



UK Covid-19 Inquiry

Opening Statement

July 2022



Easy
Read

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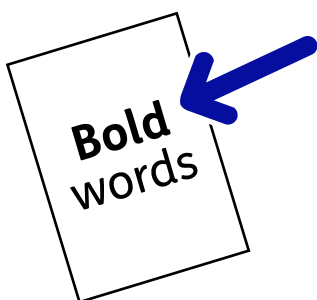
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In this Easy Read document, hard words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after we have used them.



Some words are blue and underlined.

These are links that will go to another website which has more information.

Introduction



This information is about the UK Covid-19 Inquiry.



We are the independent group that has been set up to look at how the UK dealt with Covid-19.



Baroness Heather Hallett is the Chair of the UK Covid-19 **Inquiry** - she is leading the group.



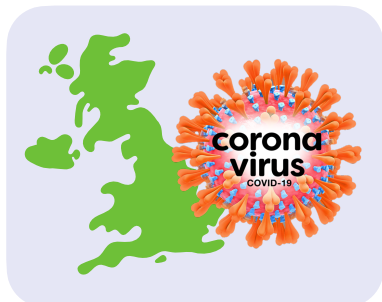
An **Inquiry** is when a group of people look at what happened and tell everyone the facts about what happened.

The Chair has:

- Told everyone how she is going to run the UK Covid-19 Inquiry.
- Explained how you can get involved.



The Covid-19 pandemic



Covid-19 affected everyone in the UK.



Baroness Hallett knows how important this Inquiry is to everyone who suffered and is still suffering.



The Inquiry will try to:

- Find answers to people's questions about the pandemic.



- Make sure that the Government learns lessons for the future.



The pandemic might have had a worse affect on some groups of people in the country than others, like disabled people.



We must try to understand why that was so that it doesn't happen again.

How the Inquiry will run



The Inquiry will take time and cost a lot of money if it is done properly.



Baroness Hallett wants to run the Inquiry in a:

- Well-organised way.



- Way that is as quick as possible.



- Detailed and fair way.



Baroness Hallett has the power to:

- Get information from anywhere in the UK.



- Make sure people give the Inquiry the right information.



- Tell people to come and explain what they know to the Inquiry.



Baroness Hallett does not have the power to:

- Take people to court.

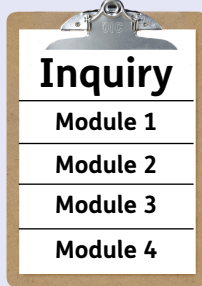


- Fine anyone - this is telling someone to pay money because they did something wrong.



- Put anyone in prison because of what they did or didn't do in the pandemic.

How the Inquiry will be organised



The Inquiry is going to be split up into smaller parts called **modules**.



These **modules** will look at different things to do with what happened in the pandemic.



The first three modules are:

- Module 1: How well prepared the UK was for the pandemic.
- Module 2: Decisions made by politicians and the Government including governments in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland.
- Module 3: The health care system.





Baroness Hallett will make sure that every module looks at how the pandemic affected different people in different ways, like if you are poor or disabled.



Information about future modules will be on our website.



Anyone who wants to be part of the Inquiry can apply to be a Core Participant. This means you have an important role in the Inquiry.

Expert groups



Scientists and other experts will help the Inquiry with its work.

Listening to the UK's people



The Inquiry will start a listening project later this year.



The listening project will give people a chance to tell the Inquiry about their experiences.



We hope everyone in the UK will feel that they can tell us what they think if they want to.

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland



The Inquiry will look at some issues that just affect Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.



The Inquiry will be based in London but it will spend time in each of the four nations in the UK.

Regular reports



Baroness Hallett will make sure that the Inquiry produces regular reports.



These will be written in plain language so anyone can understand them.



The Inquiry will check that the things it recommends to happen are done.

For more information



You can look at our website at:

www.covid19.public-inquiry.uk



If you need more information please contact us by:

- Post:

FREEPOST

UK COVID-19 Public Inquiry

That's all you have to write on the envelope. You don't need a stamp.



- Email:

contact@covid19.public-inquiry.uk

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