

# Human Rights Commission Scotland



## Summary of the Delivery of Human Rights in Scotland during COVID-19



## Easy Read





In November 2020 Human Rights Consortium Scotland gave a survey to 48 public bodies.



A **public body** is an organisation set up by the Scottish Government.



Public bodies deliver services for the Scottish Government.



The survey asked 48 public bodies questions about human rights during COVID-19.



**Human rights** mean the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world.



Human Rights Consortium wanted to know how the public bodies had made sure human rights were in place:

- in 2019
- from March 2020 to September 2020



## What the survey found out

1. Most decisions from March 2020 to September 2020 were made without thinking about human rights.





2. Some special assessments were starting to be used before COVID-19 started.

These assessments looked at equality and human rights.



**Equality** means everyone having the same chances to do what they can.

Some people may need extra help to get the same chances.



3. Lots of the answers which talked about these assessments were not about the people who get the services.



They were about human rights and equality for the staff and the public bodies.



4. Lots of public bodies are understanding human rights laws and equality laws very differently from other public organisations.

But they should all have the same understanding.



5. Human rights are seen as less important than equality rights when organisations are writing policies.



It is very important that the Scottish Government makes sure public bodies are working hard enough for human rights.