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THIRD SECTOR NEWS	
<u>TAKE PART IN THE SCOTTISH THIRD SECTOR TRACKER</u>	
<p>The Scottish Third Sector Tracker is a growing research community made up of representatives from third sector organisations based across the whole of Scotland, who are willing to share their experiences, views and concerns as the sector faces both new and ongoing challenges. The Tracker is run by an independent research company called DJS Research on behalf of SCVO, the Scottish Government, the William Grant Foundation and the National Lottery Community Fund.</p> <p>The team are looking representatives from all third sector organisations (charities, community groups, social enterprises, credit unions etc.) to join their peers and tell us about the challenges their organisations are facing and the support they need.</p>	
 <p>Shetland Women's Aid</p>	<p>SHETLAND WOMEN'S AID ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Wednesday 13th September 6.00pm (Online)</p> <p>To register your interest and receive an invitation to join the meeting virtually, please contact office@shetlandwa.org before Monday 11th September 2023.</p>
ON BEHALF OF NHS SHETLAND: <u>INVESTING IN THE FUTURE</u>	
<p>NHS Shetland has been asked by the Scottish Government to identify areas for investment in places, equipment, and technology over the next 20 years, to support the future delivery of services across the isles.</p>	

If you have had recent experience of current services and would like to help NHS Shetland shape the future of its services please follow the link to see how you can take part:
<https://www.nhssheland.scot/us/investing-future>

THE SCOTTISH GREEN ENERGY AWARDS 2023

Deadline to submit nominations is 5pm on Monday 11 September

The nominations for [The Scottish Green Energy Awards 2023](#) are now open. The Best Community Project award celebrates the outstanding development of a renewable energy project which has been led by a community group or community organisation. It's free to nominate and you can submit as many nominations as you wish!

Calling all knitters! (Beginners welcome too!) **Worry Monster project**

Come along and join us to knit some Worry Monsters that will bring comfort and reassurance to the young folk supported by Women's Aid during the most challenging times.



By joining in this project you can make a HUGE difference to the lives of children affected by domestic abuse and family breakdown in Shetland.



**Wednesday mornings
10.30am—12.30pm
Islesburgh Community
Centre Drama Room
(2nd floor, but there is a lift)**



Donations of wool and toy stuffing will be gratefully received!

Email denise.nicolson@shetland.gov.uk if you want more information.
Thank you!

An Adult Learning project in partnership with Shetland Women's Aid

JAMES HUTTON INSTITUTE RESEARCHES SCOTTISH RURAL LIVES

Researchers from The James Hutton Institute in Aberdeen are conducting surveys to understand the challenges of opportunities facing Scotland's rural areas. In particular, their research focuses on: localities as potential places to live, rural travel, and local food. And, importantly, they want to hear from you! Participants aged over 18 can join and will be in the chance of winning £50 gift cards.

NEW VAS VOLUNTEERING AWARDS

Deadline: 15 September 2023

Do you know someone who deserves a thank you for helping out in their community or volunteering with an organisation?

Voluntary Action Shetland are delighted to announce the launch of two new awards for volunteering. The aim of the new awards is to recognise all kinds of volunteering, which includes both formal and informal volunteering. The awards consist of two categories and will be complementing the national Saltire Awards scheme (which VAS deliver annually to recognise young people aged 12 to 25).

WILLIN HAANDS AWARD: For Adults aged 26 and over.

PEERIE TROWS AWARD: For children aged 11 and under

By developing the new awards scheme, VAS want to celebrate individuals of all ages who volunteer in Shetland and recognise their valuable contribution to our communities. Both formal and informal volunteering are recognised in the new award with the latter often being overlooked, even by the volunteers themselves. Informal volunteering can be a host of tasks such as providing home-bakes for fundraisers/teas, helping a neighbour in need, litter picking or other ways of supporting the community without formally being involved with an organisation.

Similar to VAS' Community Spirit Award, which ran during the Covid pandemic, the VAS Volunteering Awards (VAS-VAs) are nomination-based, anyone can nominate (whether they are an individual or an organisation) someone, adult or child who volunteers or has volunteered. Please read the nomination guidelines before nominating someone for the awards.

To nominate, folk can fill in the [online form](#) or contact VAS Volunteering for a paper format.

Awardees will receive a certificate and their volunteering stories will be celebrated on the Voluntary Action Shetland social media channels and in the local news.

Please feel free to print and display the attached poster and share with friends and colleagues. If you have any queries please contact Kathleen Williamson and Lavinia Schmidt, Volunteer Development Workers. Tel: 01595 743910 (direct line).

Email: VASVolunteering@shetland.org

NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR

No Updates

RESOURCES

ESSENTIAL READING FOR CHARITY TRUSTEES

If you are a charity trustees actively engaged with fundraising, do you understand your responsibilities? Two useful resources are:

CIOF - [TRUSTEES AND FUNDRAISING IN SCOTLAND HANDBOOK](#)

OSCR - [FUNDRAISING GUIDANCE FOR CHARITY TRUSTEES](#)

[GAMCARE'S GAMBLING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION \(GAP\) PROGRAMME](#)

[GamCare](#) operates the UK's National Gambling Helpline and is a provider of free information, advice and support for anyone affected by harmful gambling. We have launched a new UK wide programme which through training aims to reduce gambling harm by enhancing the awareness, knowledge and confidence of public facing staff to undertake early intervention and prevention actions.

The GAP programme works by offering free training for staff around gambling related harms, signposting to support services, recognising gambling spend, referral pathways and embedding screening questions. The training we offer is specifically tailored for different sectors and currently we are focusing on debt advice sector. The other sectors we will be delivering tailored training for are housing, community, faith & cultural leaders, pharmacies, social & primary care and occupation health, dates to be confirmed.

Our experience of working with the debt advice sector is that there has been an increase in individuals seeking support for financial difficulties linked to gambling. Each year at least three quarters of callers to the National Gambling Helpline and those accessing GamCare's treatment services report financial difficulties and two thirds mention some level of gambling debt.

For further information about reducing gambling harm in Scotland please see the report [SCOTLAND REDUCING GAMBLING HARM – YEAR THREE EVALUATION REPORT](#)

[GROWING CLIMATE CONFIDENCE WEBSITE](#)

The recently launched initiative '[Growing Climate Confidence](#)' helps third sector organisations in Scotland to reduce their carbon emissions and to engage with their community. You can learn about the climate crisis, share your experiences with others in the sector, and discover actions and the funding options you can take to address it. There is an interactive scorecard which can help you to assess your progress on the journey to net zero. The resources have been developed as part of a wide partnership of support organisations and funders.

HEALTHCARE IMPROVEMENT SCOTLAND GUIDANCE:

[MY NEW HOME: SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH AN INTELLECTUAL/LEARNING DISABILITY AND ADVANCED DEMENTIA MOVING INTO A CARE HOME](#) (PDF)

The guidance is for all professionals involved in supporting people with a learning disability and advancing dementia. It aims to ensure a person-centred approach to any move needed. And it seeks to ensure the best outcomes for the person, and that support is in place for care home staff as required.

WATCH: [SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S HEAT IN BUILDINGS STRATEGY](#)

Find out what the Scottish Government's Heat in Buildings Strategy means for communities.

SCOTTISH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (SCDC): [COMMUNITY-LED ACTION RESEARCH](#)

Community-led action research is a process where the community decides on an issue to be researched, designs and carries out the research, and makes use of the results. This makes community-led action research different from traditional research which tends to be conducted on the community by researchers from outside the community. This new resource from SCDC explains what community-led action research is, how it works and features examples and resources to help you learn more.

NCVO RESEARCH REPORT ON VOLUNTEERS: [TIME WELL SPENT 2023- A NATIONAL SURVEY ON THE VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE](#)

Volunteering is critical to a vibrant and resilient civil society. The data and insights in this report aim to will help you to help volunteers get the best from their roles and make an even bigger impact in their communities. (NB The report applies to England but may be interesting to read).

[10 WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY AND REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT WHILE WORKING FROM HOME](#)

Business Energy Scotland's guide explains how you can save energy and reduce your carbon footprint (and energy bills) while working from home.

[2023 RURAL & ISLANDS INSIGHTS REPORT](#)

This recently published report from SRUC, part of the Scottish Government's Strategic Research Programme 2022-27, aims to provide new insights on rural and island Scotland. The research analyses the evolution of policies, diverse data sources, and regional characteristics,

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT REPORT: [WOMEN'S JUSTICE LEADERSHIP PANEL THE CASE FOR GENDERED AND INTERSECTIONAL APPROACHES TO JUSTICE](#)

This report summarises the work of the Women's Justice Leadership Panel, their thematic discussions, and their key findings. The remit of the Panel was to demonstrate that the experience of women in the justice system is different to men, and to promote consistent understanding of gendered issues.

FORTHCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS

[SCOTTISH RURAL & ISLANDS PARLIAMENT \(IN PERSON AND ONLINE\), 1 – 3 NOVEMBER, FORT WILLIAM](#)

Join us as we celebrate rural and island living, share learning about some of the solutions to the complex problems facing us, and shape policy for better futures.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN YOUTH WORK – LEVEL 2

Sign up for new free 90-minute training developed in partnership by YouthLink Scotland and Education Scotland, this session is an exploration of rights-based practice. This session will be held on Microsoft Teams and will include a short comfort break. This event is for youth work practitioners (paid and voluntary) who want to explore rights-based youth work practice. Please note this is **NOT** an introductory session.

Participants will:

Gain understanding of the PANEL principles and how they relate to youth work.
Reflect on how PANEL principles can be used to evaluate youth work.

There are two dates available:

[14th September – 10am to 11.30am](#)

[25th October – 10am to 11.30am](#)

A Free introduction course for youth workers on children's rights is available [here](#).

["THIRD SECTOR IN PARLIAMENT" CONFERENCE, FRI, 29 SEP 2023 10:00 - 16:00 BST \(IN PERSON AND ONLINE \(FREE\)\)](#)

The inaugural "Third Sector in Parliament" conference was held in 2022 where around 40 voluntary organisations gathered in Parliament. The event celebrated the contribution of the voluntary sector on Parliamentary scrutiny as well as work towards strengthening those working relationships and sharing learning around how best to involve communities in the work of Parliament. The second conference will be hosted both in person and **online** on Friday 29th September 2023.

Registration is now live on Eventbrite. Please take the time to read the event description as this has important information about workshops. Registration will close on Friday 8th September.

[HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE ALLIANCE SCOTLAND SELF MANAGEMENT WEEK 2023 – PROGRAMME OF EVENTS MONDAY 18 – THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER](#)

[MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER, 12:00-1:00PM – THE BENEFITS OF NATURE CONNECTION FOR WELLBEING \(ZOOM\)](#)

This one-hour session led by Jan Cafearo from [Feelgood Forest Bathing](#) is an introduction to connecting with nature for wellbeing. You will learn some of the science revealing the health benefits of the Japanese art of Forest Bathing (immersing ourselves in nature through the senses). We'll have a short taster activity to experience it for ourselves. And there will be time for questions at the end. You'll be offered a link to a video, which will guide you through a more in-depth activity to be practised at your leisure, in your own neighbourhood nature. The session is suitable for anyone – beginners to experienced, all abilities, and aims to be fun and engaging.

MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER, 3:30-4:30PM – IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE IMPACT OF OUR NETWORKS AND SUPPORT THOSE WHO LEAD THEM (ZOOM)

How many of us attend a meeting as we were told to go, or our organisation needs to be seen to attend but in the grand scheme of things nothing much changes? This 50-minute session led by Hilda Campbell ([COPE Scotland](#)) seeks to present a suite of resources to help our networks and ourselves as network leaders as well as a chance to reflect on areas we may like to learn more about.

TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER, 2:00-3:00PM – WHAT IF ALISS COULD TALK? (ZOOM)

ALISS is [A Local Information System for Scotland](#). It helps people in Scotland self manage by putting them in touch with services, groups, activities, and resources which improve their health and wellbeing. This event will feature ALLIANCE Digital Assistant Director Chris Mackie introducing the [Democratising Access to Community Services](#) (DACS) project and a pre-recorded ALLIANCE live podcast with Caroline Laurenson of TL Tech talking about the collaboration to develop voice activation for ALISS.

THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER, 12:00-12:45PM – COURAGE, CONFIDENCE AND COLLABORATION: SUPPORTING SELF MANAGEMENT IN HEALTH PROFESSIONALS' PRACTICE

This webinar, led by Professor Lisa Kidd (Glasgow Caledonian University, Department of Nursing and Community Health) will draw on the learning from a recently completed research study on supported self management in stroke care. It will delve into perspectives on supported self management, challenging our professionally-held assumptions about what it is and isn't.



The Shetland Boccia Competition 2023 will be held on Sunday the 15th of October in Clickimin Main Hall. This competition is open to all ages and abilities. Registration on the day will be 1.45pm or pre-register by contacting me directly. The competition will run from 2pm-4pm.



There are two Table Cricket taster sessions this month on Thursday the 7th and 21st of September. They will be held in Islesburgh from 11am-1pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

HEALTHCARE IMPROVEMENT SCOTLAND WEBINAR: [ENGAGING WITH PEOPLE ON THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY HOSPITALS, 7 SEPTEMBER 2023, 10:30 TO 12:00 PM](#)

This session will draw on extensive research on community hospitals in England to consider how communities support their local hospitals, and what value those hospitals hold for them.

[GWT THEMATIC SESSION WITH UNIFYING GENERATIONS, EDWARDS LIFESCIENCES, THURSDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2023, 2:00PM - 4:00PM, ONLINE](#)

Hear from researchers and a volunteer from the Edwards Lifesciences about their recent survey into perceptions and experience of intergenerational solidarity of 12,850 citizens across 6 European countries (France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain and the UK). NB You must sign in to your (free) membership before you book your place.

SCVO FREE [EVENTS AND TRAINING](#) THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

- [Members week webinar: creating connections](#), 4 September
- [Understanding charity accounts](#), 19 September
- [Trustee roles and responsibilities with MacRoberts](#), 12 October
- [Trustee roles and responsibilities with Gillespie Macandrew](#), 6 December

JUST ENTERPRISE: [AN INTRODUCTION TO DIVERSITY, EQUALITY & INCLUSION, FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP](#)

[Choice of ONLINE Workshop Dates & Times:](#)

Tuesday 5th September – 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Wednesday 25th October – 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Wednesday 1st November – 1.30 pm – 4.30 pm

For more information on the individual speakers and to book your place on the workshop of your choice [click here](#).

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SCOTLAND

[UNLOCKING PROCUREMENT: SCOTLAND'S NEW PUBLIC PROCUREMENT STRATEGY, TUESDAY 29 AUGUST \(11AM\) | ONLINE](#)

Scottish Government procurement officials as well as Just Enterprise at this webinar. Public sector procurement is a hot topic for social enterprises and there are many new important developments

[HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WEBINAR | THURSDAY 7 SEPTEMBER \(11AM\) | 40 MINUTE SESSION | ONLINE](#)

The Scottish Government has committed to introducing a new Human Rights Bill incorporating international human rights standards into domestic law in Scotland. Join our webinar with Scottish Government human rights officials.

[DEMOCRATIC FINANCE: 40 MINUTE FINANCE FOCUS, WEDNESDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2023 11:00 -11:40, ONLINE](#)

The democratic finance programme seeks to directly link available money in communities to local organisations seeking finance, whether that is to buy land, renovate a building or expand an existing enterprise.

NPC RESEARCH BRIEFING: [WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE WANT YOU TO DO ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES, 25 SEPTEMBER 2023, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, ONLINE](#)

NPC share findings from the [Everyone's Environment](#) programme's engagement with young people to explore their priorities in tackling the climate and nature crises. In collaboration with Groundwork, Barnardo's and Woodcraft Folk, we have spoken with those affected about [how the environmental crises and related policy impact young people](#).

NPC RESEARCH BRIEFING: [WHAT OLDER PEOPLE AND DISABLED PEOPLE WANT YOU TO DO ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES, 28 SEPTEMBER 2023, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, ONLINE](#)

NPC share findings from the [Everyone's Environment](#) programme's engagement with older people and Disabled people to explore their priorities in tackling the climate and nature crises. In collaboration with Disability Rights UK and Re-engage, we have spoken with those affected about [how the environmental crises and related policy impact older people and disabled people](#).

EXPLORING GAMBLING AND THE HIDDEN LINKS TO POVERTY : FAMILY WORKERS- WEDNESDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER 10AM-12PM (Zoom)

This webinar is open to anyone working within youth services, family services or formal education in Scotland and will be delivered by the Scottish Gambling Education Hub, a Fast Forward project.

It will explore how gambling and poverty are connected, and how inequality is linked to the experience of harm; It will also discuss how to tackle gambling harm in your work, and how to make the connection between gambling and other circumstances the people you support might be experiencing (such as financial difficulty, unemployment, homelessness, etc.); Share some free resources with links to specialist support concerning gambling harm.

JUST TRANSITION - CONSTRUCTION AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

The transition to Net Zero has the potential to impact many aspects of daily living in Scotland. In particular, consideration will need to be given to the impact on the type of jobs available, the training and skills required amongst the workforce and potential for new and exciting economic opportunities.

-Do you work in the Agriculture & Land Use, Transport or Construction & Built Environment sectors and have views on how the transition to Net Zero should be achieved?

-Would you like the opportunity to help shape government policy making as priorities around the transition to net zero are identified and addressed in these sectors?

If so, then this is your opportunity to feed into the policy making process.

The Scottish Government has commissioned Deciding Matters to host a number of workshops for those in the built environment and construction sectors. The sessions will be an opportunity for businesses and workers to get involved in the early stages of the Scottish Government's just transition planning approach,

CRANFIELD TRUST – FREE ONLINE WEBINARS

ESSENTIALS TO EXCELLENCE: CHARITIES, HOW TO CREATE VALUE THROUGH BRANDING (PART 1), 6 SEPTEMBER 2023 FROM 12:00PM TO 1:00PM

Aimed at CEOs, managers, fundraisers, and trustees, in this one-hour webinar, Chris Cherrill will explore the concept of branding within a charity. We will discuss what a brand is, why branding is important, and how your brand goes much deeper than your logo or website. We will also look at how you can build a charity brand with limited resources and some quick wins!

ESSENTIALS TO EXCELLENCE: CHARITIES, UNDERSTAND MARKETING AND ITS IMPORTANCE (PART 2), 28 SEPTEMBER 2023 FROM 12:00PM TO 1:00PM

Aimed at CEO's, marketing managers, fundraisers, and trustees, this one-hour webinar will discuss the importance of marketing and what it is within a charity context. We will look at how, through developing a simple one page marketing plan, you can help grow a charity's online community, raise awareness and increase donations.

ESSENTIALS TO EXCELLENCE: CHARITIES - WHY BOTHER WITH PROCESS IMPROVEMENT? 12 OCTOBER 2023 FROM 12:00PM TO 1:00PM

100% of your charity's performance is a result of how well your people design, operate and continuously improve your processes. So if you know you need to make a step-change in performance, you will only be able to do that by changing your processes and this webinar can help.

NATIONAL CARE SERVICE NATIONAL FORUM 2023, MON, 30 OCT 2023 10:30 - 15:30, IN PERSON (GLASGOW) AND ONLINE

The National Care Service Forum is an opportunity for stakeholders, people who access social care support, the social care workforce, carers and unpaid carers to share their thoughts about the National Care Service. The forum will talk about what the National Care Service is all about, why it matters so much we make it happen together, and how we will do that. This event is open to everyone with experience or views they'd like to share on social care support and community healthcare.

Those unable to attend in-person can still attend online. Please click on the [link to register for the National Care Service Forum online](#).

Travel and expenses

If you are attending as a member of the public the National Care Service may cover agreed costs for travel, accommodation and replacement care, to enable you to attend. We can also book travel and accommodation for you. Please contact the National Care Service Communications mailbox once you have booked your space but before booking any travel or accommodation to discuss: NCSCcommunications@gov.scot.

THRE – THIRD SECTOR HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITIES - TRAINING DATES COMING UP

Scottish Human Rights Bill: THRE Connectors Webinar

Wednesday 13th September 12pm - 1pm with guest speaker Mhairi Snowden, Director, Human Rights Consortium Scotland

Climate Change and Human Rights for the Third Sector

Wednesday 20th September 10am – 1pm

This online conference will explore the overlaps of human rights and climate change while contextualising both of these topics for third sector organisations in Scotland. The session will feature guest speakers from environmental rights organisations and third sector sustainability experts.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE THIRD SECTOR, WED, 20 SEP 2023 10:00 - 13:00 BST, ONLINE

This online conference will explore the overlaps of human rights and climate change while contextualising both of these topics for third sector organisations in Scotland. The session will feature guest speakers from environmental rights organisations and third sector sustainability experts.

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS CLIMATE FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 2023

The theme of the Highland & Islands Climate Festival 2023 is Think Local, Be Local (Eat Local, Travel Local, Grow Local, Share Local, Protect Local). Communities from Shetland to Skye are encouraged to hold events celebrating their local communities culminating in a region wide local picnic celebration on Saturday 30th September, which will coincide with Scottish Governments [Scottish Climate Week](#).

Communities are welcome and encouraged to get involved now by applying to one of the festivals **two small grant funds, the Event Fund and the Big Local Picnic Fund**. [Details of both are available here](#). Events which celebrate community-led climate action are welcome to be submitted to the website for free promotion across the platforms and within our digital programme of events which in 2022, saw over 150 events take place both in person and online. [See how to submit an event here](#).

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

SHETLAND ISLANDS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU VACANCY - ASSISTANT SESSION SUPERVISOR

Closing date: 12pm, Monday 11th September

SICAB is recruiting for the post of Assistant Session Supervisor. The position is fixed-term until end of June 2025, and will be advertised locally from this Friday. They are seeking someone who is:

- passionate about delivering a quality service to those most in need
- a strong team player, with an eye for detail, and great people skills
- committed to supporting our volunteers and contributing to their development

You'll need excellent communication skills, strong IT skills and the ability to thrive in a busy environment. (See attached documents).

For more information and a chat about the role you can contact: Della Armstrong
Manager, Shetland Islands Citizens Advice Bureau, Tel: 01595 694696

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

CALLS FOR VIEWS: THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT IS OPEN TO HEARING YOUR VIEWS ON A RANGE OF TOPICS, INCLUDING:

DEMOCRACY MATTERS PHASE 2 CONSULTATION - LOCAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW

This document provides the basis for a second phase of deliberation on the future community decision-making. Have your say on local communities deciding their own future.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT: HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION AUTHORITY
PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING STATUTORY GUIDANCE: CONSULTATION**

Closes 27 Oct 2023

The Scottish Government would like to hear from anyone involved in the planning and delivery of services, supported people, carers, as well as the wider public. Help the Scottish Government to support improvement to health and social care services by sharing your views on our refreshed guidance.

VICTIMS, WITNESSES AND JUSTICE REFORM (SCOTLAND) BILL

Closes: 8 September 2023

The [Criminal Justice Committee](#) is seeking your views on a bill which proposes a number of changes to the justice system, including the introduction of a new Victims and Witnesses Commissioner, changes to the size of juries, the abolition of the not proven verdict, a new Sexual Offences Court and a pilot of rape trials conducted by a single judge without a jury. This call for views is also available in [easy read](#) and in [BSL](#).

**JUST TRANSITION FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND CONSTRUCTION
SECTOR: A DISCUSSION PAPER**

This discussion paper is intended to support engagement on a just transition for the built environment and construction sector. Building on this engagement, a draft targeted action plan and route map (late 23/24) will outline the key steps to delivering a fair transition for the sector.

PROPOSED COMMISSIONER FOR OLDER PEOPLE (SCOTLAND) BILL

Closing date: 12 September 2023

Colin Smyth MSP is looking for your views on his proposal for a bill to establish an independent commissioner to promote and safeguard the rights and interests of older people.

A HUMAN RIGHTS BILL FOR SCOTLAND: CONSULTATION

Closes: 5 October 2023

The Scottish Government is gathering views to help inform how we will take forward the Human Rights Bill. The Bill will incorporate a range of economic, social and cultural rights into Scots law for the first time, as far as possible within the limits of devolved competence.

NATIONAL ISLANDS PLAN REVIEW – CONSULTATION

Closes: 9 October 2023

Scotland's first ever National Islands Plan was published in 2019. It is now being reviewed as required by the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018, which may lead to the publication of a new National Islands Plan. The Scottish Government wants to work together with local authorities, island communities and relevant sectors and partners to ensure this process is as thorough and effective as possible, providing vital feedback from those most impacted by the National Islands Plan.

This consultation provides everyone with an interest in Scotland's islands the chance to provide their views and, if required, to shape the next iteration of the National Islands Plan. It takes about 30-40 minutes to complete.

LET'S BE HEARD ON COVID LESSONS

The Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry has launched its listening project, Let's Be Heard, inviting the public to share their experiences of the pandemic and any lessons they believe should be learned. Find out how individuals and groups can participate by visiting lbh.covid19inquiry.scot. The project is asking for experiences to be submitted by 31 October 2023