

An Leas-phrìomh Mhinistear agus Ath -shlànachadh  
Cobhid  
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid  
Recovery  
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Your ref: HSCS Committee inquiry into health inequalities

06 June 2022

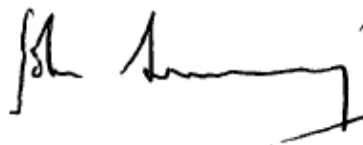
Dear Gillian,

Thank you for your invitation to participate in a roundtable session to discuss health inequalities on Tuesday, 28 June 2022. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend as I am required at Cabinet. My colleague Maree Todd MSP, the Minister for Public Health, Women's Health and Sport will solely represent the Scottish Government at the session instead.

Health inequality is one of the key issues this government faces and addressing it requires mobilisation across the Scottish Government. The Covid-19 Pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities and made the dreadful effects of the last two years fall heavily upon the most vulnerable in our society. As Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery, I view the work of this inquiry as important to helping ensure that our recovery priorities are supporting those who need it most.

Thank you again for your invitation, and I regret not being able to attend. I look forward to the outcome of the inquiry.

Yours sincerely,



**JOHN SWINNEY**

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