



**Private & Confidential**  
PA Duffy & Co Solicitors

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8 January 2023

Dear PA Duffy

**Response to letter dated 5 January 2023 re Professor Heather Conway**

Thank you for your letter dated 5 January 2024, in which you suggest that the Module 2C legal team issues a Rule 9 request to Professor Heather Conway.

Having considered this suggestion, we do not at this stage believe that Professor Conway's expertise is particularly pertinent to the Module 2C [provisional outline of scope](#). As you know, Module 2C is focused specifically on decision-making by the Northern Ireland Government during the pandemic. The Inquiry understands the importance of the funeral rituals in Northern Ireland and will consider the decisions made by the Northern Ireland Government in relation to them during the pandemic. However, Professor Conway's work appears primarily to concentrate on the *impact* of restrictions on funerals rather than the decision-making which surrounded them and it is not considered necessary to seek a statement in respect of her work.

Given the considerable breadth of Module 2C's provisional outline of scope, and the limitations on time for the public hearings in April/May 2024, we hope you understand that Module 2C must retain its focus on the decisions made during the pandemic. Any expansion of the scope to consider the impact of decisions relating to funerals would open the door for the impact of other decisions to be assessed by Module 2C, which is not the appropriate forum.

The Inquiry is conscious that the matters raised in your letter are adequately addressed. In this regard, there are several future modules of the Inquiry to which the impact of decisions will be scrutinised, where an assessment of the impact of those decisions relating to funerals might be more relevant. In particular, Professor Conway's work might be more suited to the future module on public services.

Of course, should NICBFFJ wish to address the work of Professor Conway in its witness statement for Module 2C, it is free to do so.

Yours sincerely,  
**The Module 2C Legal Team**