

Questionnaire

UK COVID-19 Inquiry: Module 2 - Rule 9 Request to Professor Andrew Rambaut - Reference: M2/SAGE/01/AR

Please provide the following information:

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

I am Professor of Molecular Evolution at the University of Edinburgh. I have a BSc in Biological Sciences from the University of Edinburgh and a DPhil from the University of Oxford in 1997. I held academic positions at the University of Oxford until 2006 when I moved to the University of Edinburgh. I have 25 years of research experience in virus evolution, developing computational methods used in virus phylogenetics and genomic epidemiology. I have worked on Influenza, HIV, Dengue, SARS, MERS, Ebola virus and numerous other viruses. With respect to COVID-19 I was a Principal Investigator of the UK COVID-19 genomics consortium (COG-UK) and I co-devised the lineage nomenclature system for SARS-CoV-2 (Pango).

A full list of my publications is available here:

<https://scholar.google.co.uk/citations?user=JiYPDfoAAAAJ>

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.

I participated in SAGE starting with meeting number 2 on 28 January 2020 with the last being number 98. I also attended 3 NERVTAG meetings.

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

- When and how you came to be a participant;

I was invited to attend the 2nd SAGE meeting to provide initial assessments as to the likely origins and nature of the SARS-CoV-2 virus based on genomic sequences.

- The number of meetings you attended, and your contributions to those meetings;

In total I attended 30 SAGE meetings and 3 NERVTAG meetings.

- Your role in providing research, information and advice.

At various stages in the pandemic I provided analysis and interpretation of data pertaining to the evolution of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. This included the emergence of novel forms of SARS-CoV-2 in mink, the characterisation of the B.1.1.7 (Alpha) variant and subsequent variants Delta and Omicron.

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.

I co-authored the following papers presented to SAGE and/or NERVTAG:

- Co-author of paper: "COVID-19 Genomics UK (COG-UK) Consortium: weekly report 1, 23 March 2020":

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-genomics-uk-cog-uk-consortium-weekly-report-1-23-march-2020>

- Co-author of research on international introductions of SARS-CoV-2 in 2020, reported in "COG-UK: Use of SARS-CoV-2 genomics to understand transmission, 28 June 2020":

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cog-uk-use-of-sars-cov-2-genomics-to-understand-transmission-28-june-2020>

- Co-author of paper: "NERVTAG: Is there evidence for genetic change in SARS-CoV-2? - 30 September 2020":

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nervtag-is-there-evidence-for-genetic-change-in-sars-cov-2-and-if-so-do-mutations-affect-virus-phenotype-30-september-2020>

- Co-author of paper: "NERVTAG: Risk assessment of SARS-CoV-2 variants that have been selected in mink, 12 November 2020":

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nervtag-risk-assessment-of-sars-cov-2-variants-that-have-been-selected-in-mink-12-november-2020>

- Co-author of paper: "Analysis of transmissibility based on genomics - 15 December 2020" on Alpha Variant of Concern:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phe-analysis-of-transmissibility-based-on-genomics-15-december-2020>

- Co author of PHE Technical Briefings on B.1.1.7 Variant of Concern:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/959438/Technical_Briefing_VOC_SH_NJL2_SH2.pdf

- Co author of PHE Technical Briefings on Variants of Concern:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/investigation-of-sars-cov-2-variants-of-concern-routine-variant-data-update>

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.

None

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 is not my area of expertise.

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. 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.

This is not my area of expertise.

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.

I do not have documentation on these matters.