

LOGOSSCOTLAND

Press Release

**Embargoed Thursday 22nd
September 00.01am.**

Closed Doors, Open Communities

- Logos Scotland calls on Scottish Government to introduce a Faith Commissioner
- Covid showed that faith leaders must be designated as key workers

In this first report from Logos Scotland, we highlight the role of faith communities during the Covid pandemic, calling on the Scottish Government to consider introducing a Faith Commissioner in Scotland as well as designating faith leaders as key workers.

Throughout the Covid pandemic churches and faith communities were central to the delivery of essential services - studies have shown that 87% of churches contacted isolated and vulnerable people, 73% provided pastoral support, 53% assisted with shopping and 66% offered telephone befriending schemes. Over 90 % (91%) of local authorities, many of whom started working with churches for the first time, said that their experience of partnership was very positive or positive and 76% expect that those relationships will now continue.

Commenting on the report Logos Scotland Chief Executive Shona Haslam said:

“This report demonstrates the impact that churches and faith communities had during the Covid pandemic in Scotland. The contribution that they made was central to the building of communities and looking after the most vulnerable.

“There are many lessons to be learned from the pandemic and this report considers some of those that impact how the church works with the Government in Scotland.”

“Faith leaders should be designated as key workers, and consideration should be given as to how we can keep our places of worship open and safe should we ever face this situation again. The role of faith communities during grieving and their role in welfare and social care should not be underestimated by the Government of any level, this has to be better recognised in the future.

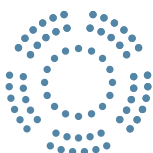
“The establishment of a Faith Commissioner in Scotland would result in better conversations between Government and faith communities and assist in ensuring that policy does not adversely affect those in faith communities, and that faith communities can work at the heart of Government.”

Copies of the report are available www.logosscotland.org

End

Shona Haslam is Chief Executive of Logos Scotland, formerly leader of Scottish Borders Council and Director of Peeblesshire Youth Trust.

All press enquiries to Shona Haslam: 07930 313002, shona@logosscotland.org



07930 313002
shona@logosscotland.org
www.logosscotland.org