



**Private & Confidential**

Sharanjeet Sidhu  
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**Section 21 Inquiries Act 2005**

**Varied Notice requiring the Cabinet Office to provide evidence to the UK Covid-19 Inquiry**

I hereby give notice under section 21(2)(b) of the Inquiries Act 2005 that the Cabinet Office is required to produce to the UK Covid-19 Inquiry, all materials listed in Annex A(i) and (ii) to this Notice. For the avoidance of any doubt, this Notice is issued on the basis that I consider the entire contents of the documents listed in Annex A(i) and (ii) to be potentially relevant to the lines of investigation being pursued by the UK Covid-19 Inquiry.

The Cabinet Office is required to supply these materials to the UK Covid-19 Inquiry by the dates set out within Annex A(i) and (ii).

Failure to comply with this Notice without reasonable excuse is, pursuant to section 35 of the Inquiries Act 2005 a criminal offence, punishable on summary conviction with a fine not exceeding £1,000 and/or imprisonment for a maximum of 51 weeks.

However, if the Cabinet Office claims that it is unable to comply with the Notice, or that it is unreasonable in all the circumstances for the Cabinet Office to do so, it may apply to me, pursuant to section 21(4) of the Inquiries Act 2005, for revocation or variation of the Notice. If it wishes to make such a claim, such written representations should be made to me by the dates set out within Annex A(i) and (ii), setting out all the matters on which it relies.

Following an application made under section 21(4) of the 2005 Act, this notice is varied to exclude from its scope the documents listed in Annex A to my Ruling dated 15 September 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heather Hallett'.

**Rt Hon Baroness Heather Hallett DBE**

**Chair of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry**

**28 April 2023**

**Varied 15 September 2023**

## **Annex A(i) to the s.21 Notice issued to the Cabinet Office on 28 April 2023**

The following are required to be disclosed to the UK Covid-19 Inquiry by **4pm on 12 May 2023**:

1. Unredacted WhatsApp communications dated between 1 January 2020 and 24 February 2022 which are recorded on device(s) owned / used by **Henry Cook** and which:
  - a. Comprise messages in a group chat established, or used for the purpose of communicating about the UK Government's response to Covid-19 ("group messages"); or
  - b. Were exchanged with any of the individuals listed in Annex B ("individual threads").
  
2. Unredacted WhatsApp communications dated between 1 January 2020 and 24 February 2022 which are recorded on device(s) owned / used by the former Prime Minister, **The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP** and which:
  - a. Comprise messages in a group chat established, or used for the purpose of communicating about the UK Government's response to Covid-19 ("group messages"); or
  - b. Were exchanged with any of the individuals listed in Annex B ("individual threads").
  
3. Unredacted diaries for the former Prime Minister, **The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP** covering the period 1 January 2020 to 24 February 2022.

If the Cabinet Office claims that it is unable to comply with the requirements of Annex A(i) to the Notice, or that it is unreasonable in all the circumstances for the Cabinet Office to do so, it may apply to me, pursuant to section 21(4) of the Inquiries Act 2005, for revocation or variation of the Notice. If the Cabinet Office wishes to make such a claim, such written representations should be made to me by **4pm on 9 May 2023**, setting out all the matters on which it relies.

**Annex A(ii) to the s.21 Notice issued to the Cabinet Office on 28 April 2023**

The following are required to be disclosed to the UK Covid-19 Inquiry by **4pm on 29 May 2023**:

1. Copies of the 24 notebooks containing contemporaneous notes made by the former Prime Minister, **The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP** during the period 1 January 2020 to 24 February 2022. These notebooks are to be provided in clean unredacted form, save only for any redactions applied for reasons of national security sensitivity.

If the Cabinet Office claims that it is unable to comply with the requirements of Annex A(ii) to the Notice, or that it is unreasonable in all the circumstances for the Cabinet Office to do so, it may apply to me, pursuant to section 21(4) of the Inquiries Act 2005, for revocation or variation of the Notice. If the Cabinet Office wishes to make such a claim, such written representations should be made to me by **4pm on 15 May 2023**, setting out all the matters on which it relies.

## **Annex B to the s.21 Notice issued to the Cabinet Office on 28 April 2023**

The Notice requires disclosure of unredacted WhatsApp messages exchanged between The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP or Henry Cook and any of the individuals listed below:

1. Professor Sir Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer
2. Sir Patrick Vallance, former Chief Scientific Adviser
3. Dr Jenny Harries, former Deputy Chief Medical Officer
4. Professor Jonathan Van-Tam, former Deputy Chief Medical Officer
5. Lord Simon Stevens, former Chief Executive of NHS England
6. Sir Chris Wormald, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Care
7. Imran Shafi, former Private Secretary to the Prime Minister for public services
8. Henry Cook, former Senior Adviser to the Prime Minister on Covid-19
9. James Bowler, former Second Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary
10. Tom Shinner, former Adviser to the Prime Minister and temporary lead of the No. 10 Covid Unit
11. Dominic Cummings, former Chief Adviser to the Prime Minister
12. David Halpern, Chief Executive Officer of the Behavioural Insights Team at No. 10
13. Ben Warner, former No. 10 data scientist
14. Marc Warner, former No. 10 data scientist
15. Catherine Cutts, Chief Data Scientist at No. 10
16. Dan Rosenfield, former Downing Street Chief of Staff
17. Martin Reynolds, former Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
18. Stuart Glassborow, former Deputy Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
19. Munira Mirza, former Director of the Number 10 Policy Unit
20. Lee Cain, former Downing Street Director of Communications
21. Jack Doyle, former Downing Street Director of Communications
22. James Slack, former Downing Street Director of Communications
23. Helen McNamara, former Deputy Cabinet Secretary
24. Simon Ridley, former Head of the Cabinet Office COVID-19 Taskforce
25. Katherine Hammond, former Director of Civil Contingencies Secretariat
26. Simon Case CVO, Cabinet Secretary and former Permanent Secretary at No. 10
27. Lord Bethell of Romford, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Care
28. The Lord Sedwill KCMG, former Cabinet Secretary
29. The Rt Hon Sajid Javid, former Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
30. The Rt Hon. the Lord Udney-Lister, former Downing Street Chief of Staff
31. The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP, former Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister of State for the Cabinet Office
32. The Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP, former Paymaster General
33. The Rt Hon Michael Ellis KC MP, former Paymaster General and former Minister of State for the Cabinet Office
34. The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP, former Foreign Secretary and former Minister for Women and Equalities

35. The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, former Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and former Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
36. The Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP, former Minister for Equalities
37. Justin Tomlinson MP, former Minister of State for the Department of Work and Pensions
38. The Rt Hon Matt Hancock, former Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
39. The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP, former Foreign Secretary, former Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice and former Deputy Prime Minister
40. The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, former Chancellor of the Exchequer
41. The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, former Prime Minister