



**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
CORE PARTICIPANT APPLICATION
MODULE 1 - MR MARTIN BRIGHTY**

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 12 October 2022 the Inquiry received a letter from Mr Martin Brighty ('the applicant') which makes a late application for Core Participant status in Module 1. Mr Brighty's application explains that although an application was made by a group of which he is a member, he was not invited to provide any input and was not aware of 'a call for the submission of personal written applications'. This notice sets out my decision on Mr Brighty's application.

Application

4. 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.*

5. 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 1.

Summary of Application

6. I understand from the application that the applicant is a member of an unnamed group representing the vaccine injured and bereaved who have previously made an application for Core Participant status which I declined. The application explains that the applicant suffered medical complications and adverse health after receiving his first dose of one of the UK licensed Covid-19 vaccines.
7. The application is essentially made on the basis that Mr Brighty has a significant interest in an important aspect of the matters to which the Provisional Outline of Scope for Module 1 relates. As someone personally affected by receiving a vaccine dose, Mr Brighty expresses an interest in understanding what the UK Government's plans and policies were for indemnifying vaccine manufacturers against civil liability



for injuries sustained from vaccinations, the UK Government's approach to granting indemnities in respect of the UK licensed Covid-19 vaccines, the impact of that approach on his rights to legal recourse against vaccine manufacturers and the extent to which the UK Government planned and prepared to support anyone who was adversely impacted by a vaccination programme adopted in response to a pandemic. The application also refers to an interest in the provision of information relating to side effects from the vaccine, the UK Government's approach to risk management concerning the potential consequences of the vaccine programme and the impact in planning for future pandemics to the extent that this touches on any pharmacological response.

Decision for the Applicant

8. I wish to extend my sympathy to Mr Brighty in relation to his medical condition.

9. As I have already noted above, the deadline for making applications for Core Participant status in Module 1 was 16 August. This application was therefore made 57 days after the deadline expired. Mr Brighty provides the following explanation for his delay in applying for Core Participant status: *"I was personally unaware of a call for the submission of personal written applications and although a submission was made by a group to which I am a member I was not invited to provide any input. Had the opportunity been available, I would have presented the following [application]"*. Information regarding the opportunity to apply for Core Participant status in Module 1 was publicised on the Inquiry's website and multiple times on its official social media channels.

10. In any event, having considered with great care everything that is said in the application, I have decided, in my discretion, not to designate Mr Brighty as a Core Participant in Module 1. Whilst I appreciate that Mr Brighty has demonstrated a deep and genuine concern about the vaccination programme for Covid-19 and can bring a



valuable perspective of someone who says he has suffered adverse health as a result of the UK licensed Covid-19 vaccines, the focus of Module 1 is on the resilience and preparedness of the UK in advance of the coronavirus pandemic.

11. In particular, Module 1 is primarily concerned with the core systems and structures within the United Kingdom for preparedness and resilience for an event such as the Covid-19 pandemic and with high-level pandemic resilience, preparedness and planning. It will examine whether the correct structures, bodies, procedures and policies were in place at UK and at regional and national levels and look at their history, development, co-operation and performance. In terms of inquiring into pandemic planning, this will include examination of the forecasting processes, the extent to which lessons were learned from knowledge of actual events and simulated exercises, the degree of readiness preparation and the general resources that were available. The Module is therefore concerned with how the relevant entities prepared and whether they were ready by way of general response. I do not, therefore, consider that the applicant played a direct and significant role in matters to which Module 1 relates.

12. Furthermore, I do not consider, having regard in particular to the need to manage the Inquiry effectively and efficiently, that the applicant's interest in pandemic planning and preparedness is sufficiently significant to justify granting Mr Brighty 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.

13. In my Opening Statement, I said that I will publish more information about the issues intended to be covered by later modules in the coming months. The applicant may wish to consider making an application for Core Participant status in future modules



likely to deal more directly with vaccines, therapeutics and anti-viral treatment across the UK.

14. The Inquiry will also listen to and consider carefully the experiences of bereaved families and others who have suffered ill-health, 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 has the opportunity to contribute to the Inquiry, through the listening exercise if he chooses.

15. My decision not to designate Mr Brighty 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 Brighty may wish to make on their merits at the time they are made.

Rt Hon Baroness Heather Hallett
Chair of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry
4 November 2022