

Witness Name: Samia Edmonds
Statement No.: Second Statement
Exhibits: 0
Dated: 13 December 2023

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY

WITNESS STATEMENT OF SAMIA EDMONDS

I, Samia Edmonds, will say as follows: -

1. I provide this statement as supplementary information to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 26 June 2023, referenced M2B/WG/SEE/01, and in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 25 October 2023, referenced M2B-WG-05.

CONTEXT

2. I have prepared this statement as the Planning (Programme) Director with the Health and Social Services Group within the Welsh Government, and as the head of profession for healthcare planning in Wales. The statement concerns my use of private and informal communications relating to the Welsh Government's response to Covid-19 during the pandemic.

INFORMAL COMMUNICATIONS

Informal Communications during the Covid-19 pandemic

1. During the period of 1 January 2020 and 31 May 2022, I used my personal phone to communicate with my team, which was comprised of junior officials from the Welsh Government and the NHS Wales Delivery Unit, through a WhatsApp group called Planning and Response Cell. My personal phone was operated on its default settings and I did not delete messages. Though the purpose of the WhatsApp group was to informally check in on my team's well-being, after refreshing my memory with a

review of the messages, I have found that there were some instances of messaging relating to the Welsh Government's Covid-19 response. I will arrange disclosure of these messages.

Statement of Truth

2. 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.

Personal Data

3. **Signed:**

4. **Dated:** 13-12-2023