



West of Scotland
Branch

Public Services Group Report

by **Kenny Brown**

Thursday 25th November 2021

Whatever the long-term effects of the discussions and agreements made in the COP26 hall turn out to be, the Conference itself seems to have been delivered incredibly well by the organisers of the event. The level of disruption experienced was far lower than anticipated, people behaved themselves with a fraction of the arrests anticipated. The adage of “hope for the best, but plan for the worst” was exercised and it appears that on the days of the event, the organisers we got what they had hoped for. There have been messages of appreciation from Government agencies and from Police forces who had supplied officers on mutual aid saying how well they were looked after in Scotland. The levels of injury and accident over the period were very low so this was by any measure a safe and secure event.

Our colleagues in the NHS are gearing up for a difficult winter as Covid 19 levels continue to creep up. The latest guidance is on <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/> At the time of writing, the Government are publishing guidance on patrons of premises having to produce evidence of vaccination to enter. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-certification-scheme-businesses-event-organisers/pages/premises/> It is important that competent assistance is obtained in these Pandemic times as Covid 19 has not, and may never, go away.

The Fireworks Celebrations on November 5th also appear to have passed without incident this year. Many of the large organised events were cancelled and there was concern that some of the unregulated events may have been unsafe. Scottish Fire and Rescue Crews attended over 370 bonfires across Scotland and had more than 1000 calls on one of their busiest nights of the year., however apart from one event in the Drumchapel where Fireworks were aimed at Firefighter and Police Officers, it appears to have passed peacefully.