



## **RULING ON ATTENDANCE OF DR CATHERINE CALDERWOOD AT THE UK COVID-19**

### **INQUIRY MODULE 2A HEARINGS**

#### **Introduction**

1. On 28 November 2023, I received an application (“the Application”) from The Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland requesting that Dr Catherine Calderwood, the former Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, be excused from participation in the work of the Inquiry for the foreseeable future (meaning a maximum period of one year) due to ill health. The Application was supported by a detailed medical report.
2. On 6 December 2023, Module 2A Core Participants were notified of the Application and provided with a brief summary as to the reasons for the Application. The contents of that letter are protected by a Restriction Order that I made pursuant to section 19 of the Inquiries Act dated 6 December 2023. Core Participants were informed that I was minded to excuse Dr Calderwood from participation in the Inquiry and were invited to make written submissions in response by 8 December 2023.
3. Having considered the written submissions I received, none of which objected to the Application, this is my ruling.

#### **Decision**

4. I have carefully considered the importance of Dr Calderwood’s evidence to the issues being investigated in Module 2A, as well as the information I have been provided with about the health of Dr Calderwood. Having reviewed the Application and supporting documentation, and having allowed Core Participants to make submissions in response, I am satisfied that Dr Calderwood should be excused from participation in the Inquiry and, in particular, participation in relation to Module 2A for the foreseeable future (meaning a maximum period of one year from the date hereof).
5. The Inquiry will be kept apprised of her position regularly over the year and Core Participants will be updated should the situation change.

**The Right Honourable Baroness Hallett**

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

**11 December 2023**