms Sturgeon added.

She said: “That’s slightly higher than we want it to be – the target is seven minutes – so the ambulance service is working hard under incredibly challenging circumstances.

“My job and the Health Secretary’s job is to support them through funding and other support to make sure that they can meet these challenges for the sake of the patients.”

Mr Ross gave examples of a patient in Dumfries who called for an ambulance at 2.30pm after suffering a suspected stroke but paramedics did not turn up until 4.45am the following morning, as well as a father whose son collapsed on a roadside and, with no ambulance in attendance within half an hour, drove the 17-year-old to the hospital himself.

In response, Ms Sturgeon addressed the father and said: “I’m extremely sorry that the wait you had happened and I don’t think that’s acceptable.”

She continued: “We know that our Accident and Emergency (departments) are under pressure, we know that is a backlog of treatment so one of the issues that the ambulance service faces is longer turnaround times which then puts a lot of pressure on ambulance resources.

“I recognise all of this and we are working hard with the ambulance service to address that.”

Prior to FMQs, Scottish Labour health spokeswoman Jackie Baillie said:  
“Paramedics, nurses and doctors are doing the very best that they can but the NHS is in crisis.

“The Scottish Government has lost control and the Cabinet Secretary is nowhere to be seen.

“Patients and staff deserve so much better than this.”

Thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager

Newsdesk

M: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 14 September 2021 16:27

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** News Desk; Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government

**Subject:** FOR ALLOCATION: SNP MISS AFFORDABLE HOUSING TARGET BY 7,000

Hi all,

PA Media looking for our response to the below Labour NR on housing stats – would your team be able to progress?

Many thanks,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | Senior Media Manager

Communications: News (Net Zero & Energy)

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

**e:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**m:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 14 September 2021 16:06

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** FW: SNP MISS AFFORDABLE HOUSING TARGET BY 7,000

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Here's the Labour release on housing stats, for comment please

Thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**PA Media** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

@[redacted 38(1)(b)]

P2/14, Media Tower, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh,  
EH99 1SP

**M** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**T** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 14 September 2021 13:45

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** SNP MISS AFFORDABLE HOUSING TARGET BY 7,000

## **NEWS FROM SCOTTISH LABOUR**

### **SNP MISS AFFORDABLE HOUSING TARGET BY 7,000**

#### **IMMEDIATE**

Scottish Labour have accused the SNP of “hiding behind the pandemic” as new figures confirm they missed last term’s affordable housing target by 7,000.

In the 2016 election, the SNP promised to deliver 50,000 affordable homes over the next term – however, new figures confirm that they fell short by almost 15%, delivering less than 43,000 in that time.

The SNP had already conceded that they were unlikely to meet their target, blaming the pandemic for this failure.

However, figures show they were never on track to meet this target, having built little over 30,000 by the end of 2019 – leaving them just eighteen months to build the rest.

Commenting, **Scottish Labour’s Housing spokesperson Mark Griffin said:**

“These dismal figures are the result of years of incompetence – not months of paused construction.

“Building more affordable houses is key to tackling Scotland’s ever-growing housing and poverty crisis. Getting things back on track is essential and the government need to set out a real plan on how they’ll do this.

“The SNP must stop hiding behind the pandemic and take responsibility for their failure. We need solutions – not excuses.”

**ENDS**

**Notes**

Affordable Social Housing completions: 2016-2021

	<b>Q2-4 2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Q1-2 2021</b>	<b>Total</b>
Affordable Housing Completions	5,199	7,505	9,189	9,501	6,799	4,755	<b>42,948</b>

Source: September 2021 AHIP Approvals and Completions

In 2016, the SNP pledged to “invest over £3 billion over the next parliament to deliver at least 50,000 new affordable houses, of which at least 35,000 will be houses for social rent.”

[https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/thesnp/pages/5540/attachments/original/1461753756/SNP\\_Manifesto2016-accessible.pdf?1461753756](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/thesnp/pages/5540/attachments/original/1461753756/SNP_Manifesto2016-accessible.pdf?1461753756)

**From** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 17 September 2021 11:24

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** News Desk; Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government

**Subject:** Media query - Tenant Hardship Grant Fund - Morning Star

Hi,

Received a query about the tenant hardship grant fund and a release from Labour – one for your team?

Cheers,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 17 September 2021 11:20

**To** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** Morning Star - Tenant Hardship Grant Fund

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)] ,

Thanks very much for taking my call.

Like I said, we're just looking to get a comment from the government on the below release.

In particular, it would be good to know why the fund is not yet up and running, and when this is expected to happen? Likewise, are there any concerns from the government that tenants could be left facing unnecessary evictions if this is not resolved ASAP?

If you could get back to us by 4.30pm today that would be great. Any issues let me know.

Cheers,  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]  
[redacted 38(1)(b)] , Morning Star  
[\[redacted 38\(1\)\(b\)\]](#)  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]  
T: @[redacted 38(1)(b)]

----- Original message -----

From: [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
To: [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Subject: GRIFFIN: TENANTS "ABANDONED" BY SNP  
Date: Friday, 17 September 2021 9:30 AM

## **NEWS FROM SCOTTISH LABOUR**

### **GRIFFIN: TENANTS "ABANDONED" BY SNP**

#### **EMBARGO: 00.01 SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER**

Scottish Labour has said tenants are being "abandoned" by the SNP, as the Housing Secretary confirms the Tenant Hardship Grant Fund is still not up and running.

In August Mark Griffin MSP wrote to the government asking for clarity on when this funding would be available. In a response received this week, Housing Secretary Shona Robison claimed development of the scheme is happening "at pace", but failed to give a clear indication of when money will actually be in people's pockets.

Mr Griffin dismissed the absurd claim it was being developed at pace, given that it has been three months since the scheme was announced and four months since the evictions ban was scrapped, leaving tenants vulnerable to eviction.

Commenting, **Scottish Labour's Housing spokesperson Mark Griffin said:**

"Tenants have been abandoned for months while the pandemic rages on.

"The claim anything is happening at pace would be laughable if the situation wasn't so serious.

"We are facing a tidal wave of evictions and responsibility will lie squarely with the SNP.

"Their lack of urgency is nothing short of shameful. They must act now to deliver this funding and protect struggling tenants."

**ENDS**

**Notes**

Letter attached.

The Tenant Hardship Grant Fund was announced June 23 <https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/what-was-said-and-official-reports/what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-23-06-2021?meeting=13248&iob=120145>

The evictions ban doesn't apply at Level 2 or below, so was effectively scrapped when Scotland moved into Level 2 in May <https://www.gov.scot/news/next-steps-out-of-lockdown/>

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 17 September 2021 13:06

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** News Desk; Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government

**Subject:** FOR ALLOCATION - Tenant Hardship Grant - Global enquiry - embargoed release from the Scottish Labour Party

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)] ,

Please see a media query re the embargoed release from the Scottish Labour Party, ca you please pick this up on the desk.

Thanks,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Media Manager

Health & Social Care Communications

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3DG

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | [redacted 38(1)(b)]

@ScotGovHealth

Out of hours: [redacted 38(1)(b)]



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 17 September 2021 12:57

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** Global enquiry

Good afternoon,

Just following our conversation on the phone, I'm looking for a government statement on the following embargoed release from the Scottish Labour Party, thanks:

==

*EMBARGO: 00.01 SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER*

*Scottish Labour has said tenants are being "abandoned" by the SNP, as the Housing Secretary confirms the Tenant Hardship Grant Fund is still not up and running.*

*In August Mark Griffin MSP wrote to the government asking for clarity on when this funding would be available. In a response received this week, Housing Secretary Shona Robison claimed development of the scheme is happening "at pace", but failed to give a clear indication of when money will actually be in people's pockets. Mr Griffin dismissed the absurd claim it was being developed at pace, given that it has been three months since the scheme was announced and four months since the evictions ban was scrapped, leaving tenants vulnerable to eviction.*

*Scottish Labour's Housing spokesperson Mark Griffin said: "Tenants have been abandoned for months while the pandemic rages on. The claim anything is happening at pace would be laughable if the situation wasn't so serious."*

*The evictions ban doesn't apply at Level 2 or below, so was effectively scrapped when Scotland moved into Level 2 in May*

**[redacted 38(1)(b)]**

Broadcast Journalist

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] global.com

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | @heartscotnews

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Sent:** 21 September 2021 17:03

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Cc:** News Desk; Communications Education & Skills [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Head SFIO [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Wilson M (Mick) [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Anson S (Sam) [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Pentland MK (Malcolm) [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Taylor A (Alison) [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)]; Minister for Children & Young People Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training

**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query - SQA stats/Labour NR - PA, Telegraph, The Sun, The Scotsman

Thanks [redacted 38(1)(b)] , Ms Somerville has cleared.

[redacted 38(1)(b)] (he/him)

Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills

T: [redacted 38(1)(b)] | M: [redacted 38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Sent: 21 September 2021 16:51

To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Cc: News Desk Communications Education & Skills [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Head SFIO [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Wilson M (Mick) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Anson S (Sam) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Pentland MK (Malcolm) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Taylor A (Alison) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Minister for Children & Young People Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training

Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: Media query - SQA stats/Labour NR - PA, Telegraph, The Sun, The Scotsman

## **PO/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills**

Various media have approached us on SQA stats today that show a local authority and state/independent school breakdown of this year's results. Most of the criticism is on the widened attainment gap. The Telegraph in particular, is contrasting the results between state and independent schools. Grateful for clearance on the following lines.

Many thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

### A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"We remain committed to closing the attainment gap and ensuring every young person has the chance to fulfil their potential.

"This year's SQA results saw a narrower poverty-related attainment gap compared with 2019, and the number of university acceptances from the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland reached a record high for SQA Results Day.



“Progress has been made but we know there is more to do. That’s why we are investing a further £1 billion over the course of this Parliament to help to close the attainment gap.

“The attainment gap between pupils in state and independent schools for passes in Highers and Advanced Highers was narrower in 2021 than in 2019.”

QUERY – PA, Scotsman

Commenting on today’s SQA statistics, **Scottish Labour’s Education spokesperson Michael Marra said:** “The statistics out today confirm once again that the SNP and SQA designed a system this year which widened and engrained Scotland’s already substantial attainment gap.

“We have seen the most privileged pupils benefit, and the poorest lose out by design.

“Far from closing the gap – as was supposed to be their ‘defining mission’ – they have made it worse, and it is the poorest pupils in Scotland who pay the price of the Government’s failure.

“As we look ahead to next year, we must ensure that the mistakes of the past two years are not repeated, but once again we are in a situation where there seems to be little-to no detail in the Government’s plans. Urgent clarity is needed, to avoid a third year of disaster for Scottish pupils.”

QUERY – The Telegraph, The Sun

Just looking for ScotGov lines on this year's SQA attainment stats - particularly the figures highlighted here showing a widening of the attainment gap between pupils at private schools and pupils at state schools:

[https://twitter.com/DSanderson\\_85/status/1440260362813665286](https://twitter.com/DSanderson_85/status/1440260362813665286)

Query – Daily Mail, Herald

Scottish Conservative Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Education Oliver Mundell MSP said: “After 14 years of failure the SNP have lost all ambition to close the widening attainment gap.

“Pupils have already had to adapt to disrupted learning, and these latest figures confirm they are also coming up against an education system that delivers equity in name only.

“Without further investment to help pupils catch up and a clear plan to restore consistent standards in our education system, this generation are going to be left behind with fewer opportunities available to them.

“For those growing up in our most deprived communities, the SNP’s broken promises risk irreparable damage to their future prospects. The lack of progress and priority from SNP Ministers falls far short of what young people across Scotland deserve.”



**Cc:** News Desk Communications Education & Skills [redacted 38(1)(b)] Head SFIO [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Wilson M (Mick) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Anson S (Sam) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Pentland MK (Malcolm) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Taylor A (Alison) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: SpAds views: Media query - SQA stats/Labour NR - PA, Telegraph, The Sun, The Scotsman

Ok thanks

Thanks

Ross

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 21 September 2021 16:33

**To:** Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills

<CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Head SFIO [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Wilson M (Mick) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Anson S (Sam) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Pentland MK (Malcolm) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Taylor A (Alison) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** SpAds views: Media query - SQA stats/Labour NR - PA, Telegraph, The Sun, The Scotsman

Hello SpAds

Various media have approached us on SQA stats today that show a local authority and state/independent school breakdown of this year's results. Most of the criticism, including from Michael Marra, is on the widened attainment gap. The Telegraph in particular, is contrasting the results between state and independent schools. Grateful for views on the following lines.

Thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We remain committed to closing the attainment gap and ensuring every young person has the chance to fulfil their potential.

“This year's SQA results saw a narrower poverty-related attainment gap compared with 2019, and the number of university acceptances from the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland reached a record high for SQA Results Day.

“Progress has been made but we know there is more to do. That's why we are investing a further £1 billion over the course of this Parliament to help to close the attainment gap.

“The attainment gap between pupils in state and independent schools for passes in Highers and Advanced Highers was narrower in 2021 than in 2019.”

#### QUERY – PA

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“Far from closing the gap – as was supposed to be their ‘defining mission’ – they have made it worse, and it is the poorest pupils in Scotland who pay the price of the Government’s failure.

“As we look ahead to next year, we must ensure that the mistakes of the past two years are not repeated, but once again we are in a situation where there seems to be little-to no detail in the Government’s plans. Urgent clarity is needed, to avoid a third year of disaster for Scottish pupils.”

#### QUERY – The Telegraph

Just looking for ScotGov lines on this year's SQA attainment stats - particularly the figures highlighted here showing a widening of the attainment gap between pupils at private schools and pupils at state schools:

[https://twitter.com/DSanderson\\_85/status/1440260362813665286](https://twitter.com/DSanderson_85/status/1440260362813665286)

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Education & Skills

Desk: [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 21 September 2021 13:43

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** News Desk Communications Education & Skills

**Subject:** for allocation - MARRA COMMENTS ON SQA STATISTICS - PA

Hello [redacted 38(1)(b)] – one for allocation thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager

Newsdesk

M: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 21 September 2021 13:42  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** FW: MARRA COMMENTS ON SQA STATISTICS

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Here's the Labour release on SQA stats for comment please

Thanks  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**PA Media** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

P2/14, Media Tower, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99  
1SP

**M** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**T** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** Scottish Labour Party Press Office  
**Sent:** 21 September 2021 13:16  
**To:** Scottish Labour Party Press Office  
**Subject:** MARRA COMMENTS ON SQA STATISTICS

## **NEWS FROM SCOTTISH LABOUR**

### **MARRA COMMENTS ON SQA STATISTICS**

#### **IMMEDIATE**

Commenting on today's SQA statistics, **Scottish Labour's Education spokesperson Michael Marra said:** "The statistics out today confirm once again that the SNP and SQA designed a system this year which widened and engrained Scotland's already substantial attainment gap.

"We have seen the most privileged pupils benefit, and the poorest lose out by design.

"Far from closing the gap – as was supposed to be their 'defining mission' – they have made it worse, and it is the poorest pupils in Scotland who pay the price of the Government's failure.

"As we look ahead to next year, we must ensure that the mistakes of the past two years are not repeated, but once again we are in a situation where there seems to be little-to no

detail in the Government's plans. Urgent clarity is needed, to avoid a third year of disaster for Scottish pupils."

**ENDS**

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 30 September 2021 16:06  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Cc:** News Desk Communications Education & Skills [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: Media query - Calls for SQA CEO resignation - The Scotsman

Yes, thanks, [redacted 38(1)(b)] . I'll sort.  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Senior Media Manager  
Communications Education & Skills  
Desk: [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 30 September 2021 15:30  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Cc:** News Desk Communications Education & Skills [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** Media query - Calls for SQA CEO resignation - The Scotsman

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)] ,

Got a query from The Scotsman about the SQA/ EHRC story – one for your team perhaps?

Kind regards,  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 30 September 2021 15:33  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** Calls for SQA CEO resignation

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)] ,

As discussed, looking for an SG line in response to the calls from Scottish Labour for the CEO of the SQA to resign following the EHRC agreement today.

EHRC PR: [https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/scottish-qualifications-authority-signs-legal-agreement-improve-equality-practices?utm\\_source=e-shot&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=GBnewsletterSeptember2021](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/scottish-qualifications-authority-signs-legal-agreement-improve-equality-practices?utm_source=e-shot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=GBnewsletterSeptember2021)

Michael Marra's tweet here: <https://twitter.com/michaeljmarra/status/1443579782088646662>

Best,  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

--

Best wishes,  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**[redacted 38(1)(b)]**

The Scotsman

Phone: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Mobile: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 04 October 2021 15:52

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)] **Cc:** News Desk [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Communications Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] redacted) Chief Nursing Officer [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] redacted) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] redacted) Deputy Director of Health Workforce; HWF Directorate Support Unit [redacted 38(1)(b)] Director of Health Workforce [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] CNOD Education Ward C (Christine) Murray D (Diane) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Deputy Director of Health Workforce [redacted 38(1)(b)] DG Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)] Burns J (John) [redacted 38(1)(b)] McCallum R (Richard) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Leitch J (Jason) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Director of Population Health [redacted 38(1)(b)] Chief Medical Officer [redacted 38(1)(b)] Chief Nursing Officer [redacted 38(1)(b)] Director of Health Workforce [redacted 38(1)(b)] Covid-19 Director [redacted 38(1)(b)] Head of HSCA [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] redacted) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Ward C (Christine); Stewart S (Susan) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily); Minister for Public Health, [redacted 38(1)(b)] Women's Health & Sport [redacted 38(1)(b)] Minister for Mental Wellbeing & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)] DG Health & Social Care Chief Medical Officer [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** For Cab Sec clearance please - media query - QEUH 'staffing crisis' - Daily Record/Herald

Good afternoon PO,

We've been asked to comment on the Labour news release at the bottom of this email thread, which claims a staffing crisis at QEUH with a rise in covid-related absences, and nursing particularly hit.

NHS GGC have provided their statement, which I've pasted in below.

Grateful for clearance of the following lines. Policy and SpAds are content.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Staffing levels in Scotland’s NHS have reached a new record high after an increase of over 5,000 whole time equivalent staff in the last year. Thanks to nine

consecutive years of staffing increases we have an extra 25,000 staff working in our health service, an 11 per cent increase in qualified nurses and midwives and a steady rise in places on pre-registration nursing and midwifery undergraduate training programmes.

“We recognise the acute workforce capacity challenges across NHS services and we are working hard to bring in new capacity and realign existing services to continue to provide timeous, effective and appropriately prioritised care.

“Current absence levels at QEUH are 20 – the quoted figure of 56 comes from a week in August when Scotland saw a rise in COVID cases after schools returned.

“NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde is taking steps to bring in 670 newly qualified nurses – with 578 already in post and the remaining 92 starting as soon as their registration is processed. In addition, around 500 more Health Care Support Workers are joining the Board’s bank during the winter.

“Our NHS Recovery Plan has more than £1 billion of targeted investment, including a commitment to provide £11 million for new national and international recruitment campaigns and to establish a national Centre for Workforce Supply.”

## **NHS GREATER GLASGOW AND CLYDE STATEMENT**

NHSGGC has highly skilled and dedicated nursing workforce. We are extremely grateful to staff and we are working closely with them and partnership colleagues to consider ways we can support them during this difficult time.

While recognise there are staffing challenges at the QEUH, we would highlight our most recent figures (October 04) show that across QEUH there are 20 individuals absent due to COVID-19, which is proportionately in line with HSCPs and other directorates. Furthermore, the figures quoted by Ms Baillie are from the last week in August which coincides with schools returning and reflect a period when there was a higher level of community based transmission across Scotland. This spike in absences is not unique to the QEUH.

We have taken a number of measures to increase staffing levels across sites and have been able to reassign some non-clinical staff to support frontline operations and we are starting to see positive changes as a result. We have brought on board 578 newly qualified nurses with a significant number taking on roles at the QEUH over the past month. A number of these staff joined us early to provide support to our services.

Furthermore we have undertaken targeted redeployment of medical staff as well as seeking support from clinical academics. We are actively recruiting additional healthcare support workers and taking steps to build our resources in our staff bank, with around 500 more Health Care Support Workers HCSWs joining our Bank to support us during winter.



Finally, we have robust infection prevention and controls in place alongside a testing policy which sees staff take twice weekly lateral flow tests. This means that if a staff member does test positive, we're able to minimise any potential cross-transmission within the hospital setting.

Many thanks,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**COVID-19 Communications – Health and Social Care**

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [Working from home - M:](#)

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** QEUH 'staffing crisis'

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Thanks for your time. Release from Scottish Labour below.

Does the QEUH face a staffing crisis and what steps has the SG taken to ensure hospitals are not stretched even further this winter?

Looking for a response by 3pm.

Best,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

## **BAILLIE RAISES ALARM AS QEUH COVID ABSENCES RISE SHARPLY**

**EMBARGOED: 22:30 MONDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2021**

Scottish Labour has called for urgent action to fill staffing gaps throughout the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital to avoid deepening the looming winter crisis.

The hospital is already under severe strain with elective surgery cancelled or postponed; a shortage of acute beds; A&E struggling to cope and ambulances queuing round the block.

Statistics obtained by Scottish Labour have shown that Covid-related absences have risen sharply at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, with the daily average number of staff absent due to Covid as high as 56 in the week commencing 26 August – more than double the number (22.7) nine weeks prior.

The statistics also show that Nursing and Midwifery services have been particularly badly hit, with 57% of Covid absences at the hospital related to these staff groups since the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

With the hospital already under immense strain and the winter looming, Jackie Baillie is calling on the SNP government to wake up to the staffing crisis at the hospital and act to fill staffing gaps.

Commenting, **Scottish Labour health spokesperson Jackie Baillie said:**

“It is clear that the Scotland’s flagship hospital is in the midst of a staffing crisis.

“With operations being cancelled and the Red Cross being drafted in to assist at the hospital, it is clear that lives are at risk if action is not taken now.

“That over half of Covid-19 absences are in nursing and midwifery services is both shocking and dangerous.

“This simply cannot continue.

“If action is not taken now to plug these huge gaps in staffing the situation at the hospital will only deteriorate further.”

**ENDS**

#### **Notes to editors**

Data received in response to a Freedom of Information request. Relevant tables copied below but full response available on request.

2. Nearly 60% (57%) of Covid positive cases were among Nursing and Midwifery staff.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**[redacted 38(1)(b)]**

Daily Record

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 04 October 2021 10:47

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** News Desk Communications Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: FOR ALLOCATION - media query - QEUH 'staffing crisis' - Daily Record

No, no need just ignore me pls [redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] pls do just see if we can update the S Post line and tally with NHSG

Thanks v much for taking [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 04 October 2021 10:46

**To** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** News Desk Communications Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: FOR ALLOCATION - media query - QEUH 'staffing crisis' - Daily Record

Hi all, this wasn't part of the ambulance lines – NHSGGC lines below for that, [redacted 38(1)(b)] handled.

I'll have a look in basket to see if it was a separate query.

## NHSGGC STATEMENT

We would like to thank all our staff for working professionally and compassionately under significant pressure to care for our patients. We are working closely with colleagues with the Scottish Ambulance Service to improve the experience for patients in transferring from ambulances to our emergency departments. Actions include a new trial basing two senior paramedic staff on the QEUH site which gets underway this weekend.

The creation of an additional 10 bedded ward is not something which has been proposed as part of our plans.

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 04 October 2021 10:42

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** News Desk Communications Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: FOR ALLOCATION - media query - QEUH 'staffing crisis' - Daily Record

Hey thanks v much [redacted 38(1)(b)] – that would be fab

Did we do this on Friday??? [redacted 38(1)(b)] this came into play with the ambulance lines??

[redacted 38(1)(b)] : Can you speak to Glasgow pls and get out lines to tally with theirs?

That way we can say: As NHS Glasgow have made clear .... Blah di blah

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 04 October 2021 10:39

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** News Desk Communications Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** FOR ALLOCATION - media query - QEUH 'staffing crisis' - Daily Record

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

This just in – and I did lines around this very recently so I'm happy to pick up if you're ok with that?

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 04 October 2021 10:35

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **Subject:** QEUH 'staffing crisis'

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Thanks for your time. Release from Scottish Labour below.

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Best,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

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“With operations being cancelled and the Red Cross being drafted in to assist at the hospital, it is clear that lives are at risk if action is not taken now.

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“This simply cannot continue.

“If action is not taken now to plug these huge gaps in staffing the situation at the hospital will only deteriorate further.”

**ENDS**

### **Notes to editors**

Data received in response to a Freedom of Information request. Relevant tables copied below but full response available on request.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**[redacted 38(1)(b)]**

**Daily Record**

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 07 October 2021 18:22

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; News Desk Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) Mackintosh E (Emily) >; [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE - PWC contract for National Care Service - Scotsman/Telegraph/Herald/PA/Health and CareScot

Now, including duty colleagues. Thanks

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 07 October 2021 17:25

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Health & Social Care ; News Desk <[Newsdesk@gov.scot](mailto:Newsdesk@gov.scot)>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) Mackintosh E (Emily) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** FOR CLEARANCE - PWC contract for National Care Service - Scotsman/Telegraph/Herald/PA/Health and CareScot

Good afternoon Cabinet Secretary/PO

The Scotsman, PA, Herald and the Telegraph has asked why the SG has awarded a £100,000 contract to PwC to do work on the National Care Service.

The STUC and Scottish Labour have also issued comments which are critical of the contract (below).

I have liaised with SpAds and policy colleagues and have a proposed line.

Would be grateful for your view.

Kind regards

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

### **PROPOSED LINE**

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“PwC have a contract to support the setup of the Design Authority programme management structure to support the introduction of a National Care Service, pending the findings of the consultation.

“This award is for programme set up only to help underpin our efforts in ensuring that the design, governance and structure of planning for any the National Care Service builds on best practice principles for outcome focused, person-centred design. The contract has been awarded through an existing national Framework and offers the best balance of cost and quality.”

### **Background**

We are keen to receive as many responses to the National Care Service Consultation as possible, the consultation is open until the 2 November and can be accessed at [redacted 38(1)(b)]

### **REPORTER QUERY**

#### **Scotsman**

As discussed, spotted this contract for PwC around the National Care Service:

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Wondering why the government needs to pay so handsomely for the consultancy firm's work, and what benefit this provides, and why it can't be done in house?

Also keen to know what the hourly rate for this work is for PwC and how many PwC staff will work on this contract.

#### **Scottish Labour NR**

Commenting on the news that PricewaterhouseCoopers has been awarded an £100,000 contract to help design the National Care Service, **Scottish Labour deputy leader Jackie Baillie said:**

"It is deeply troubling to see this contract to design the National Care Service being handed to a single private sector bidder.

"Serious questions need to be asked about the procedure surrounding the tendering of the contract and why only one private sector body formalised a bid. But perhaps of more significance, why is there not the expertise within the public sector – in health and social care or with the army of civil servants in Edinburgh?

"If we are to have a National Care Service worthy of the name, then care users, social care workers, the third sector and experts must be at its heart."

### **STUC comment**

STUC General Secretary [redacted 38(1)(b)] said:

“Whilst this is only a small contract, beginnings matter. We will vigorously oppose any move towards outsourcing the vital project of creating a National Care Service to companies with a vested interest in privatised provision. We note that there was only one bidder for the contract. We also see no reason why the skills and expertise of directly employed civil servants are not being utilised. South of the border, the past year has seen the continued growth of the consultancy gravy train with massive contracts awarded to companies with clear interests in private sector provision of public services, we do not want this replicated in Scotland.”

### **Health and care**

The story will include some quotes questioning the role of PWC in the care system, and previous government commitments that the service would be shaped by a national steering group of ‘real-life experts’.

**[redacted 38(1)(b)]**

Senior Media Manager

Scottish Government

Tel: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Mob: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 08 October 2021 11:36

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Communications Education & Skills

**Subject:** For allocation - School ventilation - Sunday Post

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Labour claims SG has delayed improving ventilation in classrooms. 5pm deadline.

Can you take a look please?

Thanks.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Sent: 08 October 2021 11:22

To: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** FW: SNP MUST ACT ON SCHOOL VENTILATION AS WINTER BITES

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)] ,

Would you like to comment on the press release from Labour, embargoed for Sunday?

In addition, I note that the cab sec for education told education committee councils won't get their share of £10m funding until November.

Given the funding was announced in early August when the FM underlined the importance of these measures, why is it taking almost four months to provide the funding?

Deadline is 5pm.

Thanks,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**News Reporter**

The Sunday Post

The Sunday Post

50 High Craighall Rd

Glasgow G4 9UD

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Twitter:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**The SUNDAY POST**

[www.sundaypost.com](http://www.sundaypost.com)

**From:** Scottish Labour Party Press Office

**Sent:** 08 October 2021 10:59

**To:** Scottish Labour Party Press Office

**Subject:** SNP MUST ACT ON SCHOOL VENTILATION AS WINTER BITES

**EXTERNAL SENDER:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

**NEWS FROM SCOTTISH LABOUR**

**SNP MUST ACT ON SCHOOL VENTILATION AS WINTER BITES**

**EMBARGOED: 00:01 SUNDAY 10TH OCTOBER**



Scottish Labour has today called on the SNP government to act now on school ventilation, as temperatures are set to plummet as we head into winter.

During the summer, the Scottish Government announced a £10 million fund to better ventilate classrooms.

This however is equivalent to just £4,030 per school, and the inspection of classrooms will not be complete until the October holidays – over ten weeks after schools returned.

Scottish Labour has highlighted research which shows how proper ventilation in classrooms is key to stopping the spread of COVID-19 in schools, amid a high number of absences linked to the pandemic.

Anecdotal evidence from the frontline in education has also suggested that the work carried out so far has often been inadequate or flawed.

With winter fast approaching, Scottish Labour has said that the idea that the government's ventilation scheme amounts to keeping windows open is 'farfical and dangerous.'

Labour has accused the government of wasting a summer by not carrying out inspections and has called for urgent action to improve air quality.

Commenting, **Scottish Labour education spokesperson Michael Marra said:**

"The SNP government has had all summer to act to improve ventilation, but far too little has been done.

"With cases in schools very high and winter on the way there is simply no time to waste.

"Winter is looming, with temperatures set to plummet. That the SNP's ventilation strategy currently amounts to keeping the windows open is both farfical and dangerous.

"We simply cannot have children huddled together in freezing classrooms this winter.

"Make no mistake – failure to act now will put our pupils, teachers and their families in danger."

**ENDS**

#### **Notes to editors**

Document attached.

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 08 October 2021 11:39

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Communications Education & Skills [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: For allocation - School ventilation - Sunday Post

Thank [redacted 38(1)(b)] – [redacted 38(1)(b)] can you take this for us please?

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Communications: Education & Skills

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

e: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

m: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children & Young People

**Sent:** 11 October 2021 16:16

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Minister for Children & Young People

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; News Desk Communications Education & Skills; Drought A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Livey D (David) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Media enquiry - immediate - primary school class size - Dunfermline Press

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Ms Haughey is content.

Thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | **Private Secretary** | **Minister for Children and Young People**

📞: [redacted 38(1)(b)] | Mobile: [redacted 38(1)(b)] | St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 11 October 2021 15:47

**To:** Minister for Children & Young People

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] News Desk Communications Education & Skills Drought A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Livey D (David) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Subject:** FOR CLEARANCE: Media enquiry - immediate - primary school class size - Dunfermline Press

**PS/Minister for Children & Young People**

[redacted 38(1)(b)] , a reporter from the Dunfermline Press, is looking for a response to the news release – copied below – from Fife MSP Alex Rowley regarding primary school class sizes.

The reporter has asked what the Scottish Government is doing to reduce class sizes.

Is Ms Haughey content to clear the response copied below that has been agreed with policy colleagues and FM spad?

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager  
Communications Education  
The Scottish Government  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The average primary class size last year was the lowest since 2012. Teacher numbers are at their highest since 1980.

“Since the pandemic we have provided £240m for additional staffing to aid education recovery. Local authorities may be able to use the funding we have provided for additional staff to reduce class sizes to meet local requirements.

“We are committed to reducing teachers’ class contact time by one-and-a-half hours per week to reduce their workload and to free them up to prepare lessons and improve their skills. We will work with our SNCT partners to achieve this.”

## **Background**

The average class size for pupils in primary schools in 2020 was 23.1, down from 23.5 in 2019. This is the lowest average class size since 2012.

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**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 07 October 2021 15:39

**Subject:** PRESS RELEASE: PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASS SIZE INEQUALITY IN FIFE

### **PRESS RELEASE: PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASS SIZE INEQUALITY IN FIFE**

The number of primary class sizes with over 25 and 30 pupils per classroom is shockingly high in Fife; that is the message from Fife MSP Alex Rowley.

Through a Freedom of Information request submitted to Fife Council by the MSP it was shown that local schools have 412 primary classes with other 25 pupils per classroom and 136 primary classes with over 30 children in them in the current academic year.

The Labour MSP has now raised a motion in the Scottish Parliament highlighting increasing class sizes which he claims are one of the major drivers in inequality of education and saying that a reduction in class sizes would help education recovery.

#### ***Commenting Mr Rowley said:***

“There is a wealth of research showing that reducing class sizes can have positive impacts on our children’s education, particularly more disadvantaged pupils, as well as increasing overall student achievement.

“Many private independent schools operate with teacher/pupil ratios between 1:05 to 1:12, yet we have so many kids in state schools with classes over 30. This drives inequality in education. Every

child deserves access to the best education possible which is why we need to get class sizes under control.”

In the motion tabled in Parliament Mr Rowley also quotes from the **General Secretary of the EIS** teachers union **Larry Flanagan** who commented on the governments education recovery strategy and stated:

“Overall, however, the plan largely re-states existing work streams and fails to promote a single big initiative such as a reduction in class sizes, which would catalyse an education recovery programme and bring immediate benefits to Scotland’s children and young people.

“Smaller class sizes, even on a limited basis, such as P2 and P3 or S1 and S2, would mean more teacher time per pupil and assist with targeted interventions where the pandemic has impacted disproportionately on children’s lives.

“As a country, we need to be bolder in our ambitions for our youth”

**Mr Rowley added:**

“I encourage parents to speak up on class sizes. It is not right that the ability of parents to pay for education gives some children a better chance to achieve. We need more teachers, more teaching assistants and smaller class sizes if we are to achieve equality for all in education. Given what pupils have been through, we must be more ambitious for education recovery”.

**ENDS**

**From:** Livey D (David) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 11 October 2021 15:21

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] News Desk Communications Education & Skills [redacted 38(1)(b)] Drought A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: Media enquiry - immediate - primary school class size - Dunfermline Press

I’ve added a couple of suggested lines – for policy folk to check though.

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 11 October 2021 12:24

**To:** Livey D (David) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] News Desk Communications Education & Skills [redacted 38(1)(b)] Drought A (Andrew) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: Media enquiry - immediate - primary school class size - Dunfermline Press

Hi David – are you content with that add?

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 11 October 2021 11:55

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Education & Skills News Desk

**Subject:** RE: For allocation - media enquiry - primary school class size - Dunfermline press

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Nice to (kind of) meet you!

We'll sort this, thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Education & Skills

Desk: [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Sent: 11 October 2021 11:47

To: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Cc: [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Education & Skills News Desk

**Subject:** For allocation - media enquiry - primary school class size - Dunfermline press

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] from Dunfermline Press is looking for a response to Alex Rowley regarding primary school class sizes.

Deadline is 5pm tomorrow.

Can you confirm if you can pick this up?

Thanks,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | Media Manager

Social Justice, Housing & Local Government | Scottish Government

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 11 October 2021 11:39

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** Fw: PRESS RELEASE: PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASS SIZE INEQUALITY IN FIFE

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

In response to Alex Rowley I would ask what the Scottish Government doing to reduce class sizes? This refers to the whole of Fife but Dunfermline had major development and there's been lots of calls for investment for infrastructure. (SG have just announced last week the money for transport infrastructure).

My deadline is 5pm tomorrow.

Many thanks,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Reporter**

**Dunfermline Press and West Fife Advertiser (Mon-Wed)**

**The Herald (Thurs-Fri)**  
**Newsquest Media Group**  
**email:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Tel:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Mob:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

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**From:** SCO-Dunfermline-Editorial  
**Sent:** 11 October 2021 08:54  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** Fw: PRESS RELEASE: PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASS SIZE INEQUALITY IN FIFE  
Story please with response from Govt.  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

---

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 07 October 2021 15:39  
**Subject:** PRESS RELEASE: PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASS SIZE INEQUALITY IN FIFE  
**PRESS RELEASE: PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASS SIZE INEQUALITY IN FIFE**

The number of primary class sizes with over 25 and 30 pupils per classroom is shockingly high in Fife; that is the message from Fife MSP Alex Rowley.

Through a Freedom of Information request submitted to Fife Council by the MSP it was shown that local schools have 412 primary classes with other 25 pupils per classroom and 136 primary classes with over 30 children in them in the current academic year.

The Labour MSP has now raised a motion in the Scottish Parliament highlighting increasing class sizes which he claims are one of the major drivers in inequality of education and saying that a reduction in class sizes would help education recovery.

***Commenting Mr Rowley said:***

“There is a wealth of research showing that reducing class sizes can have positive impacts on our children’s education, particularly more disadvantaged pupils, as well as increasing overall student achievement.

“Many private independent schools operate with teacher/pupil ratios between 1:05 to 1:12, yet we have so many kids in state schools with classes over 30. This drives inequality in education. Every child deserves access to the best education possible which is why we need to get class sizes under control.”

In the motion tabled in Parliament Mr Rowley also quotes from the **General Secretary of the EIS** teachers union **Larry Flanagan** who commented on the governments education recovery strategy and stated:

“Overall, however, the plan largely re-states existing work streams and fails to promote a single big initiative such as a reduction in class sizes, which would catalyse an education recovery programme and bring immediate benefits to Scotland’s children and young people.

“Smaller class sizes, even on a limited basis, such as P2 and P3 or S1 and S2, would mean more teacher time per pupil and assist with targeted interventions where the pandemic has impacted disproportionately on children’s lives.

“As a country, we need to be bolder in our ambitions for our youth”

***Mr Rowley added:***

“I encourage parents to speak up on class sizes. It is not right that the ability of parents to pay for education gives some children a better chance to achieve. We need more teachers, more teaching assistants and smaller class sizes if we are to achieve equality for all in education. Given what pupils have been through, we must be more ambitious for education recovery”.

**ENDS**

[redacted 38(1)(b)]  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Office of Alex Rowley MSP**, Mid Scotland and Fife  
[redacted 38(1)(b)] / [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser)  
**Sent:** 12 October 2021 13:55  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) Mackintosh E (Emily)  
**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] News Desk [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Health & Social Care  
**Subject:** RE: SPAD VIEW: Media query - P&J - Ambulance turnaround times FOI

OK

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 12 October 2021 13:41  
**To:** Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Mackintosh E (Emily) [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] News Desk [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Health & Social Care  
**Subject:** SPAD VIEW: Media query - P&J - Ambulance turnaround times FOI

Hi spads

We have been approached by the P&J to ask about the attached FOI on ambulance turnaround times.

We have lines from yesterday, which have been slightly updated by policy colleagues, grateful for views please.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Covid-19 pandemic has been the biggest shock the NHS has suffered in its 73-year existence and has heaped pressure on our ambulance service and wider NHS. **The Scottish Ambulance Service are working closely with Health Boards to reduce turnaround times at hospitals.**

“The Health Secretary recently set out £20 million of additional funding to help increase ambulance service capacity, improve response times and staff wellbeing.

“The ambulance service is also carrying out a national review of demand and capacity which will help to ensure they are working as efficiently as possible and have resources in place to meet both current and projected future demand.

“We are committed to supporting this work and recently announced a further £20 million in funding for the review. As part of this review, the service will see new ambulances introduced

and almost 300 additional staff in place throughout the country. This will reduce the requirement for on-call working in some of our more rural communities.”

## Query

We are working on a piece about increasing turnaround times for ambulances at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Dr Gray’s Hospital in Elgin and the Royal Aberdeen Children’s Hospital.

Attached is the data we got back from an FOI request, which dates back to 2014.

Some of the relevant points -

**In 2014, of 21,410 trips to ARI, the average turnaround time was 19 minutes and 40 seconds.**

**That has steadily increased every year since then, reaching 26:27 by 2018 and soaring to 34:38 for the 14,260 trips between this January and the end of July.**

**The number of times an ambulance was stuck outside ARI for more than an hour went from 136 in 2014 to 420 in 2019.**

**The pandemic made matters much worse, with it happening 1,686 times in 2020 and 2,828 times in the first seven months of this year.**

**The number of ambulances waiting more than two hours went from seven in 2014 to 637 in 2021 so far.**

**Meanwhile 104 have had to wait more than three hours this year and a dozen have had to idle for more than four hours.**

**Figures show that a number between zero and five had to wait more than five hours.**

**The longest turnaround time recorded in 2014 was four hours. In 2021, the longest wait was just over 23-and-a-half hours.**

**At Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin, the average turnaround time went up from 15:40 in 2014 to 24:34 this year.**

**At the Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital, ambulance waiting times went up from an average of 14:41 in 2014 to 21:16 this year.**

**There were seven occasions when ambulances had to wait more than an hour before dropping off their young patients in 2021.**

We have had comment back from Deputy Leader of Scottish Labour, Jackie Baillie, and Scottish Conservatives leader Douglas Ross. Copied below.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

“Ambulance services across the north east have been underfunded for far too long by the SNP.

Ministers cannot continue to hide behind Covid for their failure over a number of years to support overwhelmed ambulance staff.

“These figures lay bare how the pandemic has completely exacerbated this crisis in our ambulance service. Funding from Humza Yousaf is too little and has come too late and more and more patients are suffering as a result.

“Humza Yousaf and Nicola Sturgeon failed to accept this crisis as it unfolded in front of them. I would hope the situation will now be improving due to the support from our British Armed Forces, but the SNP Health Secretary must maximise their use.

“Every effort must be made to avoid these turnaround times completely spiralling out of control.”



Baillie –

“These appalling figures lay bare the chaos that has engulfed ambulance services in Aberdeen and across Scotland.

“Ambulance turnaround times are quite literally a matter of life and death for some people.

“The pandemic has pushed things to crisis point but these problems have been building for years.

“The SNP failed to get their house in order before the pandemic – and now we are paying the price.

“They must act now to save lives.”

Could we please have a response to the above by 5pm today from the Scottish Government’s perspective on the work ongoing to tackle the problem and explaining why more wasn’t done before things got so bad this summer?

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Media Manager | Scottish Government

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Please note: my non-work day is a Monday**

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **Sent:** 14 October 2021 12:57

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Communications Health & Social Care <CommunicationsHealth&SocialCare@gov.scot>; [redacted 38(1)(b)] >; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Smith L (Lucy)(Communications) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: for allocation - Self-harm strategy and temporary accommodation - PA

Thanks [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Sure, leave it with me please.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 14 October 2021 11:42

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** News Desk Communications Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** for allocation - Self-harm strategy and temporary accommodation - PA

[redacted 38(1)(b)] – you ok to go back on this?

[redacted 38(1)(b)] – another customer

[redacted 38(1)(b)] Senior Media Manager

Newsdesk  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 14 October 2021 11:17  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** Self-harm strategy and temporary accommodation

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

I understand the government's new self-harm strategy is being released today, just looking for an indication of when that will be.

Also looking for a response to a press release from Scottish Labour's press release on temporary accommodation (I've attached it to this email).

They say families are spending increasingly longer in temporary accommodation.

Thanks,  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** Scottish Labour Party Press Office  
**Sent:** 14 October 2021 10:02  
**To:** Scottish Labour Party Press Office  
**Subject:** GRIFFIN: KIDS FACE "DISGRACEFUL" STAYS IN TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

## **NEWS FROM SCOTTISH LABOUR**

### **GRIFFIN: KIDS FACE "DISGRACEFUL" STAYS IN TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION**

#### **IMMEDIATE**

Scottish Labour have slammed "disgraceful" length of time children spend in temporary accommodation, as figures show the average stay for couples with children has risen to almost a year.

New analysis of homeless statistics for 2020-21 has revealed that children are facing increasingly lengthy spells in temporary accommodation, with average stays increasing year on year since 2017-18.

On average, a couple with children now spends almost a year in temporary accommodation, with average stays now at a shocking 341 days. This is almost 5 months longer than a couple without children.

Similarly, single parents typically wait an extra 53 days compared to their childless counterparts.

This disparity is growing, with families being hit particularly hard by lengthening stays during the pandemic.

Since 2018-19, the average stay for single parents has increased by 25 days or 12 per cent, while couples with children have faced an astonishing 30 per cent increase, with average stays rising by over 2.5 months.

These are both well above the average increase of 16 days or 9 per cent across all households.

Scottish Labour have accused the SNP of a “total dereliction of duty” for letting stays spiral out of control.

Commenting, **Scottish Labour’s Housing spokesperson Mark Griffin said:**

“These ever-growing stays in temporary accommodation are nothing short of disgraceful.

“Any civilised society should be getting children into proper homes as a matter of urgency – but we are falling woefully short.

“It is shameful that some children will go through the best part of an entire school year stuck in limbo.

“It is particularly unthinkable for children to face months on end in temporary accommodation, but it is a scandal for people of any age to have to endure this.

“These spiralling stays represent a total dereliction of duty from the SNP.

“We need a real strategy for tackling homelessness, that doesn’t rely on endless stays in temporary accommodation.”

**ENDS**

**Notes**

**Table 37: Average total time (days) spent in temporary accommodation, by household type: 2017-18 to 2020-21**

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Change 2018-19 to 2020-21	% change 2018-19 to 2020-21	Additional days vs childless equivalent
<b>All households</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>199</b>	16	9%	
Single Person	163	167	174	182	15	9%	
Single Parent	193	210	210	235	25	12%	53
Couple	175	176	178	190	14	8%	

Couple with Children	258	263	266	341	78	30%	151
Other	192	192	193	209	17	9%	
Other with Children	242	264	257	294	30	11%	85

Source: [Homelessness in Scotland 2020- 2021](#) Main Tables, Table 37

Sent by email from the Scottish Labour Party, promoted by James Kelly, Scottish General Secretary, on behalf of the Scottish Labour Party, both at 290 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4RE.

Website: <https://www.scottishlabour.org.uk>.

To join or renew call [0345 092 2299](tel:03450922299).

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 15 October 2021 15:55

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government

**Cc:** News Desk; Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government; [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) **Subject:** For awareness - media query - children in temporary accommodation

[redacted 38(1)(b)] , PO

For awareness, we were approached yesterday by numerous outlets for a response to the below Labour news release on children in temporary accommodation.

The following lines were agreed with policy officials and SpAds – we issued on SpAd clearance as Cab Sec was on leave.

Thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Temporary accommodation can offer an important emergency safety net for anyone who finds themselves homeless, but we recognise that it should be a purely temporary measure, particularly for families with children.

“Local authorities share our ambition to ensure stays in temporary accommodation are short-term, and we will be working with them to achieve this. For some councils it can take a long time to acquire an appropriate property to match a household’s particular needs. We are investing £37.5 million to support councils to prioritise settled accommodation for all as part of our aim that everyone has a warm, safe and affordable home. We also have a target of delivering 110,000 more affordable homes by 2032, with at least 70% for social rent, building on our record of delivering over 103000 affordable homes since 2007.”

## Background

- Temporary accommodation figures will include households who have turned down multiple offers of settled accommodation by the local authority and chosen to stay in temporary accommodation.

- The Scottish Government also collects snapshot aggregate information about temporary accommodation at the end of every quarter. This shows that 73% of households in temporary accommodation were provided with housing association accommodation (either furnished or unfurnished) or with furnished local authority accommodation.

## **NEWS FROM SCOTTISH LABOUR**

### **GRIFFIN: KIDS FACE “DISGRACEFUL” STAYS IN TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION**

#### **IMMEDIATE**

Scottish Labour have slammed “disgraceful” length of time children spend in temporary accommodation, as figures show the average stay for couples with children has risen to almost a year.

New analysis of homeless statistics for 2020-21 has revealed that children are facing increasingly lengthy spells in temporary accommodation, with average stays increasing year on year since 2017-18.

On average, a couple with children now spends almost a year in temporary accommodation, with average stays now at a shocking 341 days. This is almost 5 months longer than a couple without children.

Similarly, single parents typically wait an extra 53 days compared to their childless counterparts.

This disparity is growing, with families being hit particularly hard by lengthening stays during the pandemic.

Since 2018-19, the average stay for single parents has increased by 25 days or 12 per cent, while couples with children have faced an astonishing 30 per cent increase, with average stays rising by over 2.5 months.

These are both well above the average increase of 16 days or 9 per cent across all households.

Scottish Labour have accused the SNP of a “total dereliction of duty” for letting stays spiral out of control.

Commenting, **Scottish Labour’s Housing spokesperson Mark Griffin said:**

“These ever-growing stays in temporary accommodation are nothing short of disgraceful.

“Any civilised society should be getting children into proper homes as a matter of urgency – but we are falling woefully short.

“It is shameful that some children will go through the best part of an entire school year stuck in limbo.

“It is particularly unthinkable for children to face months on end in temporary accommodation, but it is a scandal for people of any age to have to endure this.

“These spiralling stays represent a total dereliction of duty from the SNP.

“We need a real strategy for tackling homelessness, that doesn’t rely on endless stays in temporary accommodation.”

**ENDS**

**Notes**

**Table 37: Average total time (days) spent in temporary accommodation, by household type: 2017-18 to 2020-21**

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Change 2018-19 to 2020-21	% change 2018-19 to 2020-21	Additional days vs childless equivalent
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Couple with Children	258	263	266	341	78	30%	151
Other	192	192	193	209	17	9%	
Other with Children	242	264	257	294	30	11%	85

Source: Homelessness in Scotland 2020- 2021 Main Tables, Table 37

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 19 October 2021 13:50

**To** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

News Desk Communications Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: FOR ALLOCATION - media query - A&E stats - The Herald.

Fine for me

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 19 October 2021 13:35

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] News Desk Communications Health & Social Care  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: FOR ALLOCATION - media query - A&E stats - The Herald.

Thanks [redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] , if no further views - I will issue the lines below shortly.

Thanks [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**The Scottish Government Spokesperson said:**

“The COVID pandemic has inevitably affected A&E attendance and the pressure is being felt across the UK. Scotland’s core A&E departments have continue to outperform those in the rest of the UK for more than six years.

“Our NHS staff have faced unprecedented pressures over recent weeks as they work tirelessly and consistently to respond to the pandemic whilst continuing to provide vital treatment and optimal patient care. As part of the NHS Recovery Plan we have committed £27 million towards the Redesign of Urgent Care to ensure people receive the right care, at the right place.

“To minimise pressures as much as possible this winter, we’ve recently announced £300 million of measures to help increase NHS and social care capacity in our hospitals and reduce delayed discharges.

“In the meantime we will continue to work closely with those sites facing the greatest challenges to ensure rapid recovery plans are in place and are in contact daily.”

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 19 October 2021 12:47

**To:** News Desk [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** Communications Health & Social Care ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: FOR ALLOCATION - media query - A&E stats - The Herald.

[For brevity – please see the lines below](#)

**The Scottish Government Spokesperson said:**

“The COVID pandemic has inevitably affected A&E attendance and the pressure is being felt across the UK. Scotland’s core A&E departments have continue to outperform those in the rest of the UK for more than six years.

“Our NHS staff have faced unprecedented pressures over recent weeks as they work tirelessly and consistently to respond to the pandemic whilst continuing to provide vital treatment and optimal patient care. As part of the NHS Recovery Plan we have committed

£27 million towards the Redesign of Urgent Care to ensure people receive the right care, at the right place.

“To minimise pressures as much as possible this winter, we’ve recently announced £300 million of measures to help increase NHS and social care capacity in our hospitals and reduce delayed discharges.

“In the meantime we will continue to work closely with those sites facing the greatest challenges to ensure rapid recovery plans are in place and are in contact daily.”

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** News Desk

**Sent:** 19 October 2021 12:46

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] **Cc:** News Desk Communications Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: FOR ALLOCATION - media query - A&E stats - The Herald.

Think our lines cover it – if cabsec is made aware re bid, could you reissue when you get chance [redacted 38(1)(b)] – unless any further views [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] Senior Media Manager

Newsdesk

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** News Desk Communications Health & Social

**Subject:** RE: FOR ALLOCATION - media query - A&E stats - The Herald.

Copying [redacted 38(1)(b)] Cab Sec should see opposition comments ahead of taking on any bids

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 19 October 2021 12:25

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** News Desk Communications Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** FOR ALLOCATION - media query - A&E stats - The Herald.

First query from [redacted 38(1)(b)] re A&E figures –[redacted 38(1)(b)] has lines I think.

You’ll see [redacted 38(1)(b)] link, showing the angle he’s taken. Hopefully our lines address his points.

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 19 October 2021 12:17

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **Subject:** herald - press query



Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

This is [redacted 38(1)(b)] from the Herald. The various party press releases on the A&E figures are below - just looking for SG line.

Just FYI, I've put the following story online:

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19657033.yousaf-urged-wake-up-e-crisis-record-number-wait-12-hours/>

I'll send over a separate email re: the Tory release on ambulance call-outs to prisons.

Thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

## **NEWS FROM SCOTTISH LABOUR**

### **BAILLIE: HEALTH SECRETARY MUST 'WAKE UP' TO ONGOING A&E CATASTROPHE**

#### **IMMEDIATE**

The Health Secretary must 'wake up' to the A&E crisis unfolding on his watch, Scottish Labour has said today.

Statistics published today have shown that only 71.3% of people at A&E were seen within 4 hours in the week ending 10<sup>th</sup> October, the same record low percentage as the last week of September.

Of this percentage, some 1,871 spent more than 8 hours in A & E and 612 people waited longer than 12 hours.

Worryingly only 41% of patients were seen within 4 hours in NHS Forth Valley – the worst performance on record for any health board.

**Scottish Labour deputy leader and health spokesperson Jackie Baillie said:**

“Week after week we are presented with the cold, hard fact that A&E services are being overwhelmed.

“We have been calling on the government to act for months, but instead they have dragged their heels and failed to support staff.

“With the army being called in to support several health boards, the Health Secretary cannot continue to pretend everything is rosy.

“Thousands of Scots are waiting several hours in pain for treatment. And health boards, like Forth Valley, are recording the worst statistics on record.

“Things have to change now, or else we face a winter of chaos.”

**ENDS**

**Scottish Conservative Shadow Health Secretary Dr Sandesh Gulhane MSP, said:** “Our A&E departments are in complete crisis and have been for far too long on Humza Yousaf’s watch. More and more health boards are having to call on support from our UK Armed Forces due to his continued inaction.

“The support from the British Army is hugely welcome. However, Humza Yousaf seems more interested in getting photo ops rather than urgently outlining how he will maximise that support at every turn to support overwhelmed staff. His flimsy NHS Recovery pamphlet simply isn’t cutting it.

“Almost 50,000 patients have waited more than four hours in A&E since he published it. The number of patients waiting over half a day to be seen in A&E has hit an all-time high.

“Humza Yousaf’s lack of leadership is having a devastating impact on frontline staff and patients urgently seeking treatment. If he doesn’t get a grip now, he will potentially preside over the worst winter ever in our NHS.”

### **Health Secretary must make A&E crisis a personal priority**

Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Alex Cole-Hamilton has today called on the Health Secretary to make fixing the NHS workforce crisis a “personal priority”.

A&E waiting times remain at record breaking levels, with the number of people being seen within the four-hour target time remaining at 71.3%, the same as last week.

The number of people this represents increased slightly, with 7,264 people waiting more than four hours, 1,871 people waiting more than eight hours and 612 people waiting more than twelve.

Commenting, Alex Cole-Hamilton said:

“Patients are in pain and are waiting too long. Staff are overstretched and under resourced. Those facts are now hallmarks of life in Scotland’s 14 years with the SNP in government.

“This crisis has escalated to levels that would have been unimaginable just months ago. These waiting times are not sustainable, and staff cannot and should not be expected to work through another six months of this.

“The pressure, stress and anxiety are off the scale, because people are not receiving the timely treatment they should be able to expect. In the worst cases, the under resourcing may well lead to unnecessary deaths. That’s why we need to see an independent review.

“Fixing this workforce crisis should be a personal priority for the Health Secretary. NHS staff deserve nothing less.”

ENDS

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 19 October 2021 13:24

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Mackintosh E (Emily) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] T [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: BID - Bauer Radio - Vaccine certification and A&E waiting times

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Please see A&E lines below and I have included A&E officials in case anything further is needed. Thanks

### **The Scottish Government Spokesperson said:**

“The COVID pandemic has inevitably affected A&E attendance and the pressure is being felt across the UK. Scotland’s core A&E departments have continue to outperform those in the rest of the UK for more than six years.

“Our NHS staff have faced unprecedented pressures over recent weeks as they work tirelessly and consistently to respond to the pandemic whilst continuing to provide vital treatment and optimal patient care. As part of the NHS Recovery Plan we have committed £27 million towards the Redesign of Urgent Care to ensure people receive the right care, at the right place.

“To minimise pressures as much as possible this winter, we’ve recently announced £300 million of measures to help increase NHS and social care capacity in our hospitals and reduce delayed discharges.

“In the meantime we will continue to work closely with those sites facing the greatest challenges to ensure rapid recovery plans are in place and are in contact daily.”

ENDS

**Also, below are the opposition lines regarding waiting times for reference.**

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#### **IMMEDIATE**

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**Scottish Labour deputy leader and health spokesperson Jackie Baillie said:**

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“We have been calling on the government to act for months, but instead they have dragged their heels and failed to support staff.

“With the army being called in to support several health boards, the Health Secretary cannot continue to pretend everything is rosy.

“Thousands of Scots are waiting several hours in pain for treatment. And health boards, like Forth Valley, are recording the worst statistics on record.

“Things have to change now, or else we face a winter of chaos.”

**ENDS**

**Scottish Conservative Shadow Health Secretary Dr Sandesh Gulhane MSP, said:** “Our A&E departments are in complete crisis and have been for far too long on Humza Yousaf’s watch. More and more health boards are having to call on support from our UK Armed Forces due to his continued inaction.

“The support from the British Army is hugely welcome. However, Humza Yousaf seems more interested in getting photo ops rather than urgently outlining how he will maximise that support at every turn to support overwhelmed staff. His flimsy NHS Recovery pamphlet simply isn’t cutting it.

“Almost 50,000 patients have waited more than four hours in A&E since he published it. The number of patients waiting over half a day to be seen in A&E has hit an all-time high.

“Humza Yousaf’s lack of leadership is having a devastating impact on frontline staff and patients urgently seeking treatment. If he doesn’t get a grip now, he will potentially preside over the worst winter ever in our NHS.”

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Commenting, Alex Cole-Hamilton said:

“Patients are in pain and are waiting too long. Staff are overstretched and under resourced. Those facts are now hallmarks of life in Scotland’s 14 years with the SNP in government.

“This crisis has escalated to levels that would have been unimaginable just months ago. These waiting times are not sustainable, and staff cannot and should not be expected to work through another six months of this.

“The pressure, stress and anxiety are off the scale, because people are not receiving the timely treatment they should be able to expect. In the worst cases, the under resourcing may well lead to unnecessary deaths. That’s why we need to see an independent review.

“Fixing this workforce crisis should be a personal priority for the Health Secretary. NHS staff deserve nothing less.”

ENDS

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 19 October 2021 12:24

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Mackintosh E (Emily) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: BID - Bauer Radio - Vaccine certification and A&E waiting times

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

I’ve included vaccine certification officials to provide the latest briefing.

Cab Sec should already have briefing and our cleared lines on A&E waiting times, but if not, just let me know and I can re-send.

Many thanks  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care  
**Sent:** 19 October 2021 12:15  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Cc:** Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Mackintosh E (Emily) [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Communications Health & Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)] News Desk  
**Subject:** RE: BID - Bauer Radio - Vaccine certification and A&E waiting times

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Can you arrange for a briefing to be sent ASAP?

Kind regards,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 19 October 2021 12:11  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Cc:** Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Mackintosh E (Emily) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted] News Desk  
**Subject:** RE: BID - Bauer Radio - Vaccine certification and A&E waiting times

Many thanks

Yes, that time works for [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Details of the meeting below. Let me know if there are any issues.

Here is the Zoom link for 15:10  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Many thanks  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care  
**Sent:** 19 October 2021 12:05  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Cc:** Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Mackintosh E (Emily) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Health & Social Care News Desk  
**Subject:** RE: BID - Bauer Radio - Vaccine certification and A&E waiting times

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Cab Sec is content but the only time he has free in the diary today is 3:10 – 3:30pm.

He is happy to carry out the interview over Zoom.

Please let me know if this is acceptable.

Kind regards,

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] Deputy Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care – Humza Yousaf | Scottish Government | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 19 October 2021 11:49

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) [redacted 38(1)(b)] Mackintosh E (Emily) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Communications Health & Social Care News Desk

**Subject:** BID - Bauer Radio - Vaccine certification and A&E waiting times

Cab Sec, PO

Good morning,

We've been approached by [redacted 38(1)(b)] to ask if Mr Yousaf would be available today for an interview. Comms and spads would recommend an accept if Cab Sec is available. [redacted 38(1)(b)] wishes to talk about vaccine certification and A&E waiting times please.

Grateful if you could let me know if Cab Sec is available and timings please.

### **Bid in full**

We are keen to speak with the Health Secretary about latest A & E waiting times and also about vaccine passports.

I can do this via Zoom or Skype – whatever works best for the Health Sec. And I was hoping to do this just as soon as possible.

Many thanks

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

Media Manager | Scottish Government

[redacted 38(1)(b)]





**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Cameron J (Jonathan) Sadler E (Elizabeth) [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: TO CLEAR: P&J - comments on vaccine certs (business)

Hi [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Mr Yousaf has tweaked the comments below:

## **PS/ Economy Secretary**

*cc Deputy First Minister, Health Secretary, Minister for Business for awareness*

We've been approached by the P&J to respond to comments from business and opposition regarding updates to the vaccine certification Apps. Health comms colleagues have issued a response regarding the deinstall/install questions but I'd be grateful for Ms Forbes' clearance regarding the comments on business engagement.

I've discussed with policy colleagues and SpAds and have drafted a response using the standard vaccine certification lines that were cleared and issued yesterday as a starter and then added a line about business engagement. We cannot provide a figure for the amount of businesses that have updated yet as they have not been published.

The P&J have asked for a response by 5pm, I'd be grateful for confirmation Ms Forbes is content with the below lines to respond to the comments relating to businesses by 4.45pm, if possible.

Thanks,  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"COVID-19 certification is a proportionate way of encouraging people to get vaccinated, and also of helping large events and night-time hospitality to keep operating during what will potentially be a very difficult winter. The scheme has been operating well at late night venues and large scale events such as recent football matches.

"This means many businesses will not have to close and can continue to trade whilst making necessary adjustments to ensure their premises are as safe as possible for staff and customers.

"Officials and Ministers have engaged regularly with the sector to discuss implementation of the scheme. This is in addition to a range of proactive communications through relevant sectoral organisations and bodies. Most businesses that are required to update the NHS Covid Check App have done

so already and further sectoral engagement is ongoing today to ensure we reach as many businesses as possible.”

## Background

### [Update to vaccine certification Apps](#)

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | **Senior Media Manager | Economy Communications**  
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
t: [redacted 38(1)(b)] m: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

The Scottish Government confirmed this week that it is updating the Covid status app which allows people to access venues and premises from today.

I believe this is available from noon today but that users can continue using the current one for the next week.

Guidance issued by NHS Scotland via the Scottish Government’s website says the simplest way to ensure users have the latest version of the app is to delete it and reinstall. **Given the problems users had in the first place downloading the app, does the government anticipate problems/confusion from this?**

Tony Cochrane, a nightclub owner with venues in Aberdeen and Dundee, has said it is a “complete farce” and that he only found out about the update because someone he knows saw it on the venue – he said nobody contacted them directly.

**Does the government intend to contact venues proactively to inform them around the changes over the next week? Will this not result in problems with the operation of the scheme if some businesses are not yet aware of the update?**

In addition, the Liberal Democrats said the following:

"Businesses should not have to be monitoring the government's website for 2am updates to find out what is expected of them. It's no way to run a business and a ridiculous way to run a country.

"Covid ID cards have been a prime example of government overreach. What's worst is they won't keep anyone safe because it's so easy for people to cheat the system.

"The government should be ploughing resources into the things we know do help to stop the spread: vaccines and a robust contact tracing system."

Scottish Labour’s Health and Covid Recovery spokesperson Jackie Baillie said: “Just days after the SNP’s botched vaccine passport came fully into force, they are already scrambling to change it.

“It will not come as a surprise to anyone that the app is riddled with flaws, after the SNP forced the scheme through with virtually no consultation.

“These updates will only add to the chaos that customers and businesses are already facing.



I've discussed with policy colleagues and SpAds and have drafted a response using the standard vaccine certification lines that were cleared and issued yesterday as a starter and then added a line about business engagement. We cannot provide a figure for the amount of businesses that have updated yet as they have not been published.

The P&J have asked for a response by 5pm, I'd be grateful for confirmation Ms Forbes is content with the below lines to respond to the comments relating to businesses by 4.45pm, if possible.

Thanks,  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"COVID-19 certification is a proportionate way of encouraging people to get vaccinated, and also of helping large events and night-time hospitality to keep operating during what will potentially be a very difficult winter.

"This means many businesses will not have to close and can continue to trade whilst making necessary adjustments to ensure their premises are as safe as possible for staff and customers.

"Officials and Ministers have engaged regularly with the sector to discuss implementation of the scheme. This is in addition to a range of proactive communications through relevant sectoral organisations and bodies. Most businesses that are required to update the NHS Covid Check App have done so already and further sectoral engagement is ongoing today to ensure we reach as many businesses as possible."

## **Background**

### [Update to vaccine certification Apps](#)

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | **Senior Media Manager | Economy Communications**  
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
t: [redacted 38(1)(b)] m: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

The Scottish Government confirmed this week that it is updating the Covid status app which allows people to access venues and premises from today.

I believe this is available from noon today but that users can continue using the current one for the next week.

Guidance issued by NHS Scotland via the Scottish Government's website says the simplest way to ensure users have the latest version of the app is to delete it and reinstall. **Given the problems users had in the first place downloading the app, does the government anticipate problems/confusion from this?**

Tony Cochrane, a nightclub owner with venues in Aberdeen and Dundee, has said it is a “complete farce” and that he only found out about the update because someone he knows saw it on the venue – he said nobody contacted them directly.

**Does the government intend to contact venues proactively to inform them around the changes over the next week? Will this not result in problems with the operation of the scheme if some businesses are not yet aware of the update?**

In addition, the Liberal Democrats said the following:

"Businesses should not have to be monitoring the government's website for 2am updates to find out what is expected of them. It's no way to run a business and a ridiculous way to run a country.

"Covid ID cards have been a prime example of government overreach. What's worst is they won't keep anyone safe because it's so easy for people to cheat the system.

"The government should be ploughing resources into the things we know do help to stop the spread: vaccines and a robust contact tracing system."

Scottish Labour's Health and Covid Recovery spokesperson Jackie Baillie said: “Just days after the SNP's botched vaccine passport came fully into force, they are already scrambling to change it.

“It will not come as a surprise to anyone that the app is riddled with flaws, after the SNP forced the scheme through with virtually no consultation.

“These updates will only add to the chaos that customers and businesses are already facing.

“An update won't fix this shambolic system. The SNP must accept the scheme has failed and scrap it for good.”

**Scottish Conservative Shadow Cabinet Secretary for COVID Recovery, Murdo Fraser said:** “This is just more confusion and incompetence from the SNP and their shambolic vaccine passport scheme.

“The SNP Government promised that their vaccine passport app would be ready by the end of September. The app was broken on launch, and night time businesses described scenes of chaos and confusion in the first weekend of the scheme.

“These new updates are guaranteed to cause further confusion and frustration for users and businesses, this weekend.

“The fact that the SNP are still trying to get this app right, weeks after their vaccine passport requirements were launched, is unacceptable and, frankly, embarrassing.”

Related but slightly separate, the Tories have issued a release which warns that hospitality staff could lose up to £200 a week if their premises are forced to close early due to the SNP's vaccine passport regulations.

Where venues are unable to enforce vaccine passport checks, they must close by midnight or face prosecution under the new regulations. This could leave many hospitality workers missing

out on up to three hours of wages each night – Stephen Montgomery of the Scottish Hospitality Group claims. Is it possible to have the government’s response to this please?

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 24 October 2021 16:34  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care  
**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] DCMO Health COVID19 [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Chief Nursing Officer Chief Medical Officer [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Leitch J (Jason) Communications Health & Social Care News Desk [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Livey D (David)  
**Subject:** RE: TO CLEAR: MEDIA QUERIES - LABOUR NR ON HOSPITAL ONSET COVID STATS

Thanks, [redacted 38(1)(b)] . I'll issue now.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | **Senior Media Manager | Economy Communications**  
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
t: [redacted 38(1)(b)] m: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care  
**Sent:** 24 October 2021 16:33  
**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care  
**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] DCMO Health COVID19 [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Chief Nursing Officer Chief Medical Officer [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Leitch J (Jason) Communications Health & Social Care News Desk [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Livey D (David)  
**Subject:** RE: TO CLEAR: MEDIA QUERIES - LABOUR NR ON HOSPITAL ONSET COVID STATS

Thanks, [redacted]. The Cab Sec is content to clear.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Deputy Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care – Humza Yousaf  
Scottish Government  
E: [CabSecHSC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecHSC@gov.scot)  
T: [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
M: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 24 October 2021 16:11  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care  
**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] DCMO Health COVID19 [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Chief Nursing Officer Chief Medical

Officer [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Leitch J (Jason) Communications Health & Social Care News Desk [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Lively D (David)

**Subject:** TO CLEAR: MEDIA QUERIES - LABOUR NR ON HOSPITAL ONSET COVID STATS

## **PO/ Health Secretary**

We've been asked by the P&J, The Times and Morning Star to respond to the below Labour news release on increasing hospital onset covid stats. I've pulled together the below response from previous lines and vaccine officials have added in the line about staff being able to book a booster since 21 September. SpAds have been sighted and are content.

Grateful for confirmation Mr Yousaf is content for comms to issue the line by 1730, if possible.

Thanks,  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Ensuring people are able to access safe and effective care while in hospital is our top priority – and rigorous COVID-19 protocols are in place.

“Since the start of the pandemic, health boards have worked hard to ensure that Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures in hospital and other care settings are robust with measures including risk-assessed patient care pathways, the appropriate use of PPE, extended use of face masks and coverings, physical distancing and outbreak management.

“As patients with COVID-19 continue to be admitted to hospitals the risk of hospital transmission remains. We are testing more patients in hospital which enables us to identify more asymptomatic positive cases. This ensures that we can provide the right care and treatment for patients whilst utilising enhanced infection prevention and control measures to reduce the opportunity for further transmission.

“Since 21 September, frontline health and social care workers have been able to book their booster appointment online through NHS Inform.”

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | **Senior Media Manager | Economy Communications**  
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
t: [redacted 38(1)(b)] m: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

## **NEWS FROM SCOTTISH LABOUR**

### **HOSPITAL ONSET COVID HITS SEVEN MONTH HIGH**



**EMBARGOED: 00.01 MONDAY 25 OCTOBER**

Scottish Labour has accused the SNP of “complacency” as cases of hospital onset Covid reach their highest point in over seven months.

Analysis of the most recent Public Health Scotland data, which covers up to September 26, has revealed a sharp spike in “definite hospital onset” Covid cases.

These cases shot up by a shocking 70 per cent in a single week, from 37 cases in the week ending September 19 to 63 in the week ending September 26.

This takes levels to their highest point since mid-February.

In addition to the 63 definite cases in the week ending September 26, there were a further 36 “probable” cases of hospital onset Covid and 34 “indeterminate” hospital onset cases.

Overall, there have been more than 4,000 cases of definite hospital onset Covid recorded.

Scottish Labour have said this is a sign of the pressure hospitals are under, calling for the SNP to do more to keep hospitals safe and ensure staff can get their booster vaccines.

**Scottish Labour Health and Covid Recovery spokesperson Jackie Baillie said:**

“It is disgraceful that so many people going into hospital for help to get better are then exposed to a life-threatening virus.

“Things are now the worst that they have been since the early days of the vaccine programme.

“This is yet another sign of the immense pressure services are under. NHS staff are working tirelessly to keep hospitals running and keep patients safe, but they are being badly let down.

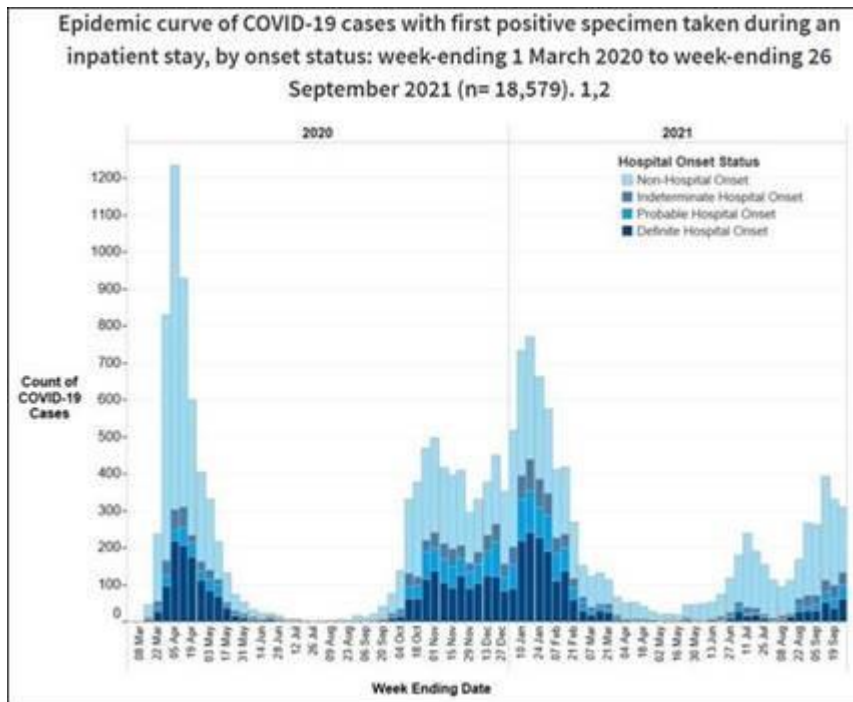
“It’s sheer complacency from the SNP that has let us get to this point.

“This spike in cases must be a wake-up call for them to get a grip on hospital safety.

“The SNP must act with the urgency needed to roll-out the booster programme and make sure hospitals have everything they need to keep patients and staff safe.”

**ENDS**

**Notes**



<https://www.publichealthscotland.scot/publications/hospital-onset-covid-19-cases-in-scotland/hospital-onset-covid-19-cases-in-scotland-week-ending-1-march-2020-to-week-ending-26-september-2021/>

The total number of COVID-19 cases reported to ARHAI Scotland this week (week ending 26 September 2021) was 21,315. Of these:

- 21,004 (98.5%) were reported as community onset (first positive specimen taken in the community). In the previous week (week ending 19 September 2021) there were 25,812 (98.7%).
- 178 (0.8%) were reported as non-hospital onset (first positive specimen on day 1 or 2 of admission to NHS board). In the previous week (week ending 19 September 2021) there were 232 (0.9%).
- 34 (0.2%) were reported as indeterminate hospital onset (first positive specimen on days 3 to 7 of admission to NHS board). In the previous week (week ending 19 September 2021) there were 37 (0.1%).
- 36 (0.2%) were reported as probable hospital onset (first positive specimen on days 8 to 14 of admission to NHS board). In the previous week (week ending 19 September 2021) there were 25 (0.1%).
- 63 (0.3%) were reported as definite hospital onset (first positive specimen date was 15 or more days after admission to NHS board). In the previous week (week ending 19 September 2021) there were 37 (0.1%).

In the week ending 14 February 2021, 137 (2.5%) were reported as definite hospital onset (first positive specimen date was 15 or more days after admission to NHS board).

Source: <https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/hospital-onset-covid-19-cases-in-scotland/hospital-onset-covid-19-cases-in-scotland-week-ending-1-march-2020-to-week-ending-14-february-2021/>

The total number of COVID-19 cases reported to ARHAI Scotland, with specimen dates up to 26 September 2021, was 560,247. Of these 4,095 (0.7%) were reported as definite hospital onset (first positive specimen date was 15 or more days after admission to NHS board).

<https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/9814/2021-10-20-covid19-hospitalonset-week-38-2021-report-v01.pdf>

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 24 October 2021 16:08

**To:** Lively D (David)

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] DCMO Health COVID19 [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Chief Nursing Officer Chief Medical Officer [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Leitch J (Jason) Communications Health & Social Care News Desk [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: SPAD VIEWS: MEDIA QUERIES - LABOUR NR ON HOSPITAL ONSET COVID STATS

Thanks, David. Will put up now.

[redacted 38(1)(b)]

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | **Senior Media Manager | Economy Communications**

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

t: [redacted 38(1)(b)] m: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** Lively D (David)

**Sent:** 24 October 2021 16:08

**To:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] DCMO Health COVID19 [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Chief Nursing Officer Chief Medical Officer [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Leitch J (Jason) Communications Health & Social Care News Desk [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: SPAD VIEWS: MEDIA QUERIES - LABOUR NR ON HOSPITAL ONSET COVID STATS

Happy for this to go up to PO.

**From:** [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 24 October 2021 15:22

**To:** Lively D (David)

**Cc:** [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] DCMO Health COVID19 [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Chief Nursing Officer Chief Medical Officer [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)] Leitch J (Jason) Communications Health & Social Care News Desk [redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]

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Hi David,

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Grateful for SpAd views within the hour if possible so I can put to Cab Sec for clearance.

Thanks,  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Ensuring people are able to access safe and effective care while in hospital is our top priority – and rigorous COVID-19 protocols are in place.

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“Since 21 September, frontline health and social care workers have been able to book their booster appointment online through NHS Inform.”

[redacted 38(1)(b)] | [Senior Media Manager](#) | [Economy Communications](#)  
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
t: [redacted 38(1)(b)] m: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

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Scottish Labour have said this is a sign of the pressure hospitals are under, calling for the SNP to do more to keep hospitals safe and ensure staff can get their booster vaccines.

**Scottish Labour Health and Covid Recovery spokesperson Jackie Baillie said:**

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“This is yet another sign of the immense pressure services are under. NHS staff are working tirelessly to keep hospitals running and keep patients safe, but they are being badly let down.

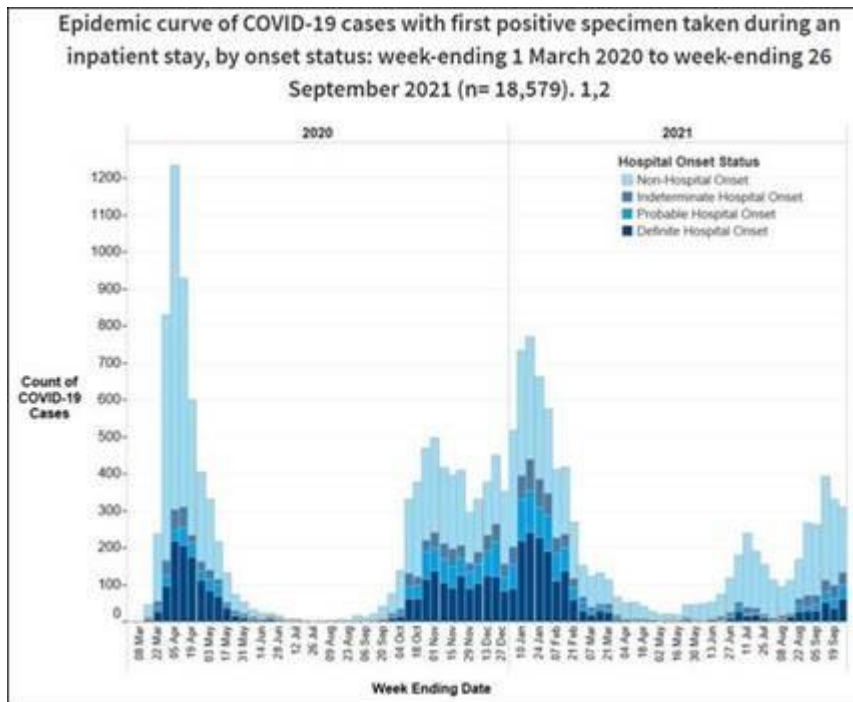
“It’s sheer complacency from the SNP that has let us get to this point.

“This spike in cases must be a wake-up call for them to get a grip on hospital safety.

“The SNP must act with the urgency needed to roll-out the booster programme and make sure hospitals have everything they need to keep patients and staff safe.”

**ENDS**

**Notes**



<https://www.publichealthscotland.scot/publications/hospital-onset-covid-19-cases-in-scotland/hospital-onset-covid-19-cases-in-scotland-week-ending-1-march-2020-to-week-ending-26-september-2021/>

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[redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; Davidson I (Ian) (Social Security); [redacted 38(1)(b)] ; [redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** SPAD VIEWS - labour call on minimum incomes guarantee - Daily Record

SpAd colleagues,

We received a query from the Daily Record (query at the bottom of this email) who are looking for comment whether SG is regarding a minimum income guarantee. The Record is flagging a Scottish Labour NR on the number of people applying for crisis grants (Labour NR below and embargoed until Saturday). FM may want to be sighted on this before her press conference today. Lines agreed with policy, grateful for your views.

Many thanks,  
[redacted 38(1)(b)]

## **Lines**

“We have taken unprecedented action to support people during the pandemic. The Scottish Welfare Fund provides a vital safety net for households facing an unexpected financial crisis. That is why we have committed to maintaining the budget for the Fund at £41 million and to undertaking a full independent review to ensure that it works as efficiently as possible across the whole country.

People on low incomes, children and people at risk of homelessness will need more support this winter against a backdrop of rising living and fuel costs. That is why today we have announced a new Winter Support Fund which includes:

- £10 million to help people who are struggling to pay fuel bills.
- £25 million flexible funding to help local authorities support wellbeing and respond to financial insecurity based on local needs.
- £6 million for third sector partners to support low income families

Everyone in Scotland deserves to live healthy, financially secure, fulfilling lives and a Minimum Income Guarantee will be an important step towards achieving that.

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government has already co-chaired the first meeting of a steering group of MSPs from all 5 parties and representation from academia, trade unions, poverty and equality organisations. The group will provide a wealth of experience to help define what a Minimum Income Guarantee for Scotland should look like.

## **Labour NR**

**EMBARGOED: 00.01 SATURDAY 30 OCTOBER**

Scottish Labour has warned that households are at crisis point as new figures show record rates of people repeatedly applying for crisis grants.



New figures for the Scottish Welfare Fund show that repeat Crisis Grant applications are at their highest point since the fund began, with more than 3 out of 4 applications now coming from people who've already applied in the past.

From April to June this year 76 per cent of crisis grant applications were repeat applications. This has increased sharply over the last year, from 64 percent in the same period in 2020 – and it has sky-rocketed since 2013 when it was just 17 per cent.

Most recent figures show a third of applications to the fund were rejected, with applicants facing a postcode lottery due to huge variation in approval rates between local authorities.

Scottish Labour have said these figures highlight the need to move quickly to deliver a real Minimum Income Guarantee instead of the “sticking plaster” approach from the SNP.

Commenting, **Scottish Labour’s Social Security and Social Justice spokesperson Pam Duncan-Glancy** said:

“More and more people are living in a state of constant crisis, relying on piecemeal grants to make ends meet.

“Crisis grants are an important lifeline – but they aren’t a substitute for a real safety net.

“Things are only set to get worse as bills soar and the Tories’ shameful cut to Universal Credit hits.

“We need more than sticking plasters to tackle poverty in Scotland.

“The SNP must act urgently to deliver a real Minimum Income Guarantee for every Scot.”

**[redacted 38(1)(b)]** | Media Manager  
Social Justice, Housing & Local Government | Scottish Government  
[redacted 38(1)(b)] [redacted 38(1)(b)]