



**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
CORE PARTICIPANT APPLICATION
MODULE 2 - RICHARD HARRISON**

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 31 August 2022, the Inquiry opened Module 2 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 23 September 2022.
2. The Provisional Outline of Scope for Module 2 provides that this module will examine the decision-making by the UK Government during the 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 23 September 2022 the Inquiry received an application from Richard Harrison ('the Applicant') for Core Participant status in Module 2.
4. I made a provisional decision not to designate the Applicant as a Core Participant in Module 2, thereby declining the Applicant's application ('the Provisional Decision'), on 13 October 2022. The Applicant was provided with an opportunity to renew the application in writing by 12pm on 20 October 2022.
5. On 20 October 2022, the Applicant submitted a renewed application for Core Participant status in Module 2. This notice sets out my determination of the Applicant's application for Core Participant status in Module 2.

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 set out in Rule 5(2) in relation to the issues set out in the Provisional Outline of Scope for Module 2.
8. I have taken into account all of the information which the Applicant has relied upon. The fact that I have not, in making this determination, referred to every matter which is set out in the application does not mean that I have not considered it. The summary below is intended to capture what appear to be the most important points made in support of the application.

Summary of Application

9. The Applicant's original application described the Applicant as a dedicated follower of news and information on the Covid-19 pandemic, an independent analyser of Covid-19 related data and stated that he independently developed a simple stratified model projecting Covid-19 prevalence. The Applicant received a letter during the pandemic

identifying him as 'severely immunosuppressed' and has corresponded with multiple Government departments on advice and policy. The application is put on the basis that the Applicant has a significant interest in an important aspect of the matters to which the Inquiry relates.

10. In its renewed application, the Applicant provides a short document addressing a number of questions. The application includes a number of supporting documents including data models which I have considered.

Decision for the Applicants

11. I wish to repeat my ongoing commitment, as set out in the Terms of Reference and repeated in my Opening Statement, that inequalities will be at the forefront of the Inquiry's investigations. This will include a focus on the disparities evident in the impact of the pandemic on different categories of people.
12. I have considered with great care everything that is said in the Applicant's renewed application. I have also reminded myself of what was said in the original application to enable me to assess the merits of the application for Core Participant status as a whole. Having done so, in my discretion, I consider that the Applicant does not meet the criteria set out in Rule 5 for designation as a Core Participant in Module 2 and, therefore, I have decided to not to designate the Applicant as a Core Participant in Module 2. I confirm that is my final decision.
13. I have noted what the Applicant has set out in relation to the activity he has undertaken during the pandemic. However, in the context of the provisional scope of Module 2, I am satisfied that the Applicant did not have a direct or significant role in core political and administrative decision making (Rule 5(2)(a)). I can reassure the Applicant that issues of data modelling will be examined by my Inquiry team in the course of this Module.
14. I am very mindful of how the pandemic impacted so many parts of society including those, like the Applicant, who was severely immunosuppressed. Whilst recognising the Applicant's interest, I do not consider that it reaches the threshold of a significant interest in the context of matters for investigation in Module 2. The Applicant should

be aware however that I have sought to ensure that the interests of at risk and other vulnerable groups (including those with protected characteristics) are considered during Module 2 in accordance with the provisional outline of scope and the Terms of Reference. In furtherance of those aims I have designated those I consider to be most representative or best placed to advance their interests as Core Participants.

15. Furthermore, I do not consider, having regard to the need to manage the Inquiry effectively and efficiently, that the Applicant's interest in decision making by the UK Government is sufficiently significant as to grant him Core Participant status in this Module. I am determined to run the Inquiry as thoroughly and as efficiently as possible, bearing in mind the Inquiry's wide-ranging terms of reference and the need for the Inquiry process to be rigorous and fair. Given the vast numbers of people who were involved with, or adversely affected by, the Covid-19 pandemic, very many people in this country could potentially have an interest in it and not everyone can be granted Core Participant status for the purposes of the Inquiry hearings.
16. It is also not necessary for an individual or organisation to be a Core Participant in order to provide evidence to the Inquiry. The Applicant 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.
17. 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. The applicant and those it represents will have the opportunity to contribute to the Inquiry, through the listening exercise if they choose.
18. My decision not to designate the Applicant as Core Participant in Module 2 does not preclude it from making any further applications in respect of any later modules. I will

consider any future applications the Applicant 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

25 October 2022