

Questionnaire

UK COVID-19 Inquiry: Module 2B - Rule 9 Request to Professor Ian Humphreys-Reference:

M2B/IH/01

Please provide the following information:

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

I am an internationally renowned expert in immune responses to viruses and the harmful effects of virus-induced immune responses in virus-driven diseases.

- **Cardiff University: 2007-Present**
 - Director, Systems Immunity University Research Institute (2021-Present)
 - COVID Research Lead, School of Medicine (2020-2022)
 - Head of Infection, Division of Infection and Immunity (2018-2022)
 - Professor of Viral Pathogenesis (2018-Present)
 - Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow in Basic Biomedical Science (Renewal, 2017-2022)
 - Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow in Basic Biomedical Science (2012-2017)
 - Wellcome Trust Research Career Development Fellow (2007-2012)
- **Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Hinxton: 2013-2019** - Honorary Faculty Member, Pathogens Program
- **La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology, San Diego USA: 2004-2006** - Postdoctoral Scientist investigating the role of TNF and TNF receptor family members in T cell responses to cytomegalovirus infection
- **Imperial College London: 2000-2004** - PhD student within the Centre of Molecular Microbiology and Infection investigating the role of T cell co-stimulation in protective immunity and immune pathology during respiratory infections

Qualifications:

- 2004 - PhD in Biochemistry, Imperial College London
- 2000 - 1st Class BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences with Virology, University of Warwick

2. A list of the groups (i.e. TAG and/or any of its subgroups) in which you have been a participant, and the relevant time periods. Please also confirm if you are or have been a participant in SAGE or other relevant groups.

COVID-19 International Intelligence TAG Group, Welsh Government

No involvement in SAGE or other COVID-related groups.

3. An overview of your involvement with those groups between January 2020 and May 2022, including:

a. When and how you came to be a participant;

I was recommended by Peter Halligan (scientific advisor, Welsh Government) following interactions with Peter from March 2020 whereby I provided him weekly updates regarding advances in the scientific literature that was emerging regarding SARS-CoV-2 in the initial stages of the pandemic.

b. The number of meetings you attended, and your contributions to those meetings;

The meetings commenced Sept 2020 and they varied in frequency. They were weekly to begin with and have reduced over time. We still meet every ~2 months.

and

b. Your role in providing research, information and advice.

My role as a viral immunologist on the panel was to review international intelligence information provided and discussed in meetings chaired by Robert Hoyle, to summarise the current state of scientific knowledge around different topics, to interpret international information in light of my scientific understanding, and to raise topics that I felt were important to Welsh Government. I provided scientific input on certain documents to the TAG authored by Robert Hoyle. I provided expert advice to WG (written to Robert Hoyle) on various occasions. I authored some scientific papers to be presented to TAG by Robert Hoyle.

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

May 2021 – paper presented to TAG on emerging Brazilian variant
Feb 2021 - paper presented to TAG on 'worst case COVID scenarios'
Jan 2021 - Submitted the vaccine genomic testing paper to TAG

Various other contributions via email and editing other documents submitted to TAG.

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 Welsh Government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Please include links to those documents where publicly available.

None

6. Your views as to whether the work of the above-mentioned groups in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic (or Wales's response more generally) succeeded in its aims. This may include, but is not limited to, your views on:

a. The composition of the groups and/or their diversity of expertise;

I think it was pretty well balanced from social sciences, immunology/virology and public health perspective. We sometimes missed economic insights in our grouping though.

b. The way in which the groups were commissioned to work on the relevant issues;

This worked well, Robert Hoyle was an excellent chair and guided us well in the process.

b. The resources and support that were available;

Excellent intel was provided to shape discussions. Much of what was expected of us was to bring in the scientific literature into discussions, which was readily available externally.

c. The advice given and/or recommendations that were made;

- *I don't know as this was never formally communicated to me from the upper echelons of Welsh Gov.*

e. The extent to which the groups worked effectively together; and

The major point of concern was how the information that we provided followed up the chain of command. We spent a great deal of time and effort in what was a very functional and excellent group. But although Robert sometimes reported back that our work had been well received in TAG, feedback beyond this was non-existent. We didn't receive regular or substantive formal feedback downwards or really get much sense of what TAG did with the information that we provided. We didn't have any explicit interactions with other groups, were not readily aware of which other groups existed or who was on them, and only rarely saw information from them.

f. The extent to which applicable structures and policies were utilised and/or complied with and their effectiveness.

- *I have no idea as this was never communicated to me.*

7. Your views as to any lessons that can be learned from the Welsh Government'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 very much enjoyed working with Welsh Gov colleagues – Robert Hoyle and Adam Wadding in particular deserve high praise for their work.*
- *The information put together for our meetings (by Adam Wadding) was excellent and these reports were designed via an iterative process that we were consulted on*
- *The frustration came from above this where we had no idea how the information was used, and we didn't receive feedback from TAG as to how/if anything we could do to improve our reporting. We also didn't receive feedback regarding whether the information that we provided changed policy. It at times seemed a little chaotic.*

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.