

## Questionnaire

### UK COVID-19 Inquiry: Module 2 - Rule 9 Request to Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice Cymru

Reference: M2/R9R/CBFFJC/TJS

Please provide the following information:

- 1) **A brief overview of the history, legal status and aims of the organisation or body. Please explain whether the work of the organisation or body is UK wide, or is instead confined to England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland only.**

CBFJ Cymru is comprised of a group of individuals, led by Anna-Louise Marsh-Rees, Sam Smith Higgins and Liz Grant who represent the full spectrum of families in Wales who are bereaved by Covid-19. CBFJ Cymru originated out of the Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice (CBFJ) group but have always been autonomous, Welsh members of CBFJ established CBFJ Cymru on 15 July 2021 to ensure that there was proper scrutiny of all governmental decision-making relevant to Wales (including in Westminster and the devolved administration in Wales). Since its establishment, CBFJ Cymru has become the most prominent organisation in Wales in the discourse surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic and the call for a Welsh Inquiry and/or proper scrutiny of decision-making impacting on Wales in a UK Inquiry. CBFJ Cymru has campaigned tirelessly for justice for families in Wales who are experiencing bereavement due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Legal status - an unfunded group set up by the Covid bereaved for the Covid bereaved in Wales

#### Aims

1. CBFJC Primary aims:
  - a. to understand why decisions were made and for errors to be publicly acknowledged so lessons can be learned
  - b. to call for a Wales-specific inquiry
  - c. to work with the Welsh Government to ensure Wales is fully represented in the UK Covid-19 Inquiry
  - d. to call for a Wales Covid-19 Inquiry special purposes committee that will investigate any potential gaps in the UK Covid-19 Inquiry
2. CBFJC Secondary aims:
  - a. an investigation into all nosocomial deaths in Wales
  - b. changes to infection control in health care settings in Wales
  - c. supporting members through the NHS Wales health board complaints process
    - i. bereavement support both practical and psychological following Covid deaths in hospitals
    - ii. championing the rights of older people in Wales inc. human rights, ethical practises, DNACPR process, withdrawal of treatment, Frailty

**can be learned from any consideration which was given to the group(s) that the organisation or body supports or represents by (a) the UK Government; (b) the Scottish Government; (c) the Welsh Government; and/or (d) the Northern Ireland Executive when they were making decisions about their response to Covid-19.**

- a) Understand how the actions of the UK Government were interpreted by Welsh Government:
  - i) Would it have been beneficial to adhere to the Civil Contingencies Act rather than create a new Coronavirus Act 2020 which allowed each devolved nations to govern independently and make their own decisions
  - ii) Understand why UK Government and Welsh Government interpret the science so differently in their decision making
  
- b) Understand how the actions of the Welsh Government, which were different in many aspects to the UK Government decisions impacted the Covid death rate in Wales:
  - i) Lack of pandemic preparedness- despite research and reports commissioned by Welsh Government since devolution no action was taken inc resource planning, PPE, infection control
  - ii) Lack of resilience- NHS Wales real estate not fit for purpose despite recommendations made since devolution
  - iii) NHS Wales structure & governance is very different to NHS England – understand how this impacted the response to the pandemic
  - iv) Welsh Governance allowed super spreader events in March 2020 despite advice not to ie rugby and Stereophonics concerts
  - v) Welsh Government issued confusing public communications
  - vi) Lockdowns/firebreaks- huge differences in Wales with little evidence that the science was being followed
  - vii)Transferring patients from ward to ward, hospital to hospital, hospital to home/care homes untested and/or with Covid. Welsh Government did not start testing hospital to care home patients until 2 weeks after UK changed guidance
  - viii) Late mandating of masks – Welsh Government mandated masks 2 months after UK Government
  - ix) Late introduction of asymptomatic testing for staff- Welsh Government introduced these 4 months + after UK Government
  - x) Vaccine rollout- Welsh Government prioritised non-patient facing NHS workers over vulnerable citizens
  - xi) Reported issues of applied blanket DNACPRs
  - xii)Health and social care are politized in Wales – understand the impact this has had