

## **Document 1**

**From:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 09 December 2024 11:48  
**To:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)];  
Communications Health and Social Care; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: For review: Bid: Long Covid postcode lottery - STV

Thanks [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] – one minor suggestion ([REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]) but otherwise looks good.

Best wishes

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]

**[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]**  
Senior Policy Manager  
Long Term Conditions Strategy Unit  
Healthcare Quality and Improvement | Directorate of the Chief Operating Officer



Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

**From:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2024 11:34 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Health and Social Care <[CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: For review: Bid: Long Covid postcode lottery - STV

Thanks [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]. Can we revise as below, pulling up a couple of the points which you make?

Best wishes,

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)].

**From:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 09 December 2024 11:12  
**To:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED -

Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Health and Social Care <[CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: For review: Bid: Long Covid postcode lottery - STV

Thanks for this additional info [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]. Please find a small addition below

Public Health Minister Jenni Minto said:

“[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

- [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]
- [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]
- [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]
- [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

#### Background

- [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]
- [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

<a href="#">[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]</a>	<a href="#">[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]</a>	<a href="#">[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]</a>	<a href="#">[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]</a>
[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)] [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	<b>[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]</b>
[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)] [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	<b>[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]</b>
[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]
[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	

Best wishes

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]

Senior Policy Manager  
Long Term Conditions Strategy Unit  
Healthcare Quality and Improvement | Directorate of the Chief Operating Officer



Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

**From:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2024 10:49 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: For review: Bid: Long Covid postcode lottery - STV

Note to editors from Scottish Labour news release is below [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)].

I see [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(ii)]

Perhaps we could say something along these lines.

Public Health Minister Jenni Minto said:

**[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]**

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

<b>Health Board*</b>	<b>Has a Long Covid Pathway ?</b>	<b>Patients Treated</b>	<b>Money Received</b>	<b>Has a Long Covid Clinic ?</b>
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	Yes	287	£405,608	No

NHS Borders	Yes	Cannot provide	£98,301	No
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	No	Does not hold info	£166,794	No
NHS Fife	No	Not held	£427,323	No
NHS Forth Valley	Yes	231	£375,330	Yes
NHS Grampian	Yes	174	£764,562	Yes
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	No	461	£1,785,507	No
NHS Highland	Yes	314	£454,773	No
NHS Lanarkshire	Yes	1,210	£946,185	No
NHS Lothian	No	671	£1,022,060	No
NHS Orkney	No	Not held	£44,148	No
NHS Shetland	Yes	0	£9,573	No

NHS Tayside	Yes	960	£197,614	No
NHS Western Isles	Yes	60	£53,968	No
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4,368</b>	<b>£6,751,746.00</b>	

\*NHS Ayrshire & Arran report that 158 patients were referred in 2024. NHS Highland has spent £551k on long covid services making up the difference by using its own reserves. They also note that the SG has allocated £167,566 in funding for 2025/26, which is not included in the figure above.

**From:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 09 December 2024 09:59

**To:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** For review: Bid: Long Covid postcode lottery - STV

Good morning [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)].

As discussed, a bid from STV for Ms Minto concerning the “post code lottery” facing long COVID patients.

Grateful for a view on whether to accept. Since [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(ii)].

Please let me know what you think as soon as you can this morning.

Thanks.

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)].

Bid

Good morning,

Hope you're both well. I couldn't get through on the health desk phone but was wondering if Jenni Minto was available for interview today or if a statement was

available regarding a story we're running on our program tonight regarding Long Covid funding.

We've received this press release (below) from Scottish Labour and spoken to a woman with long Covid who says she's been "left to rot" with almost no support from the NHS.

Our deadline for an on camera interview would be 4pm and 5pm for a written statement.

Many thanks

### **"LONG COVID PATIENTS FACE 'POSTCODE LOTTERY' AFTER JUST 4,368 BENEFIT FROM £10MILLION FUND**

Long covid patients face a postcode lottery, Scottish Labour has warned after it emerged that just 4,368 patients have benefited from a specially-designated fund.

In 2021, the SNP Government announced it would spend £10million on long covid over three years.

At least £6.7million of this has now been paid, but the results vary between Health Boards, with three of the NHS Boards failing to establish a pathway to refer long covid patients at all.

In total, the health boards have used the money to treat only 4,368 patients for long covid – a tiny proportion of the 170,000 plus Scots estimated to have long covid. The SNP government has pledged an additional £4.5million in this week's Budget for specialist support for Long Covid, ME, Chronic Fatigue and similar conditions, but it is yet to pay out more than £3 million that was originally allocated.

Cass Macdonald is a former nurse based in Edinburgh who is now forced to use a wheelchair with symptoms of Long Covid and ME after catching Covid during the pandemic.

The only specialist service available to them was the ME/chronic fatigue service, which provides short-term interventions with physiotherapy and psychology, focusing on pacing and self-management.

Long Covid funding provided this service, which has a 23-week waiting list, with one additional part-time physiotherapist, for one year.

Cass said: "My case is somewhat complex due to underlying conditions, yet my GP can't get advice from specialists in Scotland.

"The money could have funded a dedicated specialist nurses and care co-ordinators, or staffed clinics with healthcare professionals with an understanding and experience of Long Covid.

"There are thousands of key workers who suffered the after-effects of the pandemic - it's essential we learn what happened to the money that was supposed to help their recovery."

Jackie Baillie, Scottish Labour's Health Spokesperson, said: "Many Long Covid patients put their health on the line during the pandemic and yet are now struggling to get basic support.

“In their attempt to understand and tackle their symptoms, many are forced to pay out for private consultations due to the lack of specialist advice available.

“Additional money for Long Covid patients is welcome, but this SNP government must explain what happened to the £10million if so little of it appears to be reaching the patients it was intended for.

“Labour will work with the life sciences industry and the NHS to better understand the effects of Long Covid while ensuring patients receive quick diagnosis and treatment.”

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] | Political Reporter | Mob: [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] | Tel: [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] |

Email: [\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@stv.tv](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@stv.tv) | website: [www.stv.tv](http://www.stv.tv)

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]](https://twitter.com/[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)])

STV | 133 Fountainbridge | Edinburgh | switchboard: 0141 300 3000

Please consider the environment before printing this email

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]

Media Manager| News: Health and Social Care

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]



## Document 2

**From:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 09 December 2024 11:12  
**To:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)];  
Communications Health and Social Care; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: For review: Bid: Long Covid postcode lottery - STV

Thanks for this additional info [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]. Please find a small addition below

Public Health Minister Jenni Minto said:

“[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)].

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[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

- [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]
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[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

- [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]
- [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]
[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)][REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]
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[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]



Best wishes

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]

Senior Policy Manager  
Long Term Conditions Strategy Unit  
Healthcare Quality and Improvement | Directorate of the Chief Operating Officer



Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

**From:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2024 10:49 AM

**To:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

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**From:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 09 December 2024 09:59

**To:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** For review: Bid: Long Covid postcode lottery - STV

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"In their attempt to understand and tackle their symptoms, many are forced to pay out for private consultations due to the lack of specialist advice available.

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"Labour will work with the life sciences industry and the NHS to better understand the effects of Long Covid while ensuring patients receive quick diagnosis and treatment."

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] | Political Reporter | Mob: [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] | Tel: [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] |

Email: [\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@stv.tv](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@stv.tv) | website: [www.stv.tv](http://www.stv.tv)

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]](https://twitter.com/[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)])

STV | 133 Fountainbridge | Edinburgh | switchboard: 0141 300 3000

Please consider the environment before printing this email

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]

Media Manager | News: Health and Social Care

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]



### **Document 3**

**From:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 09 December 2024 14:24  
**To:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: For SpAds view: Bid - Long COVID postcode lottery - STV - 13:00

I think [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(ii)].

I've proposed a rephrasing below [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

Best wishes

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]

**[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]**  
Senior Policy Manager  
Long Term Conditions Strategy Unit  
Healthcare Quality and Improvement | Directorate of the Chief Operating Officer



Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

**From:** Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2024 1:53 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Jennie Gollan <[Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot](mailto:Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[Louise.Scott2@gov.scot](mailto:Louise.Scott2@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Health and Social Care <[CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot)>; Nicci Motiang <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: For SpAds view: Bid - Long COVID postcode lottery - STV - 13:00

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

SG spokesperson said:

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

**From:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 09 December 2024 13:23  
**To:** Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Jennie Gollan <[Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot](mailto:Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Health and Social Care <[CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: For SpAds view: Bid - Long COVID postcode lottery - STV - 13:00

Grateful for a view when able please SpAds.

Best wishes.

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)].

**From:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 09 December 2024 12:21  
**To:** Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Jennie Gollan <[Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot](mailto:Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Health and Social Care <[CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: For SpAds view: Bid - Long COVID postcode lottery - STV - 13:00

Thanks both.

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] tells me that [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(ii)].

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(ii)].

Sean, [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(ii)].

[\[REDACTED - Section 30\(b\)\(i\)\]](#)

- [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]
- [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]
[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)][REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]
[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)][REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]
[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]
[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	

Grateful for thoughts since I will need to progress this fairly soon to give the Minister time to consider.

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)].

**From:** Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 09 December 2024 12:06

**To:** Jennie Gollan <[Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot](mailto:Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Health and Social Care <[CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: For SpAds view: Bid - Long COVID postcode lottery - STV - 13:00

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(ii)]

**From:** Jennie Gollan <[Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot](mailto:Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 09 December 2024 12:02

**To:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Health and Social Care



<[CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]  
<[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: For SpAds view: Bid - Long COVID postcode lottery - STV - 13:00

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(ii)]

**From:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 09 December 2024 12:00

**To:** Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen

<[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>; Jennie Gollan

<[Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot](mailto:Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]

<[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>;

Communications Health and Social Care

<[CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]

<[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** For SpAds view: Bid - Long COVID postcode lottery - STV - 13:00

Good afternoon SpAds.

We have received a STV bid for Ms Minto on long COVID. It follows the below Scottish Labour news release suggesting 4,368 patients have been seen since 2021 thanks to SG long COVID support funding.

I have discussed this with policy colleagues and we would recommend [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(ii)]

Please let me know whether content to decline and issue lines by 13:00.

Best wishes.

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)].

Draft response

Public Health Minister Jenni Minto said:

**[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]**

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

Query

I was wondering if Jenni Minto was available for interview today or if a statement was available regarding a story we're running on our program tonight regarding Long Covid funding.

We've received this press release (below) from Scottish Labour and spoken to a woman with long Covid who says she's been "left to rot" with almost no support from the NHS.

Our deadline for an on camera interview would be 4pm and 5pm for a written statement.

Many thanks

#### **"LONG COVID PATIENTS FACE 'POSTCODE LOTTERY' AFTER JUST 4,368 BENEFIT FROM £10MILLION FUND**

Long covid patients face a postcode lottery, Scottish Labour has warned after it emerged that just 4,368 patients have benefited from a specially-designated fund.

In 2021, the SNP Government announced it would spend £10million on long covid over three years.

At least £6.7million of this has now been paid, but the results vary between Health Boards, with three of the NHS Boards failing to establish a pathway to refer long covid patients at all.

In total, the health boards have used the money to treat only 4,368 patients for long covid – a tiny proportion of the 170,000 plus Scots estimated to have long covid.

The SNP government has pledged an additional £4.5million in this week's Budget for specialist support for Long Covid, ME, Chronic Fatigue and similar conditions, but it is yet to pay out more than £3 million that was originally allocated.

Cass Macdonald is a former nurse based in Edinburgh who is now forced to use a wheelchair with symptoms of Long Covid and ME after catching Covid during the pandemic.

The only specialist service available to them was the ME/chronic fatigue service, which provides short-term interventions with physiotherapy and psychology, focusing on pacing and self-management.

Long Covid funding provided this service, which has a 23-week waiting list, with one additional part-time physiotherapist, for one year.

Cass said: "My case is somewhat complex due to underlying conditions, yet my GP can't get advice from specialists in Scotland.

"The money could have funded a dedicated specialist nurses and care co-ordinators, or staffed clinics with healthcare professionals with an understanding and experience of Long Covid.

"There are thousands of key workers who suffered the after-effects of the pandemic - it's essential we learn what happened to the money that was supposed to help their recovery."

Jackie Baillie, Scottish Labour's Health Spokesperson, said: "Many Long Covid patients put their health on the line during the pandemic and yet are now struggling to get basic support.

“In their attempt to understand and tackle their symptoms, many are forced to pay out for private consultations due to the lack of specialist advice available.

“Additional money for Long Covid patients is welcome, but this SNP government must explain what happened to the £10million if so little of it appears to be reaching the patients it was intended for.

“Labour will work with the life sciences industry and the NHS to better understand the effects of Long Covid while ensuring patients receive quick diagnosis and treatment.”

<b>Health Board*</b>	<b>Has a Long Covid Pathway ?</b>	<b>Patients Treated</b>	<b>Money Received</b>	<b>Has a Long Covid Clinic ?</b>
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	Yes	287	£405,608	No
NHS Borders	Yes	Cannot provide	£98,301	No
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	No	Does not hold info	£166,794	No
NHS Fife	No	Not held	£427,323	No
NHS Forth Valley	Yes	231	£375,330	Yes
NHS Grampian	Yes	174	£764,562	Yes
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	No	461	£1,785,507	No
NHS Highland	Yes	314	£454,773	No

NHS Lanarkshire	Yes	1,210	£946,185	No
NHS Lothian	No	671	£1,022,060	No
NHS Orkney	No	Not held	£44,148	No
NHS Shetland	Yes	0	£9,573	No
NHS Tayside	Yes	960	£197,614	No
NHS Western Isles	Yes	60	£53,968	No
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4,368</b>	<b>£6,751,746.00</b>	

\*NHS Ayrshire & Arran report that 158 patients were referred in 2024. NHS Highland has spent £551k on long covid services making up the difference by using its own reserves. They also note that the SG has allocated £167,566 in funding for 2025/26, which is not included in the figure above.

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]

Media Manager | News: Health and Social Care

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]



## Document 4

**From:** Sean McGivern  
**Sent:** 09 December 2024 16:07  
**To:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]; Jennie Gollan; Ross Ingebrigtsen; Jack Middleton  
**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]; Communications Health and Social Care; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: For SpAds view: Bid - Long COVID postcode lottery - STV - 13:00

ok

**From:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 09 December 2024 16:07  
**To:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Jennie Gollan <[Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot](mailto:Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Health and Social Care <[CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: For SpAds view: Bid - Long COVID postcode lottery - STV - 13:00

Thanks [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)].

Sean, these lines will need to issue to STV by 5 at the latest.

I will progress [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]' preferred option at 16:20 unless you have any further thoughts.

Best wishes.

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)].

**From:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 09 December 2024 15:47  
**To:** Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Jennie Gollan <[Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot](mailto:Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Health and Social Care <[CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: For SpAds view: Bid - Long COVID postcode lottery - STV - 13:00

Hi [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] / [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)],

If the decision is to [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)].

1)

SG spokesperson said:

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(ii)]

2)

SG spokesperson said:

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

Best wishes

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]

**[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]**

Senior Policy Manager

Long Term Conditions Strategy Unit

Healthcare Quality and Improvement | Directorate of the Chief Operating Officer



Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

**From:** Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2024 1:53 PM

**To:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Jennie Gollan <[Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot](mailto:Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[Louise.Scott2@gov.scot](mailto:Louise.Scott2@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Health and Social Care <[CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot)>; Nicci Motiang <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: For SpAds view: Bid - Long COVID postcode lottery - STV - 13:00

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

SG spokesperson said:

"[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

**From:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 09 December 2024 13:23  
**To:** Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Jennie Gollan <[Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot](mailto:Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Health and Social Care <[CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: For SpAds view: Bid - Long COVID postcode lottery - STV - 13:00

Grateful for a view when able please SpAds.

Best wishes.

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)].

**From:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 09 December 2024 12:21  
**To:** Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Jennie Gollan <[Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot](mailto:Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Health and Social Care <[CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: For SpAds view: Bid - Long COVID postcode lottery - STV - 13:00

Thanks both.

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] tells me that [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(ii)]

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(ii)]

Sean, [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(ii)]

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

- [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]
- [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]
[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)][REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]
[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)][REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]
[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]
[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]	

Grateful for thoughts since I will need to progress this fairly soon to give the Minister time to consider.

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)].

**From:** Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 09 December 2024 12:06

**To:** Jennie Gollan <[Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot](mailto:Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Health and Social Care <[CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: For SpAds view: Bid - Long COVID postcode lottery - STV - 13:00

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(ii)]

**From:** Jennie Gollan <[Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot](mailto:Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 09 December 2024 12:02

**To:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot](mailto:Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>



**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: For SpAds view: Bid - Long COVID postcode lottery - STV - 13:00

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(ii)]

**From:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 09 December 2024 12:00

**To:** Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Jennie Gollan <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** For SpAds view: Bid - Long COVID postcode lottery - STV - 13:00

Good afternoon SpAds.

We have received a STV bid for Ms Minto on long COVID. It follows the below Scottish Labour news release suggesting 4,368 patients have been seen since 2021 thanks to SG long COVID support funding.

I have discussed this with policy colleagues and we would recommend [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)].

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(ii)]

Please let me know whether content to decline and issue lines by 13:00.

Best wishes.

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)].

Draft response

Public Health Minister Jenni Minto said:

**[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]**

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)]

## Query

I was wondering if Jenni Minto was available for interview today or if a statement was available regarding a story we're running on our program tonight regarding Long Covid funding.

We've received this press release (below) from Scottish Labour and spoken to a woman with long Covid who says she's been "left to rot" with almost no support from the NHS.

Our deadline for an on camera interview would be 4pm and 5pm for a written statement.

Many thanks

### **"LONG COVID PATIENTS FACE 'POSTCODE LOTTERY' AFTER JUST 4,368 BENEFIT FROM £10MILLION FUND**

Long covid patients face a postcode lottery, Scottish Labour has warned after it emerged that just 4,368 patients have benefited from a specially-designated fund.

In 2021, the SNP Government announced it would spend £10million on long covid over three years.

At least £6.7million of this has now been paid, but the results vary between Health Boards, with three of the NHS Boards failing to establish a pathway to refer long covid patients at all.

In total, the health boards have used the money to treat only 4,368 patients for long covid – a tiny proportion of the 170,000 plus Scots estimated to have long covid.

The SNP government has pledged an additional £4.5million in this week's Budget for specialist support for Long Covid, ME, Chronic Fatigue and similar conditions, but it is yet to pay out more than £3 million that was originally allocated.

Cass Macdonald is a former nurse based in Edinburgh who is now forced to use a wheelchair with symptoms of Long Covid and ME after catching Covid during the pandemic.

The only specialist service available to them was the ME/chronic fatigue service, which provides short-term interventions with physiotherapy and psychology, focusing on pacing and self-management.

Long Covid funding provided this service, which has a 23-week waiting list, with one additional part-time physiotherapist, for one year.

Cass said: "My case is somewhat complex due to underlying conditions, yet my GP can't get advice from specialists in Scotland.

"The money could have funded a dedicated specialist nurses and care co-ordinators, or staffed clinics with healthcare professionals with an understanding and experience of Long Covid.

"There are thousands of key workers who suffered the after-effects of the pandemic - it's essential we learn what happened to the money that was supposed to help their recovery."

Jackie Baillie, Scottish Labour’s Health Spokesperson, said: “Many Long Covid patients put their health on the line during the pandemic and yet are now struggling to get basic support.

“In their attempt to understand and tackle their symptoms, many are forced to pay out for private consultations due to the lack of specialist advice available.

“Additional money for Long Covid patients is welcome, but this SNP government must explain what happened to the £10million if so little of it appears to be reaching the patients it was intended for.

“Labour will work with the life sciences industry and the NHS to better understand the effects of Long Covid while ensuring patients receive quick diagnosis and treatment.”

<b>Health Board*</b>	<b>Has a Long Covid Pathway ?</b>	<b>Patients Treated</b>	<b>Money Received</b>	<b>Has a Long Covid Clinic ?</b>
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	Yes	287	£405,608	No
NHS Borders	Yes	Cannot provide	£98,301	No
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	No	Does not hold info	£166,794	No
NHS Fife	No	Not held	£427,323	No
NHS Forth Valley	Yes	231	£375,330	Yes
NHS Grampian	Yes	174	£764,562	Yes
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	No	461	£1,785,507	No

NHS Highland	Yes	314	£454,773	No
NHS Lanarkshire	Yes	1,210	£946,185	No
NHS Lothian	No	671	£1,022,060	No
NHS Orkney	No	Not held	£44,148	No
NHS Shetland	Yes	0	£9,573	No
NHS Tayside	Yes	960	£197,614	No
NHS Western Isles	Yes	60	£53,968	No
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4,368</b>	<b>£6,751,746.00</b>	

\*NHS Ayrshire & Arran report that 158 patients were referred in 2024. NHS Highland has spent £551k on long covid services making up the difference by using its own reserves. They also note that the SG has allocated £167,566 in funding for 2025/26, which is not included in the figure above.

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]

Media Manager | News: Health and Social Care

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]



## **Document 5**

**From:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] on behalf of Minister for Public Health and Women's Health  
**Sent:** 09 December 2024 16:26  
**To:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]; Minister for Public Health and Women's Health  
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024; Sean McGivern; Jennie Gollan; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]; Communications Health and Social Care  
**Subject:** RE: For clearance: Bid - Long COVID postcode lottery - STV

Hi [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)],

Thanks for this. Ms Minto is content to clear the lines.

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]

### **[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]**

Private Secretary to Minister for Public Health and Women's Health - Jenni Minto  
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
[MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot)

**From:** [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 09 December 2024 16:16  
**To:** Minister for Public Health and Women's Health <[MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <[CabSecHSC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecHSC@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <[Sean.McGivern@gov.scot](mailto:Sean.McGivern@gov.scot)>; Jennie Gollan <[Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot](mailto:Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)] <[\[REDACTED - Section 38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>; Communications Health and Social Care <[CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** For clearance: Bid - Long COVID postcode lottery - STV

Minister, PO.

Please see for clearance a response to a STV bid on long COVID. Apologies this is late coming to PO.

Scottish Labour have published figures on patients treated but [REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)].

[REDACTED - Section 30(b)(i)].

Apologies for the notice but I would be very grateful if the Minister was able to review by 5pm please.

Grateful for an indication of whether the Minister is content.

Best wishes.

[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)].

Draft response

SG spokesperson said:

“We take long COVID very seriously and recognise the serious impact it has on those affected. All NHS boards have well-established referral pathways to a range of services for those with symptoms and the 25-26 Scottish Budget will provide an additional £4.5 million in funding for long COVID and similar conditions.

“As NHS Boards have highlighted in their responses, people living with long COVID access a range of healthcare services which it is not possible to capture fully within the data provided. It is therefore inaccurate to say that only 4,368 patients have been treated using this funding.”

Bid

<u>WH</u> <u>O</u>	<u>OUTLE</u> <u>I</u>	<u>TIM</u> <u>E</u>	<u>LIVE/PR</u> <u>E-REC</u>	<u>INTERVIEWE</u> <u>R</u>	<u>TOPIC</u> <u>S</u>	<u>Recommendati</u> <u>on</u>	<u>Other</u> <u>details</u> <u>(if</u> <u>require</u> <u>d)</u>
<u>Ms</u> <u>Mint</u> <u>o</u>	<u>STV</u>	<u>16:0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>Pre-</u> <u>Record in</u> <u>person</u>	<u>[REDACTED</u> <u>- Section</u> <u>38(1)(b)]</u>	<u>Long</u> <u>COVID</u>	<u>Decline</u>	

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[REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]

Media Manager | News: Health and Social Care

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [REDACTED - Section 38(1)(b)]

