

Witness Name: Andrew Morris

Statement No.: 2

Exhibits: AM2

Dated: 05 May 2023

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY

WITNESS STATEMENT OF ANDREW MORRIS

In relation to the issues raised by the Rule 9 request dated 27 March 2023 in connection with Module 1, I, Andrew Morris, will say as follows: -

1. I am Andrew Morris, Professor of Medicine and Vice Principal of Data Science at the University of Edinburgh. I have been seconded since August 2017 to be Director of Health Data Research UK. I was formerly Chief Scientist (Health) at the Scottish Government Health Directorate between 2012 and 2017.
2. This witness statement has been prepared with the assistance of Scottish Government officials in the Secretariat to the Standing Committee on Pandemic Preparedness and the Scottish Government Inquiry Team.
3. Unless stated otherwise, the facts stated in this witness statement are within my own knowledge and are true. Where they are not within my own knowledge, they are derived from sources to which I refer and are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
4. The Inquiry's Rule 9 Request sets out a number of questions about pandemic preparedness and states that it wishes to draw upon my experience as the Chief Scientist (Health) within the Scottish Health and Social Care Directorates between 2012 and 2017 and my role as Chair of the Scottish Government's Standing Committee on Pandemic Preparedness.

Chief Scientist (Health)

5. During my time in post as the Chief Scientist (Health), neither I nor the Chief Scientist Office were involved in any aspect of pandemic preparedness planning. I have been informed that the Scottish Government have provided the Inquiry with full details of the remit of the Chief Scientist (Health) and made clear that pandemic preparedness planning was not part of that role, but was a function of other parts of the Health and Social Care Department and other parts of the Scottish Government.

Chair of the Standing Committee on Pandemic Preparedness

6. The Standing Committee on Pandemic Preparedness was established in August 2021. An initial meeting of the Committee was chaired by Professor Linda Bauld. I have been Chair of the Committee since I accepted that appointment on 2 February 2022. That role is unpaid. I note that this is outside the time period for Module 1 (11 June 2009 to 21 January 2020) set out in the Inquiry's Request.
7. The Committee published its Interim Report in August 2022 [AM2/0001 – INQ000103004], in response to the terms of the First Minister's Commission to the Committee [AM2/0002 – INQ000181824], and is currently working to produce its Final Report. At this time, I have nothing to add to what the Interim Report (and its Appendix [AM2/0003 – INQ000103005] has to say about pandemic preparedness.
8. I have asked the Secretariat to the Committee to ensure that the Inquiry is provided with a copy of the Committee's Final Report, once it has been published.
9. References to exhibits in this statement are in the form AM2/number - INQ000000.
10. I have considered the Module 1 List of Issues dated 4 April 2023. I confirm that I have no further comments to make in relation to those issues, within the context of the questions asked of me as Chief Scientist (Health) from 2012 to 2017 and

as Chair of the Standing Committee on Pandemic Preparedness in the Rule 9 request dated 27 March 2023.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief of its truth.

Signature Personal Data

Dated: _____05 May 2023_____