

Cross-Party Group on Long Covid

7:00pm, Tuesday 12th December

Minute

Present

MSPs

Jackie Baillie MSP
Sandesh Gulhane MSP

Invited guests

Dorothy Grace Elder
Nick Scunthorpe
Shaun Tophen-Cooper
Sally Witcher
Callum O'Dwyer
Helen Goss
Kate O'Donnell
Freja Ljungberg
Cameron Smith
Cass MacDonald
Helen Gibson

Non-MSP Group Members

Allana Hoggard
Jane Ormerod, Long Covid Scotland
Chris White, Long Covid Scotland
Stuart McIver, Long Covid Scotland

Apologies

Paul O'Kane MSP
Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

Agenda item 1

Update on progress since last meeting. MSPs spoke about their work in the chamber raising the issue of Long Covid.

Long Covid Scotland have had a busy year. They have just had their first AGM. There are concerns that progress on Long Covid has been glacial. The group met with Jenni Minto, Minister for Public Health and Women's Health.

Long Covid Kids Scotland have been speaking to the Covid-19 Inquiry and gave an update on that. Raised concerns that there has been zero progress when it comes to children and young people with the condition, and they are being left to suffer in silence.

Agenda item 2

Next Steps. It was flagged that Long Covid Day is on 15th March and suggested that a day of action should take place across the nations.

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry is coming to Scotland in January on the 16th, and people with Long Covid are encouraged to tell their stories to it.

The lack of a Covid-19 committee was raised, with concerns that there is therefore no oversight and scrutiny of Covid or Long Covid.

Jackie Baillie MSP said we need to go at this every day, can't let things just 'go back to normal' as things are not normal. New strains of the virus are still appearing and with them comes more Long Covid issues. We need to keep fighting and campaigning.

There was a suggestion for a small working group to work through these ideas and plans.

Agenda item 4

Any other business.

Meeting ended at 8:00pm.