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Irrelevant & Sensitive

8th March 2023

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FREEPOST UK Covid-19 Public Inquiry

Irrelevant & Sensitive

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**Module 2B of the UK Covid-19 Public Inquiry Request for Evidence under Rule 9 of the Inquiry
Rules 2006 Reference for Request - M2B/JS/01**

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

I qualified and started working as a medical doctor in 1996 and completed postgraduate training and since 2006 worked as a Consultant in Microbiology and Virology for Public Health Wales. I provide clinical advice to the Cardiff area plus Virology at a National level. I am an examiner for the UK Microbiology and Virology postgraduate exams. I have been involved in the research for the Astrazeneca Oxford COVID vaccine and was included in some of the publications. Otherwise I have no major publications.

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 in the relevant time periods.*

I was a member of TAG from 17.05.2021 until 08.07.2022. I was not a participant in SAGE. During that time I also was a devolved nation participant on behalf of Wales in the UKHSA Post Positive PCR Antibody Testing Initiative (PPPATI) between 19.05.2021 and 17.03.2022.

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 was a member of TAG from 17.05.2021 until 08.07.2022.

a: I was invited to join the existing Virology and Testing Technical Advisory sub-Group (VT-TAG) chaired by Robin Howe, lead microbiologist for Wales; to provide technical representation for Wales on the Scientific Advisory Group for Serology Testing, as an addition to the policy representation already provided by the WG testing policy team.

b) meetings were once a week then every 2 weeks and then only when required. c) My role was to use my professional expertise and knowledge to comment on topics under discussion.

I also was a devolved nation participant on behalf of Wales in the UKHSA Post Positive PCR Antibody Testing Initiative (PPPATI) between 19.05.2021 and 17.03.2022.

- a) I was invited to join by Robin Howe, lead microbiologist for Wales; to provide technical representation for Wales on the Scientific Advisory Group for Serology Testing, as an addition to the policy representation already provided by the WG testing policy team.
- b) Meetings were weekly then less frequent
- c) My role was to use my professional expertise and knowledge to comment on topics under discussion from a Wales perspective, and feedback to the VTTAG any developments.

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.*

19.05.21 discussion of molecular dynamics modelling of SARS-CoV-2 variants including key results; implications for control programme & relationship with other work-streams.

26.05.21 TAG/Covid Intelligence cell Covid Briefing on VOC-21 April (B.1.617.2) paper

23.06.21 Discussion of International Sub-Group paper: Covid-19 Variants of Concern driving a third wave in South Africa in the lead up to the British Lions Rugby Tour and against a background of HIV being endemic in the country.

30.06.21 Winter 21/22 Paper: Request for suggested key challenges

04.08.2021 Testing in Care homes

06.07.22 VTTAG 2022/23 Winter briefing paper

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

I do not know if the group succeeded in its work or its aim for Wales. I was not aware of how it was decided how the groups were composed or commissioned. I assumed mainly set up by the chair. I was not clear how information came to the group chair or if and how any discussions were fed back to other groups as I was only part of VTTAG. I was not aware of any resource available. Scientific issues and some policy were discussed at our group but I don't know what

impact that had on any policy. I believe the groups worked well as it seemed that information was flowing into and out of the VTTAG via members of the group who were also on other groups. But I do not know what the aim of the group was, or why it was required, or who made the final decision on any plans for what to do in the pandemic.

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 don't know if any lessons can be learned or whether any changes have been made. I do not have any recommendations for further changes by the enquiry.

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*

I have draft versions of some documents discussed by VT-TAG (rather than final versions) in my email correspondence within Outlook.

Your sincerely,

Personal Data

Dr Jaisi Sinha