



Module 2A

August 2022

Provisional Outline of Scope

(subject to submissions from Core Participants and Counsel to the Inquiry)

This module will look at and make recommendations about the Scottish Government's core political and administrative decision-making in response to the Covid-19 pandemic between early January 2020 and April 2022, when the then remaining Covid-19 restrictions were lifted in Scotland. It will examine the decision-making of key groups and individuals within the Scottish Government including the First Minister and other Scottish Ministers, in particular between early January and late March 2020 when the first national lockdown was imposed. More detailed consideration of a number of key areas and the impact of the pandemic on those areas in Scotland will be undertaken later in the Inquiry.

Module 2A will examine:

1. The structure of the Scottish Government and the key bodies within it involved in Scotland's response to the pandemic, and their relationships and communications with the UK Government, other devolved administrations and local authorities within Scotland.
2. The Scottish Government's initial understanding of, and response to, the nature and spread of Covid-19 in Scotland in the period between January and March 2020 in light of information and advice received from the UK Government and other relevant international and national bodies, advice from scientific, medical and other advisers and the response of other countries, including its initial strategic response to key "super-spreader" events in Scotland over that period.
3. Decision-making by the Scottish Government relating to the imposition or non-imposition of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs), including lockdowns, local restrictions, working from home, reduction of person to person contact, social distancing, the use of face coverings, border controls, the initial development of Test and Protect as well as the

certification and app systems rolled out by the Scottish Government; the degree of and rationale behind differences in approach between the Scottish Government and other governments in the UK; the timeliness and reasonableness of such NPIs, including the likely effects had decisions to intervene been taken earlier or differently; the development of the approach to NPIs in light of the Scottish Government's understanding of their impact on transmission, infection and death; the identification of at risk and other vulnerable groups in Scotland and the assessment of the likely impact of the contemplated NPIs on such groups in light of existing inequalities; and the impact, if any, of the funding of the Scottish pandemic response on such decision-making, including funding received from the UK Government.

4. Access to and use in decision making of medical and scientific expertise; data collection and modelling relating to the spread of the virus in Scotland; the measuring and understanding of transmission, infection, mutation, re-infection and death rates in Scotland; and the relationship between and operation of relevant systems for the collection, modelling and dissemination of data.
5. Public health communications by the Scottish Government and other key public health agencies, in particular in relation to the steps being taken to control the spread of the virus; transparency of messaging; use of behavioural management and the maintenance of public confidence in the Scottish Government, including the impact of any alleged breaches of rules and standards by Ministers, officials and advisers; and
6. The public health and coronavirus legislation and regulations that were proposed and enacted: their proportionality and enforcement across Scotland.



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