



11 March 2022

I want to introduce myself to you, as the Chair of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry.

The coronavirus pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on everyone in the United Kingdom. Many people have lost loved ones and suffered serious harm or hardship.

The Inquiry has been established to examine the UK's preparedness and response to the Covid-19 pandemic and to learn lessons for the future. I will run an independent, thorough, and open Inquiry.

Today, I have launched a public consultation on the Inquiry's Terms of Reference that will set the scope of our investigations. I want to hear your views on what the Inquiry should look at.

I hope that people across the UK will participate in the online public consultation. It is important that the Inquiry's Terms of Reference properly reflect the public's concerns. I also want to understand how the Inquiry can best talk to the people most affected and listen to their experiences.

Alongside this, the Inquiry team and I will be visiting towns and cities across Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland and England to gather the views of bereaved families, community and support groups, and other organisations.

I will then carefully consider your views on the draft Terms of Reference before recommending any changes to the Prime Minister. Once the Terms of Reference have been agreed, the Inquiry will be established with full powers under the 2005 Inquiries Act.

The Inquiry team has been working hard to lay the groundwork so that we will be ready to begin investigations once the Terms of Reference have been agreed. We shall gather evidence throughout the year and I hope to begin public hearings in 2023. I will do everything in my power to deliver recommendations as soon as possible, to ensure that in any future pandemic, the suffering and hardship many of you have experienced is reduced or prevented.

Once the Inquiry has officially started, there will be a chance for people to share their experiences of the pandemic. We will explain more about that in the weeks and months to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Heather Hallett'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

**Baroness (Heather) Hallett**  
**Chair, UK Covid-19 Inquiry**



**Accessing the online consultation**

The consultation is available online at <https://covid19.public-inquiry.uk/consultation>, and you will be able to submit responses until 7 April 2022 23:59.

If you cannot use the website, you can write to my team at:

FREEPOST  
UK COVID-19 INQUIRY

And, if you need this information in another format or language, please contact [contact@covid19.public-inquiry.uk](mailto:contact@covid19.public-inquiry.uk).

