



Edinburgh protest as anti-lockdown group stage demonstration outside Holyrood

Crowds of people could be seen gathered outside the Scottish Parliament earlier this afternoon

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 **An anti-lockdown gathering has been taking place at Holyrood** (Image: @BordersAgainst/ Twitter)

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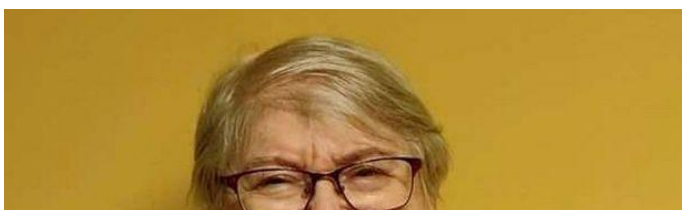
An anti-lockdown protest took place outside the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh this afternoon.

Crowds of people could be seen gathered outside the Scottish Parliament around midday.

The event, described as the 'May Day Gathering', took place between 12pm and 2pm, with organisers referring to it as an "approved lawful gathering of up to 2000 attendees".

They said the topics for discussion were ending lockdown permanently, blocking [Covid](#) passports and track and trace and defending free speech. In a poster promoting the event they encourage people to observe physical distancing.

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Banners showing support for Freedom Alliance could also be seen on display in the area. Freedom Alliance describe themselves as a "campaigning political party" which rejects government restrictions and curtailments imposed during the coronavirus pandemic.

A tweet shared by Edinburgh Lothian & Borders Lockdown Sceptics showed a vehicle covered in posters reading messages such as "no more [lockdowns](#)" and "no vaxx passports".

They say that the event was approved by the relevant authorities.

Static protests and demonstrations are permitted under level three restrictions so long as rules are met.

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[Police Scotland](#) confirmed that officers were in attendance dealing with the event.

A spokesperson said: "Officers were in attendance in the Holyrood area today and engaged with the protestors."

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Lockdown restrictions were relaxed across the country on Monday, with non-essential retail and hospitality among the things given the green-light to resume.

The next easing of restrictions will take place on May 17, with Scotland expected to move down to protection level two.

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