



**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION**  
**CORE PARTICIPANT APPLICATION**  
**MODULE 8 - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Introduction**

1. In my [Opening Statement](#) on 21 July 2022, I explained that Modules would be announced and opened in sequence, with those wishing to take a formal role in the Inquiry invited to apply to become Core Participants for each module. On 21 May 2024, the Inquiry opened Module 8 and invited anyone who wished to be considered as a Core Participant to that Module to submit an application in writing to the Solicitor to the Inquiry by 17 June 2024.
2. On 17 June 2024, the Inquiry received an application from Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) for Core Participant status in Module 8. This Notice sets out my determination of the application.
3. The Inquiry has published the [Provisional Outline of Scope](#) for Module 8, which states that this module will examine the impact of the pandemic on children and young people across society in the UK, including in education, health and social care, the criminal justice system, and the immigration system. Module 8 will also examine the extent to which children and young people were considered as part of decision-making in response to the pandemic, and the wider and long term impact of those decisions on children and young people. Further modules will be announced and opened in due course, to address other aspects of the Inquiry's Terms of Reference.
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## Application

5. Applications for Core Participant status are considered in accordance with Rule 5 of the Inquiry Rules 2006, which provides:

*5.—(1) The chairman may designate a person as a core participant at any time during the course of the inquiry, provided that person consents to being so designated.*

*(2) In deciding whether to designate a person as a core participant, the chairman must in particular consider whether—*

- (a) the person played, or may have played, a direct and significant role in relation to the matters to which the inquiry relates;*
- (b) the person has a significant interest in an important aspect of the matters to which the inquiry relates; or*
- (c) the person may be subject to explicit or significant criticism during the inquiry proceedings or in the report, or in any interim report.*

*(3) A person ceases to be a core participant on—*

- (a) the date specified by the chairman in writing; or*
- (b) the end of the inquiry.*

6. In accordance with the approach set out in my Opening Statement and the Inquiry's [Core Participant Protocol](#), I considered whether the application fulfils the requirements set out in Rule 5(2) in relation to the issues set out in the Provisional Outline of Scope for Module 8.

## Summary of Application

7. The Applicant is the membership body for paediatricians in the UK and globally, representing approximately 23,000 paediatricians. The Applicant states that it was the expert professional body speaking for the child health community during the pandemic.
8. The application is made pursuant to Rule 5(2)(a) and (b) of the Inquiry Rules 2006. The Applicant submits it played a direct and significant role in relation to the matters to which Module 8 of this Inquiry relates by virtue of its activities during the pandemic, particularly in relation to its attempts to maintain adequate child health care during the

acute pandemic, and the recovery of child health care thereafter. The Applicant states that it is able to provide evidence to the Inquiry regarding the impact of the pandemic on paediatric healthcare and on NHS services, and wishes to give its views in relation to the vaccination programme for children.

9. The Applicant further submits that it has a significant interest in an important aspect of the matters to within the Provisional Outline of Scope of Module 8, in relation to topic 4 (The impact of the pandemic on children and young people's physical and mental health, wellbeing, development, family lives and on their access to healthcare services ) and topic 5 (The impact of the pandemic on children and young people in relation to access to and engagement with social care services and other agencies with a role in supporting the safety of children...) particularly in relation to the safeguarding role of paediatricians.

### **Decision for the Applicant**

10. I have considered with great care everything that is said in the application. Having done so, I have decided to designate the Applicant as a Core Participant in Module 8.
11. The application is made under Rule 5 (2)(a) and (b). As a professional membership body of healthcare professionals, I do not consider that the Applicant played or may have played a direct and significant role in the matters to be examined in Module 8. However, I consider that the Applicant does have a significant interest in an important aspect of the matters within the Provisional Outline Scope of Module 8, in relation to topics 4 and 5, by virtue of the role of the Applicant's membership as specialist doctors for children and young people and the safeguarding role played by paediatricians. The Applicant therefore satisfies Rule 5(2) (b) of the Inquiry Rules.

### **Legal Representation**

12. Applications for designation as the Recognised Legal Representative of a Core Participant are governed by Rules 6 and 7 of the Inquiry Rules 2006, which provide:

6.—(1) *Where—*

*(a) a core participant, other than a core participant referred to in*

*rule 7; or*  
*(b) any other person required or permitted to give evidence or produce documents during the course of the inquiry, has appointed a qualified lawyer to act on that person's behalf, the chairman must designate that lawyer as that person's recognised legal representative in respect of the inquiry proceedings.*

*7.—(1) This rule applies where there are two or more core participants, each of whom seeks to be legally represented, and the chairman considers that—*

- (a) their interests in the outcome of the inquiry are similar;*
- (b) the facts they are likely to rely on in the course of the inquiry are similar; and*
- (c) it is fair and proper for them to be jointly represented.*

*(2) The chairman must direct that those core participants shall be represented by a single recognised legal representative, and the chairman may designate a qualified lawyer for that purpose.*

*(3) Subject to paragraph (4), any designation must be agreed by the core participants in question.*

*(4) If no agreement on a designation is forthcoming within a reasonable period, the chairman may designate an appropriate lawyer who, in his opinion, has sufficient knowledge and experience to act in this capacity.*

13. I am satisfied that the Applicant has appointed Stephen Hocking of 11 King's Bench Walk as its qualified lawyer in relation to this Module. I therefore designate Stephen Hocking as the Applicant's recognised legal representative in accordance with Rule 6(1).

14. Directions will be given in relation to applications for an award under section 40(1)(b) of the Inquiries Act 2005 of expenses to be incurred in respect of legal representation, at the forthcoming preliminary hearing. I will determine any such applications in accordance with the provisions of section 40 of the Inquiries Act 2005, the Inquiry Rules 2006, the [Prime Minister's determination](#) under section 40(4) and the [Inquiry's Costs Protocol](#).

**Rt Hon Baroness Heather Hallett DBE**

**Chair of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry**

**8 July 2024**