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Cardiff, CF14 4XW

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Ms Charlotte Whitaker  
2B Module Lead Solicitor  
UK Covid-19 Public Inquiry

24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Ms Whitaker,

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

Please find below my answers to the questionnaire sent on the 16 January 2023:

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

My qualifications are a medical degree (MBChB, University of Glasgow, 2000), DPhil (Oxford University, 2009) and membership of the Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health (2004). I initially trained in paediatric medicine. My doctoral research looked at how common genetic variation in humans contributes to susceptibility to severe malaria infection. I moved to Wales in 2007 to undertake specialty training in Clinical Genetics. In 2017, I was appointed as Clinical Senior Lecturer in Medical Genetics (at Cardiff University) and Honorary Consultant in Clinical Genetics (in the All Wales Medical Genetics Service). I became Director of the Wales Gene Park in April 2020. My research and clinical work in the last 15 years has focused on rare, severe neurodevelopmental disorders. My major publications relate to the identification of monogenic causes for brain malformations and epilepsy.

*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.*

I was a participant in the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) during 2020. I have never been a participant in SAGE.

*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.*

a. The first TAG meeting I attended was Fri 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020. I became a participant as I was taking over as Director of the Wales Gene Park (replacing Prof Julian Sampson).

b. I do not have a record of exactly how many meetings I attended. I attended the 8:30 am online meetings 2-3 times per week from late March 2020. I was involved in discussions about the contribution of human genomic research to the pandemic response and providing feedback about the progress of Welsh contributions to the GenOMICC (Genomics in Critical Care) study. My attendance at TAG meetings became less frequent in mid-2020 and I stopped attending in late-2020.

c. I provided information about the likely contribution of human genomic research to the pandemic response, and information about the progress with Welsh participation in the GenOMICC study.

*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.*

Prof Sampson and I submitted a document entitled "Human Genomics & COVID-19: clinical utility, research options, and the Welsh context." (12th April 2020). The document outlined the clinical utility of human genomics, research options, and a discussion of human genomic research infrastructure in Wales.

*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.*

I have not written any articles or given any interviews and/or evidence regarding the work of the TAG group and/or the Welsh Government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

*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.*

I have no views on the work of the TAG group in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic (or Wales's response more generally).

*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 have no views on any lessons that can be learned from the Welsh Government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

*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.*

The documentation I hold is email correspondence with TAG colleagues. I have an electronic copy of our document "Human Genomics & COVID-19: clinical utility, research options, and the Welsh context".

Yours sincerely,

Personal Data

**Dr Andrew Fry**  
**Clinical Senior Lecturer in Medical Genetics**