



RESTRICTION ORDER

RESTRICTION ON THE PUBLICATION OF MATERIAL PURSUANT TO SECTION 19 OF THE INQUIRIES ACT 2005

This Restriction Order is made pursuant to section 19(2)(b) of the Inquiries Act 2005 (“the Act”), read with section 19(3) of the Act.

BACKGROUND

1. The public hearing of Module 2A began on 16 January 2024 and concluded on 1 February 2024.
2. During the course of the hearing, documents brought up on screens at the hearing centre and documents adduced in evidence have been published on the Inquiry’s website. At the conclusion of the hearing, additional documents continue to be published on the Inquiry’s website where I have given permission to do so.
3. All documents published by the Inquiry have been carefully reviewed and where necessary, have been redacted in accordance with the Inquiry’s published [Protocol on the Redaction of Documents](#) (“Redaction Protocol”). Redactions are applied by the Inquiry legal team, primarily to content which is:
 - a. personal data within the meaning of UK data protection legislation, further disclosure of which is prohibited by that legislation. Such redactions are indicated on their face with the text “Personal Data”;
 - b. considered to be both irrelevant to the Inquiry’s Terms of Reference and sensitive. Such redactions are indicated on their face with the text “Irrelevant and Sensitive” or “I&S”; or
 - c. to the names of some junior officials who may hold a reasonable expectation of privacy and whose identities are considered by the Inquiry legal team to be irrelevant to the Inquiry’s terms of reference. Such redactions are indicated on their face with the text “Name Redacted” or “NR”.
4. I consider that publication of any content redacted by the Module 2A Inquiry legal team would cause harm and damage of the sort envisaged by Section 19(4)(b) of the Inquiries Act 2005. This is for a variety of reasons including that their publication would breach data protection legislation and the rights of individuals including those protected by Art 8 ECHR and/or would adversely impact the proper administration of government by revealing sensitive information which it is not necessary to enable the Inquiry to perform its statutory functions.

IT IS ORDERED THAT

5. Publication of any content redacted from materials either (a) disclosed to Module 2A Core Participants by the Inquiry or (b) published on the Inquiry's website is expressly prohibited by this Order. For the avoidance of doubt, publication includes publishing information on any website, blog, Twitter or other social media.
6. This Order remains in force for the duration of the Inquiry and at all times thereafter, unless varied in accordance with the provisions of section 20(3) or (4) of the Act.
7. Any person affected by this Order may apply in accordance with section 20 of the Inquiries Act 2005 to vary its terms.
8. Any threat to break such an order, or any breach of it, may be certified to the High Court or Court of Session under section 36 of the Act.

PENAL NOTICE

The High Court and the Court of Session have the power to imprison or fine for any breach of this Order.

The Right Honourable Baroness Hallett
Chair of the Covid-19 UK Inquiry

23 February 2024