

**IN THE COVID-19 INQUIRY**

**MODULE 4**

**PRELIMINARY HEARING**

**13 SEPTEMBER 2023**

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**Submissions on Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs)  
on behalf of the Traveller Movement ('TM')**

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1. These submissions are advanced on behalf of TM in response to paragraph 60 of CTI's Note dated 22 August 2023.

**a. Whether there are any specific areas listed in paragraph 58 that Core Participants consider to be of particular importance for targeted research.**

2. TM considers that the following areas within paragraph 58 are particularly important:
  - (iii) The clarity, consistency, and ease of understanding of public messaging.
  - (iv) The quality (e.g., clarity, appropriateness, persuasiveness, sufficiency, and timeliness) of targeted messaging for specific groups.
  - (v) Perceptions surrounding whether public messaging was sufficiently inclusive and culturally sensitive.
  - (vi) Experiences of whether public messaging appropriately communicated the benefits and risks of vaccines including efficacy, safety and adverse effects.
  - (vii) Drivers of trust / mistrust in government public messaging.

(vii) Views on how to improve public messaging.

**b. Whether there are any further topics that Core Participants consider important for targeted research and why (including whether or not this evidence could otherwise be obtained through the Rule 9 process or by another method).**

3. Targeted research should be conducted in relation to:

- Vaccine uptake in the case of minority groups, including the GRT communities.
- Barriers to vaccine uptake in the case of minority groups, including the GRT communities.
- The impact that the lack of NHS data on GRT ethnicity had on vaccine uptake by members of those communities.
- Whether members of the GRT communities were properly informed about the vaccine roll out.
- Whether adequate attempts were made to dispel the concerns that the GRT communities held about the safety of the programme and other barriers that they faced in relation to vaccination.

**c. Any views on the proposed target populations for the targeted research, either in relation to the above three topics or further proposed topics.**

4. The target populations should include minority groups and should also include the GRT communities. This would accord with the Inquiry's Terms of Reference at (a):

*In meeting its aims, the Inquiry will:*

*a) consider any disparities evident in the impact of the pandemic on different categories of people, including, but not limited to, those relating to protected*

*characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and equality categories under the Northern Ireland Act 1998;*

5. However, TM would wish to stress that it is important that the GRT communities are treated as a separate and discrete case within any minority grouping. TM's view is consistent with *'Inclusive Britain: the government's response to the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities. March 2022'* which states at page 40:

*One of the key principles we hold for demonstrating inclusion is not to lump together different groups of individuals with different perspectives and experiences just because they are not white. Segregating by race in this way is clumsy and actually results in exclusion and not inclusion.*

6. It is also important that the Inquiry addresses the public sector equality duties set out at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 when considering how the vaccination programme was delivered in relation to protected groups, and in particular highly marginalised groups, such as the GRT communities.

**Marc Willers KC**

**Christopher Jacobs**

**Howe + Co**

**5 September 2023**