Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government
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19 November 2026

Dear Convenor,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Minister with responsibility for the Covid-19 Inquiries, in conjunction with my colleague, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Care, to inform the Finance and Public Administration Committee that the UK Covid-19 Inquiry ("the Inquiry") has today published its Module 7 report and recommendations. Module 7 examined the policies and strategies developed and deployed to support the test, trace and isolate system by the UK Government and the Devolved Government's.

All Inquiry reports are available online at: https://covid19.public-inquiry.uk/reports/

The Scottish Government will now consider carefully the findings and recommendations set out in the Module 7 report. A detailed response will be provided within the timescales specified by the Inquiry Chair.

Work also continues to implement recommendations accepted from earlier Inquiry reports. Our next progress report on implementation of recommendations arising from Modules 1 and 2, covering pandemic preparedness and planning and government decision-making, will be published by the end of November 2026. The Scottish Government has now published its response to the Module 3 report, on the impact of the pandemic on UK healthcare systems, and the Module 4 report, on vaccines and therapeutics, accepting all recommendations directed to the Scottish Government either in full or in principle and setting out planned next steps. In line with the Chair's expectations, the progress report for these modules will be published no later than May 2027. The Scottish Government's response to Inquiry's Module 5 report, on procurement including PPE, will be published in January 2027 and the response to the Module 6 report, on adult social care, will be published in April 2027.

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We remain committed to learning the lessons identified by the Inquiry and to working collaboratively with partners to strengthen Scotland's preparedness, resilience and public services for the future.

We hope the Committee finds this information helpful. We are also copying this letter to; the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee; the Health, Care and Sport Committee; and the Public Audit Committee, given the relevance of the Module 7 report across a number of parliamentary committees and for wider parliamentary awareness.

Yours sincerely,



JENNY GILRUTH

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