

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**THE UK COVID-19 PUBLIC INQUIRY**

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**Written submissions on behalf of the Care Quality Commission**

**for the Preliminary Hearing in Module 6 on 19 March 2024**

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1. Care Quality Commission ('CQC') is grateful for its designation as a Core Participant in Module 6 and is committed to providing the Inquiry with its full co-operation. CQC is actively working to ensure that the Inquiry is provided with all the relevant information required where possible. To date, CQC has endeavored to provide comprehensive and clear witness statements and exhibits, when requested in Modules 2 and 3.
2. Despite having provided witness statements in previous Modules, this is the first time that CQC has been designated as a Core Participant. Though known to the Inquiry, it may be helpful to summarise CQC's remit and explain briefly how it differs from other similarly named organisations which have been granted Core Participant status in Module 6.
3. CQC was established on 1 April 2009 by the Health and Social Care Act 2008 ('the 2008 Act') as the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England. CQC is a non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Care ('DHSC'), and accountable to Parliament through the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. It is responsible for the registration, monitoring, inspection, assessment and regulation of health and adult social care services which fall within its regulatory remit.
4. In terms of the 2008 Act providers of 'regulated activities' must be registered with CQC unless a specified exemption or exception applies. The regulated activities for which providers must register with CQC are:
  - personal care;
  - accommodation for persons who require nursing or personal care;
  - accommodation for persons who require treatment for substance misuse;
  - treatment of disease, disorder or injury;

- assessment or medical treatment for persons detained under the Mental Health Act 1983;
  - surgical procedures;
  - diagnostic and screening procedures;
  - management of supply of blood and blood derived products;
  - transport services, triage and medical advice provided remotely;
  - maternity and midwifery services;
  - termination of pregnancies;
  - services in slimming clinics;
  - nursing care; and
  - family planning services.
5. CQC hosts both Healthwatch England (HWE), the consumer champion for health and social care, and the National Guardian's Office (NGO) which leads, trains and supports a network of Freedom to Speak Up Guardians in England.
6. For the sake of completeness, CQC has recently acquired the following additional regulatory responsibilities pursuant to the Health and Care Act 2022 ("the 2022 Act") which amended the 2008 Act by adding additional regulatory duties on CQC. These include the requirement for CQC to conduct reviews of the exercise of regulated care functions by English local authorities, assess the performance of those authorities following each such review, and publish a report of its assessment. CQC also has the duty to conduct reviews of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), assess the functioning of the systems and publish a report of its assessment.
7. As stated above, CQC submits that it may be helpful to explain briefly how it differs from the following other similarly named organisations which have been granted Core Participant status in Module 6:
- (i) Care England, National Care Forum, and the Homecare Association  
These are 3 organisations who represent the interests of some of the providers of care services in England.
- (ii) Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority  
This organisation carries out similar independent scrutiny functions to that of CQC, namely monitoring and inspecting care service providers, but operates in Northern Ireland and not England.
- (iii) Care Inspectorate

This organisation carries out similar independent scrutiny functions to that of CQC, namely monitoring and inspecting care service providers, but operates in Scotland and not England.

8. CQC will continue to assist the Inquiry in Module 6.

**Dated 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024**