

IN THE UK COVID-19 INQUIRY

Before the Rt. Hon. Baroness Hallett, D.B.E

MODULE 3

(SECOND PRELIMINARY HEARING (27 SEPTEMBER 2023))

THE WELSH GOVERNMENT'S NOTE

Introduction

1. As it committed to do at the start of Module 3, the Welsh Government has co-operated fully with the Inquiry's investigation. The purpose of this Note is to summarise the work that the Welsh Government has completed thus far not only in relation to Module 3, but also in the other Modules which are running at the same time.

Module 3

2. The Welsh Government has received two r. 9 requests: the first was addressed to its Health and Social Services Group and the second was sent to the Chief Medical Officer for Wales. The scope of subject-matter of both requests was broad and the substance was complex, but very detailed statements in response were provided and in accordance with deadlines agreed with the Inquiry. The statements were accompanied by substantial disclosure.
3. To assist the Inquiry, core participants and the broader public, the Welsh Government has also prepared a document, agreed with representatives of NHS bodies in Wales, which summarises the structure of the NHS in Wales.

Other Modules

4. The detailed work answering the Inquiry's detailed requests for evidence in Module 3 has not taken place in a vacuum. The Welsh Government is also a core participant in four other Modules namely, Module 1 (preparedness), Modules 2 and 2B (core UK and Welsh decision-making and political governance respectively) and Module 4 (vaccines, therapeutics and anti-virals).
 - (a) Module 1: the hearings in which five Welsh Government witnesses (including the First Minister) gave evidence, have recently ended.
 - (b) Module 2: the Welsh Government has received two r.9 requests which of which has been answered and the other is in the process of being answered.
 - (c) Module 2B: the Welsh Government has received c70 r.9 requests which have been either answered or are in the process of being answered.
 - (d) Module 4: the Welsh Government has received one r. 9 request, the deadline for a response has not yet passed.
 - (e) Module 5: the Welsh Government has provided some information to assist the Module in its work, in advance of a r.9.
5. There has been significant disclosure accompanying in addition to the r.9 responses.
6. The Welsh Government will continue to assist the Inquiry's investigations.

Dated 12 September 2023