



GROUP 4 – EXPLANATORY NOTE AND JAMBOARDS

1. Explanatory note on Group 4's topic

EXPLANATORY NOTE FOR GROUP 4

What topic will we discuss?

This group is invited to consider recommendations on the following topic, which relates to part of vision elements B and C:

Authorities have a duty to publish information that is valid, accurate, reliable, verifiable and accessible to all.

What is the task and process we will go through?

Notes 1 and 2 explain how recommendations will be prepared and provide a worked example. You will review the summary of evidence in the explanatory note and the weekend 6 jam boards and identify the 2-3 areas you want to focus on to develop recommendations. You will then prepare the text of draft recommendations and accompanying information to be included in the final report.

Recommendations should be about either:

- Remit Q 2: how we overcome the challenges facing Scotland and the world
- Remit Q 3: what further information citizens need to take informed decisions

And they should also be supported by evidence: And they should also be supported by evidence:

- Given by or discussed with experts
- From the Assembly process and the experience of participation
- From 'lived experience' of members, shared and discussed over the course of the Assembly

Summary of the Assembly evidence on the issue

The following aspects of the Assembly journey may be relevant when considering recommendations in this area.

1. Throughout the Assembly you have spoken about how the Assembly process has helped you to understand things better, and how this has challenged you to work together to come to agreement with fellow Assembly members. You will want to consider how that way of working could be important in considering potential recommendations in this area.

2. Throughout the Assembly, you learned about the constitutional position, including where powers are reserved and devolved and about how decisions about the constitution and on certain policy issues are taken e.g. the budget. You may wish to consider how information relates to the evidence you heard on these matters.



3. In weekend 2, you learned about different kinds of evidence, including from experts or through the media and things to look out for when assessing it. This affirmed the importance of high quality evidence that can be trusted and which provides information in a format that is accessible to citizens.

4. In weekend 3, you had a constitutional update session covering the complexity of the legal and constitutional situation especially in light of Brexit and you noted that you felt better informed as a result of the session. You met with a politicians panel in weekend 3 and heard about what was important to each of them and how politics is conducted. These sessions stimulated wider discussion about how well informed citizens are about political issues and the need for better information to be provided in order for them to make decisions.

5. In weekends 3 and 4 you learned about a wide range of policy issues around a sustainable country and learned about the complexity of Scotland's finances and taxation, including ways government could better engage with citizens to be more informed about financial and budgetary matters affecting their lives.

6. You developed a range of priority areas of action across weekends 3 and 4, some of which touched upon ideas about information as listed below and summarised in the annex:

- That every citizen must be better educated and informed about why their actions are essential to maintain our beautiful, green country

6. Finally, in weekend 5, you considered the impact of the pandemic. Evidence noted how Covid-19 has highlighted the critical importance of trust and good communications with citizens.

Constitutional implications

The Scottish Government and Parliament could take action in this area where any proposed arrangements applied to devolved matters. Should any recommendations cover reserved matters you may wish to consider whether the evidence supports any constitutional change. For further detail on reserved and devolved matters, please see Professor Nicola McEwen's factsheet [here](#).

Action in hand

The Scottish Government's Programme for Government 2020-21 states that:

1. the purpose, values and outcomes in the National Performance Framework are at the heart of the programme – this includes acting in an open and transparent way and having communities that are included and empowered.
2. the Citizens' Assembly has a role to play in ensuring informed, independent and adult conversations about the priorities that are important to people
3. A commitment to a 3rd Open Government Action Plan to be produced next year to bring what it describes as focus to openness, accountability and citizen participation in Scotland.



Annex: Relevant priorities for action from weekend 3

Priority area of action	That every citizen must be better educated and informed about why their actions are essential to maintain our beautiful, green country
Positive impact this would make	We would have a better quality of life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savings could be spent on other priorities/things • We would be more energy efficient • People would be more likely to take action if they understood why it's important and saw the local results and benefits of action
Hard choices and trade-offs	We need to incentivise people to take action but know when to introduce penalties if they don't. For example, we should encourage bigger companies to use recycling materials so it makes it easier for individuals to take action and change what they do. If companies don't, penalties will apply

2. Jamboard from Weekend 6 on the topic being considered by Group 4

