

By e-mail to: Alex.Cole-Hamilton.msp@parliament.scot

5 October 2021

Dear Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP,

COVID Vaccine Certification

Thank you for your letter of 24 September outlining your concerns regarding the introduction of COVID vaccine certification, and requesting that the Commission make use of its inquiry power.

The Commission has voiced its concerns regarding the absence of a public, open and transparent analysis of the necessity and proportionality of the decision to mandate COVID-19 vaccine certification for entry into certain venues and events, as required by human rights law. The Commission has set out its views in full in a [briefing for MSPs](#); in oral evidence to the Scottish Parliament's COVID-19 Recovery Committee; and directly to Scottish Government Ministers in a [letter](#) detailing our concerns and calling for them to demonstrate compliance with human rights.

Our power to conduct inquiries into matters relevant to our general duty, to promote human rights and encourage best practice, is set out in Section 8 of [the Scottish Commission for Human Rights Act 2006](#). Our decisions about strategic use of our legal powers are guided by a number of interrelated factors: our ongoing engagement with people and organisations on the issues impacting people's rights; our [Strategic Plan](#) priorities; and effective use of the Commission's resources. The Commission reserves the use of this important and significant power for issues of a serious and systemic nature impacting directly on the rights of people in Scotland. We do not consider this issue amenable to the

Bridgeside House, 99 McDonald Road, Edinburgh, EH7 4NS
0131 297 5750

hello@scottishhumanrights.com
www.scottishhumanrights.com

use of our inquiry power at this time but will continue to monitor the situation.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the Commission's strategic priorities and powers in this context.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read 'Judith Robertson', is written over a light yellow rectangular background.

PP

Judith Robertson
Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission