



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

15 December 2021

*Dear Baroness Hallett,*

You have agreed to chair the public inquiry into the COVID-19 pandemic, which will be established and held under the provisions of the Inquiries Act 2005 (“the 2005 Act”).


This letter serves as the formal written instrument of your appointment as chairman of the said inquiry for the purposes of 4(1) of the 2005 Act. As you know, I intend to appoint further members to the inquiry panel prior to the setting-up date. I will consult you on those appointments in due course.

We have discussed the broad remit of the inquiry and you are currently considering the draft terms of reference supplied to you. Once I have received and reflected on any comments you may have, I will then - as required by the 2005 Act – consult Ministers from the devolved administrations and provide you with any changes which result from that process. At that point, you have agreed to take forward a public consultation exercise on the proposed terms of reference - including with bereaved families and other interested groups - with the intention of providing me with any recommended refinements. I will respond to those recommendations and will write to you again setting out the final terms of reference and confirming the inquiry setting-up date.

Finally, you are aware of the requirements under section 9 of the 2005 Act to declare: (a) any direct interest in the matters to which the inquiry relates; and / or (b) any close association with an interested party. You have given these matters full consideration and have confirmed that you are aware of no such potential conflicts.

I should be grateful if you would confirm in writing your agreement to these terms of appointment.

I am copying this letter to the Lord Chief Justice, for his information.

Yrs sincerely  


The Right Honourable The Baroness Hallett DBE