



**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION  
CORE PARTICIPANT APPLICATION  
MODULE 1 - RUSSELL KING**

**Introduction**

1. In my [Opening Statement](#) on 21 July 2022, I explained that Modules would be announced and opened in sequence, with those wishing to take a formal role in the Inquiry invited to apply to become Core Participants for each module. On the same day, the Inquiry opened Module 1 and invited anyone who wished to be considered as a Core Participant to that Module to submit an application in writing to the Solicitor to the Inquiry by 16 August 2022.
2. The [Provisional Outline of Scope](#) for Module 1 provides that this module will examine the resilience and preparedness of the United Kingdom for a Coronavirus pandemic. Further modules will be announced and opened in due course, to address other aspects of the Inquiry's Terms of Reference.
3. On 26 July 2022 the Inquiry received an application from Mr Russell King ("the Applicant") for Core Participant status in Module 1.
4. I made a provisional decision not to designate the Applicant as a Core Participant in Module 1, thereby declining the application ("the Provisional Decision"), on 7 September 2022. The Applicant was provided with an opportunity to renew the application in writing by 4pm on 16 September 2022.
5. The Applicant did not renew the application by the prescribed deadline. Accordingly, this Notice sets out my final decision on the application.



## Application

6. Applications for Core Participant status are considered in accordance with Rule 5 of the Inquiry Rules 2006, which provides:

*5.—(1) The chairman may designate a person as a core participant at any time during the course of the inquiry, provided that person consents to being so designated.*

*(2) In deciding whether to designate a person as a core participant, the chairman must in particular consider whether—*

- (a) the person played, or may have played, a direct and significant role in relation to the matters to which the inquiry relates;*
- (b) the person has a significant interest in an important aspect of the matters to which the inquiry relates; or*
- (c) the person may be subject to explicit or significant criticism during the inquiry proceedings or in the report, or in any interim report.*

*(3) A person ceases to be a core participant on—*

- (a) the date specified by the chairman in writing; or*
- (b) the end of the inquiry.*

7. In accordance with the approach set out in my Opening Statement and the Inquiry's [Core Participant Protocol](#), I have considered whether the application fulfils the requirements of Rule 5(2) in relation to the issues set out in the Provisional Outline of Scope for Module 1.

## Summary of Application

8. Mr King states that he is a partially-retired health service manager who is said to have been intensively involved in pandemic planning between 2006 and 2021. The application sets out the details of the various employment and roles Mr King had in the field of health service emergency planning, resilience and response during that period.



9. The application is made on the basis that Mr King played a direct and extensive part in the pandemic exercising and planning regime at provider level from 2006-2019 and that he has a significant interest in an important aspect of the matters to which Module 1 relates due to his 20 years' working within UK resilience structures. Mr King also feels able to provide valid personal testimony on a number of the matters covered within the outline of scope for Module 1.

### **Decision for the Applicant**

10. I have considered with great care everything that is said in the application. Having done so, I have decided, in my discretion, not to designate Mr King as a Core Participant in Module 1. Having regard in particular to the need to manage the Inquiry effectively and efficiently, I do not consider that his role in pandemic planning and preparedness was sufficiently significant as to grant him Core Participant status in this Module.
11. However, it is not necessary for an individual or organisation to be a Core Participant in order to provide evidence to the Inquiry. Mr King may have relevant information to give in relation to matters being examined in the Inquiry and the Inquiry will be reaching out in due course to a range of individuals, organisations and bodies to seek information, to gain their perspective on the issues raised in the modules and, where appropriate, to ask for witness statements and documents.
12. The Inquiry will also listen to and consider carefully the experiences of bereaved families and others who have suffered hardship or loss as a result of the pandemic, through the listening exercise. I made clear in my Opening Statement that this listening exercise is a significant and important task which will lead to summary reports of the impact of the pandemic on those who come forward to be used as evidence during the Inquiry's module hearings. Mr King has the opportunity to contribute to the Inquiry, through the listening exercise if he chooses.



13. For all of those reasons, having considered all of the information provided by Mr King in light of the Provisional Outline of Scope for Module 1, I consider that Mr King did not play a direct and significant role in relation to the matters sought to be investigated in Module 1, nor does he have a significant interest in an important aspect of the matters to which Module 1 relates. I have therefore decided that Mr King should not be designated as a Core Participant in Module 1 and I confirm that this is my final decision.
  
14. I will keep the scope of Module 1 under review. My decision not to designate Mr King as a Core Participant in Module 1 does not preclude him from making any further applications in respect of any later modules. I will consider any future applications Mr King may wish to make on their merits at the time they are made.

**Rt Hon Baroness (Heather) Hallett DBE**  
**Chair of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry**  
**29 September 2022**