

UK Covid-19 Inquiry Before Baroness Heather Hallett

Submission on behalf of Scottish Ministers

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Module 2A Preliminary Hearing: 1st November 2022

1. On behalf of Scottish Ministers, we would like to take this opportunity to confirm their commitment to co-operate fully with the UK Covid-19 public inquiry, as it investigates the unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic for the people of Scotland, and the rest of the United Kingdom, over the past 31 months. Scottish Ministers are fully aware of the many types of loss endured by the population over this period. They completely understand that the people of Scotland would like answers to the many questions that bear upon the handling of the pandemic. The Ministers are committed to that process.
2. The Ministers are equally committed to the Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry, which will run parallel to the UK Inquiry. It is possible that from time to time this combination will pose challenges in relation to, for example, time frames for the provision of material to the Inquiry. However, we anticipate, and feel confident, that the spirit of cooperation between the Inquiry and those representing the Ministers will allow all such issues to be resolved. In this connection, the Ministers welcome proposals such as the Memorandum of Understanding, designed to avoid duplication of effort between the Inquiries, so far as that is possible.
3. In summary, the Ministers, and those representing them, remain ready to assist the Inquiry in achieving its goals.

27th October 2022

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