

Witness Name: Dr Heather Payne

Statement No: M2B/WG/05/01

Dated: 13 December 2023

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY

WITNESS STATEMENT OF DR HEATHER PAYNE

I, Dr Heather Payne, will say as follows:

1. I provide this statement in response to a request made by the Chair of the UK Covid-19 Public Inquiry ("the Inquiry") pursuant to Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006, dated 25 October 2023, and referenced M2B/WG/05 ("the Rule 9 request").
2. The Inquiry has asked me to provide details and copies of any informal or private communications about the Welsh Government's response to Covid-19 (of which I was a part) including informal groups (such as text messages and WhatsApp groups) or private email communications with Ministers, senior civil servants or advisors. I am also asked to provide a list of any such private communications groups (of which I was a part).
3. I can confirm that during the relevant period (1 January 2020 to 31 May 2022) I did not use informal or private communications (including text messages, WhatsApp messages and / or groups, or private (personal) email) to communicate with Ministers, senior civil servants or advisors about the Welsh Government's response to Covid-19. I do not therefore have a list of private communications groups to provide to the Inquiry, nor copies of informal or private communications about the Welsh Government's response to Covid-19.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief of its truth.

Signed:

Personal Data

Dated: 13 December 2023