



IN THE UK COVID-19 PUBLIC INQUIRY

MODULE 10

**SUBMISSIONS OF SCOTTISH COVID BEREAVED FOR THE
SECOND PRELIMINARY HEARING**

1. Scottish Covid Bereaved are grateful to Counsel to the Inquiry for providing a detailed note setting out the matters which are to be addressed at the Second Preliminary Hearing for Module 10. This Module will consider the impact of the pandemic on society, with a particular focus on the experiences of key workers, the most vulnerable and the bereaved.

Disclosure to Core Participants and approach to investigation

2. Turning to the matters raised in Counsel to the Inquiry's Note, the Bereaved note all that has been outlined there in relation to disclosure. While the disclosure process is well underway, Scottish Covid Bereaved look forward to receiving more disclosure in the coming weeks. The only request the Bereaved make in relation to disclosure is one that is by now well familiar to the Inquiry and which it is not doubted that the Inquiry will be able to meet: for the disclosure process to be completed in sufficient time to allow Core Participants to properly consider the disclosed material.
3. The Bereaved are in the process of considering the material disclosed to date. There are no additional comments to be made in respect of the expert reports thus far disclosed and any Rule 10 requests in relation to these experts will be made at the appropriate time.

Round table events and Every Story Matters

4. Scottish Covid Bereaved are grateful to the Inquiry for their assistance with the roundtable event relating to funerals, burials and bereavement support. It is hoped that this roundtable, as well as the others on different topics, will be of assistance to the Inquiry in understanding the impact of the pandemic on society. The Bereaved look forward to learning of the experiences of those throughout the country who took part in the Every Story Matters programme. Scottish Covid Bereaved are particularly looking forward to the disclosure of the Every Story Matters bereavement record. This record will be considered and any submissions, if required, will be made at a later stage.

Rule 9 requests

5. As has been set out by Counsel to the Inquiry in her Note, the Inquiry has issued a total of 39 formal requests for evidence in terms of Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006. This includes a request to the Scottish Covid Bereaved for evidence. This will be provided to the Inquiry in a timeous manner.

Provisional Scope, List of Issues and Draft Factual Chronology

6. Scottish Covid Bereaved welcome the draft factual chronology of key events which has been prepared by the Inquiry. This will be a useful tool throughout the evidential hearings, where the timing of key events may be of the utmost importance in understanding the impact of the pandemic at different times.
7. This Module seeks to examine the impact of Covid on the population of the United Kingdom, with a particular focus on key workers, the most vulnerable, the bereaved, mental health and wellbeing. The Bereaved appreciate and understand that Covid-19 had a significant impact on all the people of the United Kingdom. There was barely an area of our lives that was not impacted in some way by the pandemic. It is understood that the Provisional Outline of Scope and the draft list of issues have necessarily been drawn widely to provide a broad base for the Inquiry's investigation. The Bereaved are confident that the Inquiry hearings will properly deal with and consider the pandemic's

impact and look forward to the identification of lessons that can be learned for when the next pandemic strikes.

Claire Mitchell KC

Kevin McCaffery, Advocate

David Welsh, Advocate

Kevin Henry, Advocate

Counsel for Scottish Covid Bereaved

Aamer Anwar-Principal Solicitor

April Meechan- Senior Consultant

Sarah Murray - Senior Associate

Aamer Anwar & Co, Solicitors for Scottish Covid Bereaved.