



Meeting:	PSD Scotland Board Meeting
Meeting date:	26 June 2026
Title:	Public Inquiries Report
Paper No.	PSDB/26/27
Responsible Executive/Non-Executive:	Lee Neary, Director of Strategy, Performance and Service Transformation/Primary and Community Care/ Christina Bichan, Director of Planning, Performance and Transformation
Report Author:	Marie Brown, Head of Public Inquiries and External Scrutiny

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This is presented to the Board for information and provides an overview of recent activity undertaken by the Public Inquiries and External Scrutiny Team.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. This paper is provided for information only; it is recommended that the Board note the content of the report.

3. Report Summary

Situation

- 3.1. Public Services Delivery Scotland (PSD Scotland) is a core participant in four public inquiries: the [Eljamel Inquiry](#), the [UK COVID-19 Public Inquiry](#), the [Scottish COVID-19 Public Inquiry](#), and the [Scottish Hospitals Inquiry](#). In addition, staff are supporting two ongoing Crown Office investigations relating to COVID-19 deaths and deaths at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.
- 3.2. PSD Scotland also has a statutory role in shaping policy, service design, and national improvement. This is supported through the provision of organisational expertise and insight, including responding to public consultations. The organisation is currently contributing to a range of consultations aligned to its roles, responsibilities, and areas of expertise.

Background

- 3.3. The Public Inquiries and External Scrutiny Team provides a coordinated and well-governed approach to managing engagement with external scrutiny. It acts as a central function ensuring cross-organisational inputs are aligned, responses are developed and reviewed appropriately, and submissions follow agreed corporate process and sign-off arrangements for consultations, public inquiries, and ongoing criminal investigations.

4. Assessment

- 4.1. A key highlight report is attached as an appendix. PSD Scotland continues to liaise with the public inquiry and investigation teams, actively managing resources to ensure appropriate support is maintained. Efforts are ongoing to minimise duplication of effort, particularly where there is overlap in evidence requests between investigations.

Quality, Value, Care and Technology

- 4.2. None. There is no impact on quality, value, care, and technology to consider in this report, which provides an update on the PSD Scotland response to public inquiries and consultations.

Workforce

- 4.3. Workforce implications continue to be managed locally through Directorates and the Programme Risk Register, with escalated risks or issues directed to the Transformation Leadership Group (TLG).

Financial

4.4. COVID-19 Inquiries

The financial implications associated with responding to the COVID-19 Inquiries continue to represent a significant corporate pressure. Expenditure is expected to continue throughout 2026 as the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry proceeds with evidential hearings, requiring ongoing organisational input and resource commitment. Funding of £497k has been allocated to meet costs, with actual expenditure to the end of May amounting to £64,000. For reference, funding provided over the previous years is set out below:

- 23/24 £823,000
- 24/25 £746,000
- 25/26 £498,000
- 26/27 £497,000

4.5. Eljamel Inquiry

Legal costs associated with the Eljamel Inquiry for 2025/26 totalled £19,520.

Education and Training

- 4.6. None.

Information Governance

- 4.7. The Public Inquiries and External Scrutiny Team works closely with Information Governance and Central Legal Office (CLO) colleagues when responding to external information requests. This ensures that PSD Scotland complies with the Data Protection Act 2018, the UK General Data Protection Regulation, the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.

Environmental and Climate Sustainability

- 4.8. There are no climate change and environmental sustainability implications.

Equality, Diversity, Human Rights and Health Inequalities

- 4.9. Equality, diversity, human rights, and health inequalities are being considered throughout the public inquiries' investigations and responses to public consultations. There is no impact on equality, diversity, and health inequalities to consider in this report, which provides an update on the PSD Scotland response to public inquiries and consultations.

Other Impacts

- 4.10. None.

Risk Assessment/Management

- 4.11. Risk assessment and management is managed in line with the Integrated Risk Management Approach and the Public Inquiries Risk (1001).

Communication, Involvement, Engagement and Consultation

- 4.12. The Board has carried out its duties to involve and engage external stakeholders where appropriate.

Route to the Meeting

- 4.13. The Transitional Leadership Group (TLG) is updated monthly on PSD Scotland's response to public inquiries and consultations and reviews this report prior to the Board.

5. List of appendices

- 5.1. The following appendices are included with this report:
- Appendix 1, Public Inquiries and External Scrutiny Team Update Report.



Meeting	PSD Scotland Board		
Reporting On	• UK and Scottish COVID-19 Public Inquiries • Scottish Hospitals Inquiry • Eljamel Inquiry • Consultations • Criminal Investigations	Period Covered	11 April 2026 to 3 June 2026

Public Inquiries - Executive Highlights

UK COVID-19 Public Inquiry

- The ARHAI Scotland (Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection Scotland) and CLO (Central Legal Office) teams have completed a detailed review of the findings and recommendations set out in Baroness Hallett's Module 3 report. ARHAI has drafted a statement responding to Chapters 1 and 2, which is currently undergoing internal review.
- The UK Inquiry published its fourth report, [Vaccines and Therapeutics](#), on 16 April 2026.
- Although active participation in the UK Inquiry is concluding, PSD Scotland may still be required to respond to warning letters, reports, and recommendations from Modules 3 to 7 over the next 12–18 months.

- Key timeline for the publications of reports and recommendations:
 - Early summer – Module 5 (Procurement)
 - Late 2026 – Module 7 (Test, Trace and Isolate)

Scottish COVID-19 Public Inquiry (SCI)

The Inquiry has outlined high level plans for 2026. Key activities include:

- PSD Scotland/NSS has received 7 formal Section 21 notices from the Scottish COVID 19 Inquiry. Responding to these requests has involved circa 30-40 legacy NSS colleagues across multiple directorates, including strategic planning, procurement, screening, digital, clinical and corporate services, supported by central programme and legal teams.
- The Inquiry has identified three witnesses to give evidence at the October hearings: Mary Morgan (retired), Gordon Beattie (retired), and Laura Imrie. The Public Inquiries and External Scrutiny Team is engaging with each witness and will provide support to ensure they are fully prepared to give evidence.
- Publication of narrative records from public impact hearings later this year (note: these will not include findings or recommendations).
- PSD Scotland is currently responding to one final Section 21 request in relation to NHS Louisa Jordan, Gordon James (Chief Executive of Ayrshire and Arran is the witness for this statement).
- The Public Inquiries & External Scrutiny Team has supported witness interview preparation for Mary Morgan, Laura Imrie and Gordon Beattie. These colleagues attended interviews with the Inquiry in March and April 2026.

Eljamel Inquiry

- PSD Scotland is a core participant in the Eljamel Inquiry and has responded to one request for evidence.
- Following a procedural hearing in May 2026, evidential hearings are due to begin later this year, with September focusing on NHS Tayside, including high-profile matters of significant public interest relating to log books.
- As a core participant, PSD Scotland may be required to prepare for evidential hearings by reviewing evidence submitted by other organisations to understand key issues, identify any potential implications, and ensure readiness to respond to matters raised during hearings.
- Further hearings in December 2026 will focus on the patient cohort.
- The Inquiry is currently seeking a suitable venue, with ongoing liaison to monitor developments and support preparedness ahead of hearings.

Financial

- **COVID-19 Inquiries**

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- **Eljamel Inquiry**

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Scottish Hospitals Public Inquiry - Executive Highlights

- While the Inquiry has now concluded, PSD Scotland continues to support any outstanding follow-up or “mop-up” activity requested by the Inquiry team.
- Further engagement will be required on receipt of Lord Brodie’s final report. Although no publication date has been confirmed, this is anticipated later in 2026 or early 2027.

Consultations

PSD Scotland has responded to the following consultations during this period:

- Persistence Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulation 2026 Consultation – [Persistence Organic Pollutants \(POPs\) Regulation 2026 Consultation](#)
- Infrastructure Strategy Consultation - [Infrastructure Strategy Consultation](#)
- Office of National Statistics Standard Occupational Classification 2020 (SOC2020) revision consultation - [Office of National Statistics Standard Occupational Classification 2020 \(SOC2020\) revision consultation](#)

The following are upcoming consultations which PSD Scotland will be responding to:

- Installation and Maintenance Licenses for Heat Networks Consultation - [Heat networks - installation and maintenance licence: consultation](#)
- GPC (General Pharmaceutical Council) consultation on internally qualified pharmacists' education and training - [Consultation on internationally qualified pharmacists' education and training](#)
- NMC (Nursing and Midwifery Council) consultation on strengthening practice learning - [NMC consults on improving nursing and midwifery practice learning](#)
- Scottish Government Human Trafficking Statutory Guidance consultation - [Adult victims of human trafficking and exploitation: guidance on support - consultation](#)
- DHSC: evidence and views on the future regulatory landscape for substances of human origin (SoHO) used in medical treatment in light of changes to EU SoHO legislation - [Substances of human origin \(SoHO\): review of UK legislation - call for evidence document](#)
- Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency: stakeholder evidence on proposed GB pre-market medical device/IVD regulation changes to inform impact assessment - [Pre market medical devices regulation – stakeholder impact survey - GOV.UK](#)
- Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency: Consultation on the regulation of gene therapy medicinal products - [Consultation on the regulation of Gene therapy medicinal products - GOV.UK](#)
- Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency: Consultation on draft rare disease therapies regulatory framework - [Draft rare disease therapies regulatory framework - GOV.UK](#)