

## UK COVID-19 INQUIRY

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE THIRD PRELIMINARY HEARING IN MODULE 1 OF THE  
UK COVID-19 INQUIRY ON 25 APRIL 2023

ON BEHALF OF  
NHS NATIONAL SERVICES SCOTLAND (“NHS NSS”)

1. NHS NSS raises one issue at this Preliminary Hearing. The issue relates specifically to the letter of instruction for Dr Claas Kirchhelle, but involves a principle that has been previously discussed and which has wider application.
2. The letter towards the foot of page 1 contains some phrasing which might be apt to confuse matters. The reference to “The history of public health bodies in the UK and the devolved nations” seems confusing, particularly when combined with a reference in paragraph [a] to “England and the UK”. NHS NSS suggests that a clearer formulation would be to delete the words “and the devolved nations” (which, obviously, remain part of the UK), and then to insert “the UK” as a new paragraph [a], with “England” becoming paragraph [b] and so on.
3. The question of how to approach English-only matters has previously been raised, particularly by the TUC. NHS NSS suggests that the phrase repeatedly used in the List of Issues (namely “UK Government and devolved administrations”) is a useful and accurate formulation.

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