

Module 2:

**UK COVID-19 Inquiry: Module 2A - Rule 9 Request to Professor Devi Sridhar -
Reference: M2A/DS/01**

Please provide the following information:

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

My name is Devi Sridhar and I'm a Professor of Global Public Health at the Usher Institute for Population Health and Informatics at the University of Edinburgh Medical School. Before being at Edinburgh I was an Associate Professor at the University of Oxford, a Postdoctoral Researcher at All Souls College, Oxford and received my DPhil and MPhil degrees from Oxford. I am founding director of the Global Health Governance Programme which looks at how global institutions, rules and finance can better serve the needs of people around the world. I have served as an advisor to several governments on pandemic preparedness issues including Germany, the United States and Britain (UK and Scottish governments) as well as the World Health Organization, UNICEF, UNDP and the World Bank.

I have written a book 'Preventable: How a Pandemic Changed the World & How to Stop the Next One' (exhibit DS/1 for Module 1) which was published in 2022 and a book 'Governing Global Health: Who Runs the World and Why' (exhibit: DS/2 for Module 1). DS/1 (Preventable) takes an in-depth look at how various countries responded to the pandemic including Britain. I have also written regular columns for the Guardian outlining my views on the UK's preparedness and response. My answers to the specific questions asked will be brief and refer to those books, and I can expand further as necessary.

2. A list of the groups (i.e. Scottish Covid-19 Advisory Group (SCAG) and/or any of its sub-groups) in which you have been a participant, and the relevant time periods.

Scottish COVID-19 Advisory Group, subgroup on Education and Children's Issues, subgroup on Universities and Colleges, UK Cabinet Office International Best Practices Advisory Group.

3. An overview of your involvement with those groups between January 2020 and February 2022, including:
 1. When and how you came to be a participant;
 2. The number of meetings you attended, and your contributions to those meetings; and
 3. Your role in providing research, information and advice.

I was asked to be a participant in April 2020 by email- this was after the first COVID-19 advisory group had met- and attended my first meeting then (which was the group's second meeting), and soon after joined the subgroups when they were established. I attended almost every meeting since being invited- with Scottish Government having the full log of meetings. During these, I provided feedback on government documents, shared background policy brief and data from my research team and shared knowledge from sitting on other expert advisory groups in the United States, Germany and India.

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

Materials from the COVID-19 Advisory Group, including minutes, papers, and advice have been provided to the Inquiry by the Covid-19 Advisory Group Secretariat. These can be found in the following return: Scottish Inquiry - Tranche 6 - Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group.

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 Scottish/UK's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Please include links to those documents where possible.

I have written a full explanation of my work with the Scottish and UK response to COVID-19 in my book Preventable (DS/1).

6. Your views as to whether the work of the above-mentioned groups in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic (or the Scottish/UK's response more generally) succeeded in its aims. This may include, but is not limited to, your views on:
 1. The composition of the groups and/or their diversity of expertise;
 2. The way in which the groups were commissioned to work on the relevant issues;
 3. The resources and support that were available;
 4. The advice given and/or recommendations that were made;
 5. The extent to which the groups worked effectively together; and
 6. The extent to which applicable structures and policies were utilised and/or complied with and their effectiveness.

I have written extensively on the advisory group's structure and input in my book Preventable (DS/1), including comparing SAGE to the Scottish COVID-19 group.

7. Your views as to any lessons that can be learned from Scotland's/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.

I have written extensively on the lessons learned and changes needed in my book Preventable (DS/1).

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.

Materials from the COVID-19 Advisory Group, including minutes, papers, and advice have been provided to the Inquiry by the Covid-19 Advisory Group Secretariat. These can be found in the following return: Scottish Inquiry - Tranche 6 - Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group. These are the same materials that I had access to.

Signed:-

Personal Data

*Professor Devi Sridhar
Chair of Global Public Health*