

Dear Chair,

Submission in respect of expert witnesses for Module 1

I write to you on behalf of the Department of Health to offer suggestions as to the identification of possible expert witnesses to assist in Module 1 of the Covid 19 Inquiry ('the Inquiry').

The Department of Health would respectfully suggest that the Inquiry should consider the appointment of a combination of national and international experts. It may be useful to have a range of national and international experts as many of those most expert in certain fields will have already been involved in some role in the U.K. pandemic response, and in those circumstances, the Inquiry may wish to source a more objective perspective.

Based on the Inquiry's indication of the number of specialist topics which have been provisionally identified, in respect of which the assistance of expert witnesses will be sought in Module 1, the Department of Health respectfully offers the following suggestions.

1. Topic 1: the basic characteristics and epidemiology of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and Coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

The Department of Health would suggest Sir Peter William Horby.

Sir Peter William Horby is a physician, epidemiologist, Moh Family Foundation Professor of Emerging Infections and Global Health, and Director of the Pandemic Sciences Institute at the University of Oxford. Sir Peter William Horby is the founder, and former director of the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit in Hanoi, Vietnam which was founded in 2006. Sir Peter William Horby established the Epidemic Research Group Oxford (ERGO). ERGO incorporates a number of international projects such as the European Commission funded PREPARE, the African coalition for Epidemic Research, Response and Training (ALERT), and the International Severe Acute Respiratory and Emerging Infection Consortium (ISARIC). Since 2016, Sir Peter William Horby has been chair and executive director of ISARIC. Sir Peter William Horby specialises in emerging and epidemic infectious diseases. He is the co-chief investigator of the RECOVERY Trial into drugs for COVID-19 (the largest clinical trial of COVID-19 in the world) alongside Martin Landray. Sir Peter William Horby is one of the 23 attendees of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), and is the chair of the New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group (NERVTAG).

2. Topic 2: The Identification, history and funding of the structures and bodies at government devolved administration, and local authority levels concerned with risk management and civil emergency planning; historical changes to such structures and bodies as well as the structures in place as at January 2020; inter-organisational processes and cooperation.

The Department of Health would suggest Professor Sir Liam Donaldson.

Sir Liam Donaldson is a global leader in public health and health care quality and safety. His current roles within the United Kingdom include: visiting Fellow at the King's Fund, Chancellor of Newcastle University, and Professor of Health Policy at Imperial College, London. From 1998 to June 2010, Sir Liam was Chief Medical Officer for England and the United Kingdom's Chief Medical Adviser. As the Government's Chief Medical Officer, he served six Health Secretaries and two Prime Ministers. Over his 12 years in post, he produced a series of ground-breaking reports and policy initiatives that helped shape public health, NHS care and clinical practice. He led the Government's response to a number of health issues and emergencies including: the SARS outbreak, the H1N1 influenza pandemic and the murders of patients by general practitioner Harold Shipman.

Internationally, Sir Liam served as member and Vice-Chairman of the World Health Organisation's Executive Board and conceived of, founded, and led the World Alliance for Patient Safety, an initiative that moved action on safety to a global scale. He has met and worked with Health Ministers, Chief Medical Officers and public health leaders right across the world. He is currently the World Health Organisation Director-General's envoy on patient safety and chairs the International Monitoring Board on polio eradication. Sir Liam has been a sought-after keynote speaker at conferences around the world for many years, is a regular contributor to print and broadcast media, and is author of over 190 papers in peer-reviewed journals and a standard textbook of public health. He has received many honours and awards including: a Knighthood in 2002, 15 honorary degrees from British universities, the Gold Medal of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and a Picker Institute Award for leadership in patient-centred care.

3. Topic 3: Identification of international bodies concerned with risk management, civil emergency and preparedness; comparative examination of the UK structures and bodies with equivalent bodies in other countries.

The Department of Health would suggest Dr Richard Hatchett MD.

Dr Richard Hatchett is the Chief Executive Officer of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), a partnership of public, private, philanthropic and civil organisations that finance and co-ordinate the development of vaccines against high priority public health threats and vaccine platform technologies to respond rapidly to emerging infectious diseases with pandemic or epidemic potential. Prior to joining CEPI, Dr Hatchett most recently served as acting Director of the U.S. Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), after serving for five years as BARDA's Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Director. At BARDA, Dr Hatchett oversaw programs to develop medical countermeasures against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats, pandemic influenza, and emerging infectious diseases and led or helped lead the development of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics for a number of emerging viruses, including the H3N2v and H7N9 influenza viruses, MERS, Ebola, and Zika. Previously, Dr Hatchett served on the White House Homeland Security Council under President George W. Bush and was a member of the White House National Security Staff under President Barack Obama. He is a recipient of the HHS Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service and a five-time recipient of the NIH Director's Merit Award. A graduate of Vanderbilt University and the Vanderbilt University Medical School, he completed a

residency in internal medicine at the New York Hospital – Cornell Medical Centre and a fellowship in medical oncology at Duke University Medical Centre.

- 4. Topic 4: The identification, history and funding of UK public health bodies, their development over time, and readiness and preparation in practice.**

The Department of Health would suggest Professor Sir Liam Donaldson (as above).

- 5. Topic 5: Forecasting of epidemic trends; transmission of diseases from animals to humans; international processes dealing with surveillance and control of infectious diseases and viruses.**

The Department would suggest Professor Gabriel Leung, University of Hong Kong or alternatively Sir Peter William Horby (as above).

Professor Gabriel Leung became the fortieth Dean of Medicine at the University of Hong Kong (HKU) in 2013. He concurrently holds the Chair of Public Health Medicine. Previously he was Professor and Head of Community Medicine at the University and served as Hong Kong's first Under Secretary for Food and Health and fifth Director of the Chief Executive's Office in government. Professor Leung is one of Asia's leading public health academics, having authored more than 450 scholarly papers and edited numerous journals. He has been listed as the top 1% researchers by citations worldwide according to ISI's Essential Science Indicators. Professor Leung directs the WHO Collaborating Centre for Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Control at HKU. He was inaugural Chair of the Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies during 2010-4. He regularly advises national and international agencies including the World Health Organisation, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention.

It may be that the Inquiry has already identified these individuals or other equally suitable expert witnesses, but nonetheless it is hoped that these suggestions may be of some assistance.

Finally, may we respectfully suggest the consideration of an informal and consultative approach, involving the Chief Medical Officers across the UK, to help identify subject matter experts. The output could be a fully informed list of experts along with CVs. We appreciate that this is a decision for the Inquiry Chair and her assessment of relevant experience, expertise and availability.

Yours sincerely,

Sara Erwin

**Senior Principal Legal Officer
Inquiries Team
Departmental Solicitor's Office
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