

**DIRECTIONS FOLLOWING THE MODULE 2B  
PRELIMINARY HEARING ON 29 MARCH 2023**

I am grateful to the Core Participants who made oral and written submissions for the second Preliminary Hearing in Module 2B. In particular, I thank them for the commitment they have shown and the assistance they have offered and continue to offer Module 2B. At present I do not consider it necessary to issue a further ruling but I make the following directions:

1. Public hearing

The Module 2B public hearing will take place in Wales. The start date for the public hearing is 26 February 2024. The public hearing is listed for three weeks. I will keep the length of the public hearing under review as Module 2B progresses but wish to emphasise that this direction relates only to the hearing for Module 2B. Other modules will also focus on Welsh issues.

2. List of Issues

On or before 12 May 2023, Module 2B will provide the Core Participants with a provisional, detailed list of issues to be examined in Module 2B.

3. Experts

As I recently ruled in relation to Module 2, the Inquiry will obtain expert evidence from a suitably qualified expert, or experts, on the nature and degree of pre-pandemic structural racism and structural discrimination. I will adopt the same approach in Module 2B as I did in Module 2. I therefore direct that the expert evidence on structural racism and structural discrimination being commissioned for Module 2 should include evidence on those issues as they pertain to Wales.

4. Next Preliminary Hearing

A third Preliminary Hearing in Module 2B will be scheduled for 16 November 2023. This will allow a sufficient window between the date of the next Preliminary Hearing and the start of the oral hearings.

5. I continue to keep under review all matters, whether referred to in the written and/or oral submissions made by the Core Participants or not.

**Rt Hon Baroness Heather Hallett DBE**

**4 April 2023**