

UK COVID-19 Inquiry: Module 2 - Rule 9 Request to Professor Dame Linda Partridge -

Reference: M2/SAGE/01/DLP

Please provide the following information:

1. A brief overview of your qualifications, career history, professional expertise and major publications.

Please see short CV attached to the message

2. A list of the groups (i.e. SAGE and/or any of its sub-groups) in which you have been a participant, and the relevant time periods.

SAGE. January 2021 to the dissolution of the COVID activity

3. An overview of your involvement with those groups between January 2020 and February 2022, including:

a. When and how you came to be a participant;
Representing the Royal Society (RS)

b. The number of meetings you attended, and your contributions to those meetings;
All of them over that period, mainly as an observer

c. Your role in providing research, information and advice.
Liaison with the RS to inform its SET-C and other groups on reports that might be useful to SAGE, eg on vaccination passports

4. A summary of any documents to which you contributed for the purpose of advising SAGE and/or its related subgroups on the Covid-19 pandemic. Please include links to those documents where possible.

None

5. A summary of any articles you have written, interviews and/or evidence you have given regarding the work of the above-mentioned groups and/or the UK's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Please include links to those documents where possible.
Participated in Science Media Centre event briefing journalists on how science advice was working.
No documents.

6. Your views as to whether the work of the above-mentioned groups in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic (or the UK's response more generally) succeeded in its aims.
This may include, but is not limited to, your views on:

a. The composition of the groups and/or their diversity of expertise;
The expertise on SAGE was impressive, and the dedication of members to doing all they could to inform responses to the pandemic was palpable. SAGE was exceptionally well chaired.

b. The way in which the groups were commissioned to work on the relevant issues;

Excellent – and the contacts from the group could also draw in the efforts of other experts as needed. Every effort was made to ensure that each issue was addressed by the people who could best address it.

c. The resources and support that were available;
I did not personally need any, but I was impressed with the effort devoted to safeguarding, given that many members found themselves in nastily exposed situations.

d. The advice given and/or recommendations that were made;
Because of the nature of the chairing, members felt free to express views that diverged from each other and that led to robust discussion and consensus. I could not envisage a better method of arriving at recommendations.

e. The extent to which the groups worked effectively together;
Putting people on what was essentially a war footing against the pandemic focussed minds and there was little jostling for position on SAGE itself. There was a strong spirit of co-operation to get the job done.

f. The extent to which applicable structures and policies were utilised and/or complied with and their effectiveness.
Don't understand the question

3

7. Your views as to any lessons that can be learned from the UK's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, in particular relating to the work of the above-mentioned groups. Although the PM appeared with Vallance and Whitty on either hand, the intermittent politicisation by him and others of eg mask wearing and social distancing was extremely destructive to public safety and to the members of SAGE. The need for better leadership and behaviour by politicians in the midst of a major national crisis should be a lesson learned. The failure to lock down sooner in the first wave was disastrous. The pretence that the pandemic is over is unhelpful – mask wearing would prevent a lot of infections and should be encouraged. It would also prevent a lot of flu and other respiratory infections. There is a crying need for better international surveillance of possible zoonoses.

Please describe any changes that have already been made, and set out any recommendations for further changes that you think the Inquiry should consider making.

8. A brief description of documentation relating to these matters that you hold (including soft copy material held electronically). Please retain all such material. I am not asking for you to provide us with this material at this stage, but I may request that you do so in due course.
Nothing that was not in the official SAGE papers.