

Witness Name: Dr Quentin Sandifer OBE

Position: Consultant Adviser - Pandemic and International Health

Statement No.: Second

Exhibits: 5

Dated: 27 March 2024

**UK COVID 19 INQUIRY
MODULE 2B**

**SECOND WITNESS STATEMENT OF DR QUENTIN SANDIFER OBE
FOR MODULE 2B**

I, Dr Quentin Sandifer OBE, care of Public Health Wales, 2 Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street,
Cardiff, CF10 4BZ

Will state:

1. On the 6 March 2024, I attended and gave evidence at the Inquiry's Module 2B hearing.
2. Whilst giving evidence I was questioned by Counsel for John's Campaign and Care Right's UK (starting at page 69 line 10 and finishing on page 71 line 16 of the transcript). The line of questioning related to an advice note prepared by Public Health Wales dated 24 October 2020 [INQ000147260], in particular, pages 2-3 of that advice note.
3. Since giving evidence I have liaised with colleagues in Public Health Wales to obtain a response. The following questions have been considered:

- a) Whether the population health benefits of proposed further restrictions were shown to exceed the harms caused on a Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALY's) basis.
 - b) Whether there was any calculation of *'the harms arising from regulatory impacts on access to healthcare, mental health, unemployment, and consequent ill health and mortality'* on those needing care.
4. In response to the first question, Public Health Wales does not believe that the organisation was specifically asked by the Welsh Government to calculate population benefits and harms arising from any proposed further restrictions or regulatory non pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) using DALY's.
5. In response to the second question, Public Health Wales did not undertake those specific calculations, but did provide a range of advice to the Welsh Government to inform decision making during the pandemic response. Examples include:
 - a) Feedback from population behavioural insight surveys e.g. the Public INQ000469725 Engagement Survey. In week 42 (January 2021) **[EXHIBIT QS/01]** the survey included the question: As a result of the coronavirus situation, have you:
 - Had a medical procedure substantially delayed or cancelled, which has impacted on your quality of life? (20% said 'yes')
 - Not attempted to get medical attention such as visiting your GP or going to A&E when you normally would have done (25% said 'yes')
6. Public Health Wales did not however collect any further detail on or analyse the experiences reported.
7. Health Impact Assessment reports were also completed by Public Health Wales. For example, the Health Impact Assessment of the Staying at Home and Social Distancing Policy **[EXHIBIT QS/02]** INQ000469726 produced at the start of the pandemic (with references up to May 2020) included a section on adults in care and carers (p45) and children and young people (starting at p51).
8. In relation to unemployment and Longstanding Illness (LSI), Public Health Wales published a modelling report in September 2020 on the "Economic Consequences of COVID-19 Pandemic Outbreak on Health Indicators and Health Service Use in Wales",

forecasting the potential economic consequences of COVID-19 on Longstanding Illness (LSI), taking into account the relationship between change in unemployment rate and LSI. [EXHIBIT QS/03 INQ000469727].

9. Following this, we developed a second modelling report focusing on the “Health Service Use Projection 2020-21 to 2022-23” in February 2021, which was shared with Public Health Wales Executive, Gold Team and the Welsh Government only. [EXHIBIT QS/04] INQ000469728

10. Public Health Wales also produced International Horizon Scanning Reports to inform the COVID-19 response and recovery in Wales during the period 2020-2022. There has been some relevant information on patient care/clinical aspects and impacts and one of these reports produced in November 2020 which looked into the direct and indirect health impacts of COVID-19 estimating QALYs and Years of Life Lost (ILL), including mortality (excess deaths) and morbidity. [EXHIBIT QS/05 INQ000469729]

Statement of Truth

I believe that the content of this corporate witness statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed:

Personal Data

Print name: Dr Quentin Sandifer OBE

Dated: 27 March 2024