



DETERMINATION FOLLOWING M9 PRELIMINARY HEARING

Background

1. On 23 October 2024 I held the first Preliminary Hearing in Module 9.
2. Prior to the hearing a Note from Counsel to the Inquiry was circulated to all Core Participants. 6 of the 18 designated Core Participants filed written submissions. At the hearing, I heard oral submissions from Mr Richard Wright KC, Counsel to the Inquiry and from five of the Core Participants. The Note from Counsel to the Inquiry, the written submissions from Core Participants and a transcript of the hearing are available on the Inquiry website.
3. In this ruling I record my decision on those issues that I consider require determination or clarification.

Provisional Scope for Module 9

4. The provisional scope of Module 9 was published on 9th July 2024 and is available on the Inquiry's website [here](#).

Long Covid

5. Module 9 is concerned with the economic response to the pandemic. As explained by Counsel to the Inquiry it will examine key economic interventions taken by government across all four nations of the United Kingdom. Consideration of the equality or inequality of the support that was provided will run through all aspects of the investigation with a focus on what consideration, if any, was given to those who were socially or economically vulnerable at the start of the pandemic or who became so as it progressed. There will also be a consideration of how any impact was monitored and what steps were taken to reduce any disparities identified. The

position of those with Long Covid will of course play an important part in my consideration of these issues in Module 9.

Occupational Support

6. Those representing Long Covid groups urged me to consider occupational support, including long term financial support, occupational assessments and reasonable adjustments to facilitate a return to the workplace for healthcare workers suffering from Long Covid.
7. Any examination of those issues must be proportionate and within the temporal scope of the Inquiry. Statutory sick pay will form part of the Inquiry's investigation in Module 9 and so the extent to which health care workers suffering with Long Covid received statutory sick pay will form part of the wider investigation. Insofar as occupational support means long term or ongoing sick pay beyond June 2022 this is outside the temporal scope of the Inquiry. Further, the focus of this module is the economic response to the pandemic and I have, therefore decided that non-financial occupational support, for instance return to work adjustments, fall outside its scope.

The Right Honourable Baroness Hallett
Chair of the Covid-19 UK Inquiry
31 October 2024