

Module 7: Test, Trace and Isolate

Provisional Draft Outline of Scope

(subject to submissions from Core Participants and Counsel to the Inquiry)

This module will look at, and make recommendations on, the approach to testing, tracing and isolation¹ adopted during the pandemic in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland from January 2020 until February 2022.

The module will consider the policies and strategies developed and deployed to support the test, trace and isolate system by the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations. It will consider the decisions made by key bodies, other options or technologies that were available and factors that may have influenced public compliance

Module 7 will examine:

1. The test, trace and isolate policies and strategies developed and deployed, taking into account modelling, capacity of the systems throughout the pandemic and the rationale, appropriateness and data available for the decisions of the UK and devolved administrations and wider border policy considerations.
2. The availability, use and effectiveness of different test, trace and isolate technologies, policies and strategies including lateral flow and PCR tests, testing for variants, digital contact tracing and other testing techniques.
3. The structure of the test, trace and isolate system and the key bodies involved in decision making in the UK and Devolved Administrations. It will include the efficacy and impact of the models adopted, the use of the private sector and other institutions and the cost.
4. Enforcement of testing, tracing and isolation procedures and factors influencing compliance, such as the adequacy of and trust in messaging, financial and practical support to those required to isolate and the availability and use of data in decision making.
5. The preservation of infrastructure, capacity and research to improve and develop test, trace and isolate schemes for future pandemics.

**Note to potential Core Participants for Module 7*

The Chair is particularly interested in receiving Core Participant applications from those individuals or bodies who made key decisions in the test, trace and isolate system, rather than seeking applications from the large volume of suppliers contracted to provide test, trace and isolate services or equipment in the pandemic. Some suppliers may be able to contribute to the Inquiry by providing evidence about their experience, but they do not need to be a Core Participant to do that. Further, the Chair would ask potential Core Participants to focus on the proposed scope of this module before submitting an application. Other aspects of the system will be covered in different modules e.g. procurement.

¹ This includes Test and Protect (Scotland), Test and Trace (England), Test, Trace, Protect (Wales) and Test, Trace and Protect (Northern Ireland).