

Building on the Science Legacy of COVID-19 in Scotland

Annex 1

Methodology

The process followed was the establishment of a sub-Group led by SSAC members, the distribution of a questionnaire (see below) to a wide cross-section of those involved in science aspects of the COVID-19 response in Scotland; the convening of a virtual roundtable structured around the responses received (attendees listed below); one-to-one discussions with key leaders representing various parts of the science landscape in Scotland to follow up on key comments made in the questionnaire responses; peer review of the draft report by UK and international experts and a discussion with the whole of the Scottish Science Advisory Council to sign off on the recommendations.

Questionnaire

The text of the questionnaire was developed by the sub-group:

Text of questionnaire

We have provisionally identified 5 key areas where we feel there has been substantial advancement in scientific capability across Scotland during the COVID-19 pandemic, namely the ability to undertake:

- i) Viral testing, processing, and sequencing*
- ii) Clinical trials at pace and at scale*
- iii) Interrogate relevant health and outcome data on the entire population*
- iv) Collaborative, interdisciplinary working that has helped bridge the divide between, for example, academic, government bodies and the life sciences industry*
- v) Science communication with the public.*

Questions

- 1. Do you agree/disagree with any/some/all of these 5 priority areas? Please explain why.*
- 2. Are there other areas of progress that you think it's important to flag up? If so, please list these below with a brief description of why you consider these to be important.*
- 3. Do you have any practical suggestions on how we can maintain and build on the scientific infrastructure, expertise and relationships developed in Scotland over the course of the pandemic with a view to improving the lives of the people of Scotland?*
- 4. Have there been any major missed opportunities to advance science during the COVID-19 pandemic?*
- 5. Finally, is there anything else that you would like to add on the subject of ensuring the science legacy of COVID-19 in Scotland?*

If you have any names of key people who you feel should be sent this questionnaire or invited to our national roundtable discussions, please list these people below (ideally with email addresses).

It was sent directly to over 150 key stakeholders in relevant policy teams in the Scottish Government, from across the NHS in Scotland, Scottish academia, the Life Sciences Industry and others. The questionnaire was also sent for onward distribution by these groups.

Over 40 responses were received. Analysis of the responses received (Annex 2) was presented as part of the roundtable discussion.

Roundtable

Held virtually on 20 January from 15.30 to 17.00. Like the questionnaire, stakeholders from Scottish Government, from across the NHS in Scotland, Scottish academia, the Life Sciences Industry were invited to attend. It sought to build on the responses through facilitated discussions in 4 breakout groups.

Chairs of Breakout Groups were:

Breakout Group 1: Sir Michael Ferguson – Testing and Sequencing

Breakout Group 2: Professor Craig Ramsay – Clinical Trials

Breakout Group 3: Professor Andrew Millar – Data Science

Breakout Group 4: Professor Julie Fitzpatrick – Scaling up Engagement

Sub Group Attendees

Maggie Gill, SSAC Chair

Anna Dominiczak, SSAC member

Aziz Sheikh, SSAC member

Jodie Hay, SSAC Intern

Alasdair Maclean, SSAC secretariat

Caroline Murray, SSAC secretariat

Kathrin Cresswell, Analyst

Robin Williams, Analyst

Holly Tibble, Scribe

Sub Group observers

Christine McLaughlin, Director of Test & Protect, Directorate for COVID Public Health, Scottish Government

Alpana Mair, Head of Effective Prescribing and Therapeutics, Directorate for Health Finance, Corporate Governance and Value, Scottish Government

Fiona McDiarmid, Team Leader Testing Policy, Directorate for COVID Public Health, Scottish Government

Jeanna Sandilands, Directorate for COVID Public Health, Scottish Government

Main attendees

Catherine Adamson, University of St Andrews

Tim Aitman, University of Edinburgh

John Brown, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

David Bunton, ReprocCell/Glasgow Economic Leadership Group

Marion Campbell, University of Aberdeen

Eleanor Charsley, Association of British HealthTech Industries (ABHI)

Helen Cheyne, University of Stirling

John Cleland, Robertson Centre for Biostatistics, University of Glasgow/UKCRC-registered Clinical Trials Units

Carol Clugston, University of Glasgow

Alexandra Cochrane, NHS Highland

Philip Conaglen, NHS Lothian

Luke John Davies, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Elizabeth Dickson, Public Health Scotland

Sandi Deans, University of Edinburgh/NHS England & NHS Improvement

Isabel Fletcher, University of Edinburgh

Brian Forbes, AstraZeneca

Michael Gormley, Herriot-Watt University

Rory Gunson, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Jennifer Harris, The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI)

Donna Heddle, UHI

Rachel Helliwell, James Hutton Institute
Antonia Ho, University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research
Matt Holden, Public Health Scotland
Elisabeth A Innes, Moredun Research Institute
Philip Jones, Bioascent
Michael Kellet, Scottish Government
Daniel Kleinberg, Scottish Government
Oliver Koch, COVID-19 Clinical Guidance Cell
Catherine Lyall, University of Edinburgh
Graeme Maclennan, The Centre for Healthcare Randomised Trials
Fiona Mackenzie, Scottish Microbiology & Virology Network (SMVN) / COVID-19 Technical Group Chair
Morag McFarlane, Intelligent Clinical
Frances Quirk, NHS Fife
Safia Qureshi, Healthcare Improvement Scotland
Jim Reid, Sitemic
Lewis Ritchie, University of Aberdeen
David Robertson, University of Glasgow
Chris Robertson, University of Strathclyde
Catherine Ross, Scottish Government
Nicholas Sculthorpe, UWS
Tom Steele, Scottish Ambulance Service
David Stirling, NHS National Services Scotland
Ken Sutherland, Canon Medical Research Europe Ltd
Stephanie Thomas, Public Health Scotland
Emma Thomson, University of Glasgow
Harper VanSteenhouse, BioClavis Ltd
Joanne Ward, Scottish Government
Lesley Yellowlees, Scottish Funding Council

Post-roundtable

One-to-one conversations were held with individuals who had either raised specific issues in the responses to the questionnaire or for fact checking comments made. Draft recommendations were also discussed with SG officials for the purpose of fact checking. Drafts were shared with the sub-group and also with four peer reviewers to check alignment with Scottish, UK and international forward planning.



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