

**From:** sandra goldie

**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 6:12:11 PM

**To:** [CPE@gov.scot](mailto:CPE@gov.scot) <[CPE@gov.scot](mailto:CPE@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Feedback on COVID Framework Document by Scottish Government

I read the COVID framework document released last week by Scottish Govt with great interest. I am heartened by the overall values and principles contained therein. I have a number of questions, comments and concerns I wish to register as feedback in this consultation. I have also sent this feedback to my local MP, Alyn Smith in the hope and expectation that my views as a constituent are given voice in Westminster and Holyrood.

There is growing criticism of the U.K. approach to and management of COVID19, with well-documented evidence of errors, delays, incompetence and a catalogue of lies and deceit, witnessed daily in Westminster briefings. As one of the four nations in U.K. we are complicit in that. Comparing Scotland's mortality with countries of comparable size and status puts that in context.

At what point do we make our own way? What specific criteria are being followed that will allow Scotland to follow a better path?

We have resoundingly failed on testing, contact tracing and strict quarantine processes, the essential tools stressed by WHO and successful Asian countries as vital to containment and management. We are woefully behind European countries including Germany and Ireland in these respects, who show a much lower mortality rate. So, what specifically is being done to introduce widespread and repeated testing, tracing and quarantining? Surely our best way out of lock-down? Are we tracking number of calls to NHS24 with suspected COVID? Are we maximising testing? Are we factoring in the high number of asymptomatic carriers? Do we even know?

Being part of a 4-Nation plan damns us all. What specific criteria will be used to enable Scotland to make its own way and diverge from the U.K. plan? Herd immunity is happening right now - through stealth, deception, delay and incompetence. We must do better. We are poised to see a mortality rate passing 50,000 in U.K. if you consider we are possibly peaking now and can expect the same numbers on the down-turn. Truly shameful. Even worse if we've merely flattened the curve and are looking at a sustained high mortality rate for weeks and months to come. We must choose our path to safeguard Scotland, as our current and continued path as part of U.K. is hard to justify.

How many people continue to enter the U.K. and Scotland by air and sea? What is being done to strictly control borders? We know from other countries that this is a vital strategy. Where is the mandatory testing and quarantining of all people arriving into UK and Scotland by flights? Look to New Zealand. Another island.

I am encouraged to see recognition in the paper that the previous economic crisis of 2008 failed to improve society for all. We cannot repeat the same mistakes - bank and big company bail-outs at the expense of the population. 10 years of subsequent austerity have compounded the impact of COVID in so many ways, again well documented. We must look to new ways of living and running our country - eg tax on super-rich; holding companies to account for pollution; immediate bans on single-use plastics; compulsory return schemes on bottles funded and financed by the producing companies; moving away from fossil fuels; a basic universal income for all; ending homelessness; free public transport. So many things we could do differently. We must not go back to 'business as usual' - GDP cannot be the defining measure of our country's wealth and value. The climate must be put at the heart of the economic recovery plan. We must use this global interruption to look anew at how we live on this planet, and find ways to use our natural resources sympathetically in a

sustainable and greener manner. The technology and know-how exist, the need has never been greater. We must incorporate sustainable and green strategies into our economic recovery, addressing the climate emergency as we learn to live with COVID. The climate emergency is COVID in slow-motion and is truly an existential threat to us all. We have seen how radically governments and countries can act in the face of immediate threat. Climate change is an even bigger threat, it's just not so immediate to much of the population in the privileged developed world. We have seen a global response to COVID. We MUST harness that spirit of global community and common humanity and channel it into climate change and action in order to rebuild economies while we manage COVID recovery.

If the paper is genuine about feedback from the public, then please use it to start a real and inclusive national conversation about what kind of society we want to live in. Please harness this country's rich innovation and creativity and invite all of our population to voice ideas, suggestions and new ways. Now is the time for a radical re-think and re-setting, a chance for Scotland to lead the way forwards., to take matters into our own hands, to be bold, to leap forwards. We cannot creep back to our way of living pre-COVID and be satisfied with that. That is just not good enough. Not now. Not now that we have seen what can be different.

I care deeply about people and health. That's why I work in the NHS as a physiotherapist, helping people to live their best lives. I care deeply about my colleagues. That's why I'm a union steward, caring about those who care for others. I care deeply about my family, friends and neighbours. That's why I'm writing to you. I care deeply about the planet. That's why I'm a gardener and a vegan. I care deeply about our future. That's why I'm writing to you. That's why I choose to be hopeful in the face of great adversity and unprecedented challenges.

I can only imagine the levels of pressure and scrutiny that the Scottish Govt and Nicola Sturgeon will be under. I hope you have the strength, the resilience, the courage and the support to move our country forwards and to forge a new future. It is surely our only hope. Going back to how it was is simply not good enough for the majority of this planet's population. Scotland can lead the way. I urge you to strengthen the bonds with the other wellbeing-focused countries eg Iceland, New Zealand, and to build that collective partnership and a better, brighter, greener, fairer society. That's a country and world I want to live in.

Thank you

Sandra Goldie

Proud physiotherapist, union steward, gardener, golfer, curler, vegan, sister, aunt, niece, neighbour, Stirling resident.

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