

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

I joined Welsh Government (WG) in September 2020 to support with the COVID-19 pandemic. I have experience in a public health setting supporting Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) response exercise incidents, collaborating with a range of organisations and partners of diverse backgrounds in industry, academia and government environments. I am an experienced theoretical and experimental researcher with a range of analytical skills. I have conducted emergency response research for Public Health England now UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

Job title: COVID-19 Intelligence Advisor - Grade HEO – Welsh Government 2020 – present

Supporting the Technical Advisory Cell (TAC) on health intelligence related to the transmission and incidence of COVID-19.

Job Title: Health Protection Researcher– Public Health England, Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards, CRCE, Oxfordshire 2015-2020
Masters of Philosophy – 2022

Operational research and assessments to determine communication limitations associated with Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) incidents. Assess potential impact by developing and applying specific suitable models and assessment tools.

Job Title: Digital Officer –Public Health England, Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards, CRCE, Oxfordshire 2007 -2015
Masters of Science - 2013

Developing tools and systems for data analysis, providing guidance and recommendations to facilitate preparedness and response to chemical, biological, radiological threats and hazards in support of front line public health response.

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.

During the COVID-19 response I did not participate in any SAGE or subgroup meetings, however, I was a member of the following groups from September 2020 to May2022:

- The Technical Advisory Cell (TAC) which comprised of a team of Welsh Government civil servants, providing a secretariat, coordination of information and leadership function for the Technical Advisory Group (TAG).
- The Covid Intelligence Cell (CIC) which was a multi organisational group hosted by WG (civil servants, secretariat, public health specialists) that collaborated on COVID-19 epidemiological information and key-indicators.
- I provided COVID-19 related evidence statements for the Technical Advisory Group (TAG). TAG comprised of internal (civil servants) and external (non-civil servants) scientific and technical experts who provide independent

science advice and guidance to the Welsh Government in response to COVID-19.

- I was also an observer of the Health Protection Advisory Group (HPAG) and UKHSA Alert level update (ALU) – these groups collaborated on timely COVID-19 epidemiological information for decision making.

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;

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

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

I joined TAC in September 2020 and my key role was to consolidate the multiple sources of evidence on research and tracking of disease progression. This was to inform appropriate public health related datasets and analyses with additional evidence to support decision making. I collaborated with my colleagues within the TAC/TAG as well as with those in PHW (Public Health Wales), officials in Welsh Government (WG), National Health Service (NHS), United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) as required.

One of the key advice documents that I coordinated was the COVID-19 Situational Report (CSR). The CSR was a report that contained COVID-19 timely information and epidemiological data in order to guide decision makers about potential interventions that may have been effective and proportionate in containing the pandemic. It provided analysis of the available data sources such as, summary of confirmed episodes, COVID-19 infection survey, variants of concern, weekly epidemiology for Wales, International COVID-19 update, hospital occupancy, school attendance in Wales. The CSR was presented and shared with members of the CIC as required. A list of the meetings attended can be provided upon request.

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.

My main contribution was the coordination, analysis and presentation of the CSR data to CIC. The CSR offered a transparent method of sharing information and findings with the public on a frequent basis in order to promote awareness and improve public engagement. The CSR is available online <https://www.gov.wales/covid-19-situational-reports>

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.

My contribution was the integration of the most timely/accurate data sources in a concise summary collated from various evidence sources (PHW summary of confirmed episodes, ONS COVID-19 infection survey, PHW variants of concern, weekly epidemiology for Wales, WHO International COVID-19 update, NHS hospital

occupancy, WG school attendance, etc). My role involved consolidation of the numerous (UK and international) data sources into the CSR. Our internal TAC processes ensured Quality Assurance.

- COVID-19 Situational Report (CSR)– available online
- TAC Brief - available online
- 21-day review - available upon request
- COVID-19 atypical symptoms rapid literature review - available upon request
- Welsh government winter paper - available upon request

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;**
- b. The way in which the groups were commissioned to work on the relevant issues;**
- c. The resources and support that were available;**
- d. The advice given and/or recommendations that were made;**
- e. The extent to which the groups worked effectively together; and**
- f. The extent to which applicable structures and policies were utilised and/or complied with and their effectiveness.**

The TAC/TAG arrangements and system resources were frequently assessed and adjusted to cover the workload demands and organisational needs. The composition of the groups comprised of multi-disciplinary experts from policy, academia and government entities, collaborating together effectively and despite high workload volumes, a number of high-quality advice, scientific papers and recommendations were produced in order to support policy and decision making.

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.

From my involvement with the COVID-19 response can conclude that the response arrangements worked reasonably well. Sharing best practices and collaborating with a multitude of organisations in a trusted partnership provided unique conditions where scientific rigour, transparency and productivity thrived. Multi organisational communication and collaboration across academic, scientific, central UK (United Kingdom) and devolved governments should be encouraged.

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.

- CSR – available online
- TAC Brief - available online

- 21-day review available upon request
- COVID-19 atypical symptoms rapid literature review available upon request
- Welsh government winter paper? (co-author)