

Nicola Sturgeon MSP  
First Minister of Scotland  
Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

21 May 2021

Dear First Minister

**National Summit to address impact of Covid-19 upon disabled people**

**Congratulations on your re-election. Our organisations look forward to working with you on a wide range of issues in the new parliament.**

With the recent lifting of certain lockdown restrictions, our organisations are writing to request that the Scottish Government hosts, as a matter of urgency, a National Summit to address the impact of Covid-19 upon disabled people, including people with learning disabilities.

By way of further background, our organisations represent, and work on behalf of, thousands of disabled people, and are aware that Covid-19 is having a significant, and often disproportionate, impact upon disabled people across Scotland. Against this background, we believe there is an urgent need for the Scottish Government to host a National Summit to address how the welfare, wellbeing and rights of disabled people will be, prioritised and protected by the new Scottish Government in the face of Covid-19, and its ongoing impact.

The proposed National Summit could address issues such as, for example, the impact of Covid-19 and the lockdown restrictions upon disabled people, safeguarding, care and support including access to day services, the availability of health services, access to transport and to other key infrastructure, as well as issues around mental health and wellbeing, and tackling social isolation and loneliness. The impact of Covid has also underlined the need for a Commissioner for Disabled People to ensure that the rights of disabled people are fully understood and protected, an issue which should also be considered by the National Summit.

We would propose that the National Summit should be attended by key stakeholders including, for example, the Scottish Government at First Minister or Cabinet Secretary level, disabled people, families and carers, third sector organisations, COSLA, representatives from Health, representatives from Education and from Social Security Scotland and from other key agencies.

Our organisations would be happy to work with the Scottish Government to help plan for, and to organise, the proposed National Summit.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely



Emma Walker  
Director, Camphill Scotland



Dr Donald Macaskill  
Chief Executive, Scottish Care



Professor Ian Welsh OBE,  
Chief Executive,  
Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland  
(the ALLIANCE)



Josh Kennedy MSYP  
Chair of the Scottish Youth Parliament



Angela Bonomy  
Executive Director, Sense Scotland

