

Witness Name: Graeme Miller (Leader of Sunderland City Council and Chair of the  
Northeast Combined Authority)

Statement No:

Exhibits:

Dated: 21 April 2023

## UK COVID-19 INQUIRY

### **WITNESS STATEMENT OF Graeme Miller** (Leader of Sunderland City Council and Chair of the Northeast Combined Authority)

I, Graeme Miller will say as follows: -

1. Thank you for your recent correspondence on this important inquiry.
2. It is worth noting NECA's functions, the working arrangements within the Combined Authority, and how they relate to the Covid-19 response.
3. NECA is a non-mayoral combined authority made up of Gateshead, South Tyneside, Sunderland and Durham local authorities. Its main function is the responsible authority for the Joint Transport Committee. The Joint Transport Committee is made up of representatives across the seven local authorities in the North East.
4. All other functions, including those relevant to the Covid-19 response, are the responsibility of the individual constituent local authorities. While some reporting to the NECA Leadership Board was made on Covid-19 this would contain the same information as available in the constituent authorities and had no decision-making powers.
5. As NECA did not have a role in the Covid-19 response and I, as NECA Chair, did not provide information to the UK Government that informed its response to the Covid-19 pandemic between 1 January 2020 and 24 February 2022 it is believed there is no relevant information to provide.
6. I am happy to attend a Teams call with a representative from the inquiry, as suggested in your e-mail of 31 January, in order to confirm NECA's position and answer any questions if required.

#### **Statement of Truth**

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief of its truth.

Personal Data

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 21 April 2023