



Module 1

July 2022

Provisional Outline of Scope

(subject to submissions from Core Participants and Counsel to the Inquiry)

This module will examine the resilience and preparedness of the United Kingdom. Was the risk of a Coronavirus pandemic properly identified and planned for? Was the UK ready for such an eventuality?

The module will look at the UK's preparedness for whole-system civil emergencies, including resourcing, the system of risk management and pandemic readiness. It will scrutinise government decision-making and seek to identify whether lessons were learned from earlier incidents and simulations and from international practices and procedures.

The module will examine:

1. The basic characteristics and epidemiology of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and Coronavirus disease (COVID-19).
2. The Government structures and specialist bodies concerned with risk management and civil emergency planning, including devolved administrations and their structures, local authorities and private sector bodies, historical changes to such structures and bodies as well as the structures in place as at January 2020, inter-organisational processes and cooperation.
3. The planning for a pandemic, including forecasting, resources, and the learning from past simulation exercises (including coronavirus, new and emerging high-consequence infectious diseases and influenza pandemic/epidemic exercises), the emergency plans that were in place, biosecurity issues relevant to the risk of pandemics/epidemics, international comparisons and the history of, and learning from, past policy-related investigations.

4. Public health services, including the structure of public health bodies, their development over time and readiness and preparation in practice; public health capacity, resources and levels of funding, any impact arising from the UK's departure from the European Union, and the way in which relevant bodies monitored and communicated about emerging disease.
5. Economic planning by relevant Government bodies, including capacity and spending commitments and efficiency and anti-fraud controls, in the context of emergency planning.
6. Planning for future pandemics, including (in outline) the state of international preparedness; the risks of new variants of Covid 19, other viruses of concern, and diseases from human contact/viral transmission with animals.



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