



NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
CORE PARTICIPANT APPLICATION
MODULE 9 - ECONOMIC RESPONSE

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 9 July 2024, the Inquiry opened Module 9 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 6 August 2024.
2. On 6 August 2024, the Inquiry received an application from UK Hospitality for Core Participant status in Module 9. This Notice sets out my determination of the application.
3. The Inquiry has published the [Provisional Outline of Scope](#) for Module 9, which states that this module will examine how economic support was delivered by the UK Government, the Devolved Administrations and Local Government by examining a broad range of economic interventions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This includes economic support for business, jobs, the self-employed, vulnerable people and those on benefits. It will also consider additional funding given to relevant public services and the voluntary and community sectors.

Application

4. 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.

5. In accordance with the approach set out in my Opening Statement and the Inquiry's [Core Participant Protocol](#), I have 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 9.

Summary of Application

6. In making this determination, the fact that I have not referred to every matter or detail which is set out in the application does not mean that I have not considered it. The points addressed below are intended to capture what appear to be the most important points made in support of the application.
7. This is an application from UK Hospitality Industries (known as UKHospitality) to be a Core Participant in Module 9 made pursuant to Rule 5(2)(b) of the Inquiry Rules 2006. The Applicant is a membership trade association representing 95% of the hospitality industry, including operators, suppliers and affiliate membership organisations.
8. The application is made on the basis that the group is able to provide a useful perspective on support for business, jobs and the self-employed, loan schemes, business rates relief and grants. As the representative body for a wide membership across hospitality, leisure and tourism, the Applicant says it was involved in discussions with the UK Government at the time and will have relevant insight. The

Applicant submits that it has a significant interest in the matters covered by the Provisional Outline of Scope of Module 9 because its membership includes businesses that were among the hardest hit by the pandemic and were accordingly affected by the economic support provided, which support measures were accessed on a large scale by its members. The Applicant submits that its membership employs a high proportion of workers who are younger, female, from minority ethnic backgrounds, foreign-born and part-time and, therefore, can provide insight into the situation of those in economically vulnerable groups.

Decision for the Applicant

9. I have considered with great care everything that is said in the application. Having done so, I have decided, in my discretion, to designate UK Hospitality as a Core Participant in Module 9.
10. With regard to the provisions of Rule 5(2) I am satisfied that UK Hospitality have a significant interest in the matters under investigation. I consider that the Applicant is well placed to assist the Inquiry to achieve its aims by representing the collective interests and experiences of a broad spectrum of businesses across the hospitality, leisure and tourism sectors in every nation of the UK. This is because the wide range of businesses represented by the Applicant were disproportionately affected by Covid-19 and the economic interventions introduced in response, including some interventions specifically intended to address the economic effects on hospitality, tourism and leisure sectors.

Legal Representation

11. 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.

12. I note that UK Hospitality has not yet engaged legal representation. I am satisfied that the Applicant has not appointed a qualified lawyer in relation to this module. I therefore have not designated a recognised legal representative in accordance with Rule 6(1) for the Applicant at this time. This does not preclude the Applicant from making an application for the designation of a recognised legal representative at a later stage.

13. 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 for 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' Costs Protocol](#).

Rt Hon Baroness Heather Hallett DBE

Chair of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry

13 September 2024