

Cost of Scottish inquiries (updated 29 May 2025)*Table 1: Public inquiries since 2007*

Inquiry title	Date announced	Final report published	Inquiry cost (cash prices)
ICL Stockline (industrial explosion) ¹	October 2007	July 2009	£1.9m
Campbell Inquiry (Fingerprints)	March 2008	December 2011	£4.8m
Penrose Inquiry (Contaminated blood)	April 2008	March 2015	£12.1m
Vale of Leven Inquiry (Hospital-acquired infection)	April 2009	November 2014	£10.7m
Edinburgh Tram Inquiry	June 2014	September 2023	£13.1m
Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry	December 2014	Ongoing	£95.3m to Mar 2025
Scottish Hospitals Inquiry	September 2019	Ongoing	£25.4m to Mar 2025
Sheku Bayoh Inquiry	November 2019	Ongoing	£24.8m to Mar 2025
Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry	December 2021	Ongoing	£38.9m to Mar 2025
Professor Eljamel Inquiry	September 2023	Ongoing	£1.1 m (just started)
Emma Caldwell Case Inquiry	March 2024	Not started yet	NA

(Sources: [SN06410.pdf](#), [Investigation into government funded inquiries](#) and individual inquiry reports/websites.)

When put into 2024-25 prices, the total cost of the above inquiries is £240 million (thus far). To put this into context, the amount spent over the past 16 years is about the same as the [annual revenue expenditure of a smallish local authority](#), or slightly more than the Scottish Government's [city and regional growth deal capital investment in 2025-26](#).

Greig Liddell, SPICe, 29 May 2025

¹ The Stockline Inquiry was a joint SG and UK Gov sponsored inquiry “the first joint inquiry to be held under the Inquiries Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) and the first to be conducted under the Inquiries (Scotland) Rules 2007”.