



NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
CORE PARTICIPANT APPLICATION
MODULE 4 - UK MEDICAL FREEDOM ALLIANCE (UKMFA)

Introduction

1. In my [Opening Statement](#) on 21 July 2022, I explained that Modules would be announced and opened in sequence, with those wishing to take a formal role in the Inquiry invited to apply to become Core Participants for each module. On 5 June 2023, the Inquiry opened Module 4 and invited anyone who wished to be considered as a Core Participant to that Module to submit an application in writing to the Solicitor to the Inquiry by 30 June 2023.
2. The Inquiry has published the [Provisional Outline of Scope](#) for Module 4, which states that this module will consider a range of issues relating to the development of Covid-19 vaccines and the implementation of the vaccine rollout programme in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Issues relating to the treatment of Covid-19 through both existing and new medications will be examined in parallel. Further modules will be announced and opened in due course, to address other aspects of the Inquiry's Terms of Reference.
3. On 30 June 2023 the Inquiry received an application from the UK Medical Freedom Alliance ("UKMFA") for Core Participant status in Module 4.
4. I made a provisional decision not to designate UKMFA as a Core Participant in Module 4, thereby declining UKMFA's application ("the Provisional Decision"), on 17 July 2023. UKMFA were provided with an opportunity to renew the application in writing by 4pm on 24 July 2023.

5. On 24 July 2023, UKMFA submitted a renewed application for Core Participant status in Module 4. This notice sets out my determination of UKMFA's application for Core Participant status in Module 4.

Application

6. Applications for Core Participant status are considered in accordance with Rule 5 of the Inquiry Rules 2006, which provides:

5.—(1) The chairman may designate a person as a core participant at any time during the course of the inquiry, provided that person consents to being so designated.

(2) In deciding whether to designate a person as a core participant, the chairman must in particular consider whether—

- (a) the person played, or may have played, a direct and significant role in relation to the matters to which the inquiry relates;*
- (b) the person has a significant interest in an important aspect of the matters to which the inquiry relates; or*
- (c) the person may be subject to explicit or significant criticism during the inquiry proceedings or in the report, or in any interim report.*

(3) A person ceases to be a core participant on—

- (a) the date specified by the chairman in writing; or*
- (b) the end of the inquiry.*

7. In accordance with the approach set out in my Opening Statement and the Inquiry's [Core Participant Protocol](#), I have considered whether the application fulfils the requirements set out in Rule 5(2) in relation to the issues set out in the Provisional Outline of Scope for Module 4.

Summary of Application

8. UKMFA's original application was based on Rule 5(2)(b). In its original application, UKMFA described itself as a group of concerned doctors, healthcare professionals, scientists and lawyers and "the UK's most recognised and respected organisation advocating for every individual's right to Informed Consent, Bodily Autonomy and Medical Choice". UKMFA listed its relevant areas of expertise as (i) informed consent for the Covid-19 vaccination; and (ii) medical ethics and the GMC/NMC Codes of

Practice and NHS Constitution. It pointed to a series of open letters which it had written to various bodies and institutions setting out its concerns.

9. In its renewed application, UKMFA also seeks to rely upon Rule 5(2)(c). It claims to have been "heavily censored, silenced and smeared" during the pandemic, in light of its opposition to the UK Government's Covid-19 policies including the vaccine rollout. UKMFA say that its founder and CEO, Dr Elizabeth Evans, was personally targeted in an alleged hacking and publishing of HART private workspace chat by a group called "Logically AI", which HART says were contracted by the UK Government to monitor mis/disinformation. UKMFA further says that PayPal suspended both the UKMFA account and Dr Elizabeth Evans' unrelated private account on 1 September 2022. UKMFA submits that the alleged deliberate targeting and "debanking" of individuals and organisations who are lawfully campaigning against Government policies requires public investigation.
10. UKMFA has made a Subject Access Request to the Cabinet Office, which it says has revealed that Dr Evans has been investigated by the Cabinet Office Rapid Response Media Monitoring Unit. UKMFA submits that the alleged Government monitoring of individuals who speak out against Government policies is a matter of public interest which must be investigated.
11. UKMFA further points to a BMJ article relating to the UKMFA and UKMFA's rebuttal to this article.
12. The renewal application concludes by arguing that the Inquiry should allow evidence to be presented relating to potentially unlawful policies and covert operations allegedly carried out by the Government and private corporations in an alleged attempt to silence dissent. It says that as victims of such alleged practices, UKMFA should be granted Core Participant status, to allow it to defend itself and expose allegedly unethical practices.

Decision for the Applicant

13. I have considered with great care everything that is said in UKMFA's renewed application. I have also reminded myself of what was said in the original application to

enable me to assess the merits of the application for Core Participant status as a whole. Having done so, in my discretion, I have decided not to grant UKMFA Core Participant status in Module 4 of the Inquiry.

14. I am grateful to UKMFA for taking care to set out more detail in its renewed application. As a group which has raised various concerns about Covid-19 vaccines, UKMFA can be said to have an interest in matters relevant to Module 4. However, this in itself does not amount to a significant interest for the purposes of Rule 5(2)(b).
15. In respect of Rule 5(2)(c), I am not able, based on the evidence currently available, to reach a view as to whether UKMFA may be subject to explicit or significant criticism during the Inquiry proceedings or in any report of the Inquiry. Further, to the extent that UKMFA seeks to rely on its concerns over incidents of (i) hacking; (ii) debanking; and (iii) government monitoring of UKMFA, it is not the purpose of this Inquiry to examine the circumstances of any particular actions said to have been taken against a specific organisation, which UKMFA may choose to pursue in another forum. I therefore do not consider that the requirements of Rule 5(2)(c) are met.
16. I will keep the scope of Module 4 under review, as well as the position in relation to Rule 5(2)(c) as the investigation develops. My decision not to designate UKMFA as a Core Participant in Module 4 does not preclude it from making any further applications in respect of later modules. I will consider any future applications UKMFA may wish to make on their merits at the time they are made.

Rt Hon Baroness Heather Hallett DBE
Chair of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry
4 August 2023