

Annex A: Request for a Witness Statement and Documents

Part A: Introduction to the Royal Economic Society ('RES')

1. The Royal Economic Society is a registered charity, learned society and membership organisation. Our c.4,000 members are located in over 70 countries, with approximately half of these in the UK. Thousands more engage with us every year via our group and institutional membership programmes and through our journals, training, events, and other activities.
2. Our history is rooted in academia, and we continue to advance research through our peer-reviewed journals, our annual conference, and our support for doctoral students. Through our Annual Public Lecture and other events, online materials, and partnerships, we have worked to improve the public's understanding of economics.
3. Via our Discover Economics and Women in Economics campaigns and schools outreach work, we have been active in helping create a more diverse pipeline of future economists and have sought to build stronger connections between academic and professional economists. This inclusive approach is reflected in our membership, which is open to anyone with an interest in economics and shares our vision for economics to be understood, advanced, and applied for the maximum benefit of society and the world around us.

Part B: the RES During the Pandemic

4. In March 2020, the Society's Presidents (Lord Nicholas Stern, Dame Rachel Griffith, Dame Carol Propper, Sir Tim Besley) and I contemplated the ways in which the Society might help inform the Government's response.
5. On 23 March 2020, the Society Presidents wrote to the then Chancellor suggesting ways in which the UK economics profession might offer support. Discussions continued with related parties in the days that followed, including with Andy Haldane at the Bank of England and Clare Lombardelli at HMT.

6. On 29 March, Clare Lombardelli confirmed that she felt the idea of an RES-organised public webinar series on key topics would be most valuable, in addition to a small number of webinars where attendance would be restricted to allow greater discussion. The parties agreed that webinar topics and speakers would be selected in discussion with HMT and the Bank, tailored to specific questions policymakers were working on in real-time.
7. Between April and July 2020, RES convened 15 public webinars, with a further 3 webinars restricted to HMT colleagues only. We drew speakers from academia, the public and private sector, with the format allowing for world renowned economists based overseas to engage (with the inaugural webinar led by Daron Acemoglu and Jean Tirole). Across the series several thousand individuals attended the public webinars, with the majority recorded and made available via the Society's YouTube channel. A full list of the webinars including dates, topics and speakers is provided on page five of this document in table format.
8. Separately, the RES supported the work of Dame Rachel Griffith (the then RES President) to create a resource for policy makers and the wider community to ask basic economic questions, where a range of economists would aim to answer them with the aim of clearly articulating where the evidence was strong and there was consensus amongst economists, compared to where there was less clarity or divergent views.
9. With funding from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), this led to the launch of the Economics Observatory website in June 2020. The Observatory continues to operate out of the University of Bristol, and regularly engages with policy makers and the wider community.
10. As a learned society, the RES's interests and activities extend beyond the UK economy. As Chief Executive I acted as the primary contact for HM Treasury in relation to the COVID 19 webinar series described in Paragraph 7.
11. The RES has a working relationship with the Government Economic Service/HMT and partners on areas of mutual interest, including training, events and initiatives to diversify the economics profession. The relationship did not change

substantively during this period beyond collaboration on the aforementioned webinar series.

12. The only correspondence related specifically to the development of the aforementioned COVID 19 webinar series cited in Paragraph 7.
13. Beyond facilitating the COVID 19 webinar series, the RES as an organisation did not provide any direct input to the design of interventions. It is of course likely that individual RES members may have themselves been engaged to advise on such matters.
14. The RES worked with HMT on the development of the aforementioned COVID 19 webinar series. We did not work substantively with the other bodies cited, beyond collaboration with the ONS on other day-to-day programmes work.
15. The RES did not itself commission work to inform the economic response to the pandemic, beyond curating the webinar series cited in Paragraph 7.

Part C: Analysis and Reflections

16. The RES is not a chartered body and membership is optional. As such it does not speak on behalf of the economics profession. Whilst it is likely that RES members would have varying opinions on the strengths and weaknesses of the overall economic response to the pandemic by the State and of the individual interventions therein, the RES has not conducted member research on this question and we are therefore unable to comment.
17. This also applies to opinions in relation to the strengths and weaknesses of the use by the UK Government of modelling or other scenario analysis and the strengths and weaknesses of the economic response of the Devolved Administrations.
18. For the same reasons the RES does not provide recommendations to the Chair to improve the economic response to a future pandemic.

Part D: Requested Transcripts

19. We do not extract or retain transcripts of our audiovisual materials, as there has been no operational requirement to do so. However, we do retain audiovisual recordings for the benefits of our membership and the wider Society, primarily through publication on our website, social media platforms, and YouTube channel. Where possible, we have provided hyperlinks to the publicly available webinars referenced in the table on page 5 of this document.

Declaration

I declare that the contents are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

PD

Dated 28.04.2025

Date	Chair	Format	Topic	Panellists	Links
09/04/2020	Tim Besley	Public	Economic approaches for analysing the short, medium term and long run impact of the COVID-19 crisis	Daron Acemoglu, Jean Tirole	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7MRoXtalj0
23/04/2020	Tim Besley	Public	Developing Nations and COVID-19 (jointly with IEA)	Kaushik Basu, Dani Rodrik, Haroon Borat, Luis-Felipe Lopez-Calva, Ashwini Deshpande, Albert Zeufack	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u79069I1uSA
28/04/2020	Rachel Griffith	Private	Restarting the economy: getting people back to work	Rachel Griffith, Rob Joyce, Monica Costa Dias, Peter Levell, Christine Farquharson	
30/04/2020	Rachel Griffith	Public	Inequalities and the COVID-19 crisis	Angus Deaton, Richard Blundell	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVQCnWLFYkk
05/05/2020	Carol Propper	Private	Private seminar on inequality	Paul Johnson and IFS team	
07/05/2020	Carol Propper	Public	Education and Lockdown: Skills, Transitions and Inequalities	Anna Vignoles, Simon Burgess	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMoukoe-SA8
11/05/2020	Nick Stern	Public	Strategy and investment for a strong and sustainable recovery (1/3)	Andy Haldane, Dimitri Zenghelis, John Lewellyn, Gus O'Donnell, Sarah Breeden	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sBxHxHt1KCo
14/05/2020	Nick Stern	Public	Policy for a strong and sustainable recovery (2/3)	Adair Turner, Rain Newton-Smith, Steve Machin, Tera Allas, Andres Velasco, Diane Coyle	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjIKcsNT4fY

15/05/2020	Nick Stern	Public	Finance for a strong and sustainable recovery (3/3)	Nick Robins, Iam Simm, Stephen Jones, Tim Besley/Nick Stern, Rhian-Mari Thomas	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-Wmx78IPuQ
18/05/2020	Nick Stern	Private	Private Q&A on recovery series	Panelists for original seminars plus Presidents	
21/05/2020	Mary Morgan	Public	Following past pandemics into the long run	Jane Humphries, Mark Bailey, Romola Davenport, Erica Charters	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rd2aUEBJSJM
28/05/2020	Marty Gaynor	Public	The longer run health and healthcare implications of COVID-19	James Banks and Carol Propper	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1c9uSqAowUs
04/06/2020	Amelia Fletcher	Public	Competition Policy and the Covid-19 Crisis	John Vickers, All Souls College, University of Oxford; Massimo Motta, Barcelona Graduate School of Economics; Fiona Scott Morton, Yale School of Management; Jacques Crémer, Toulouse School of Economics	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDrt7hnUmak
11/06/2020	Per Krusell	Public	Economic Policy during the Pandemic: A European Perspective	Kjetil Storesletten (Oslo), Morten Ravn (Danish, at UCL), John Hassler (Stockholm), Klaus Adam (German, at Oxford), Evi Pappa (Greek, at Pompeu Fabra), Helene Rey (French, at LBS).	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBYje0LZh4w
18/06/2020	Richard Davies	Public	Impact on Place	Organised by Helen Simpson Speakers Philip McCann, Henry Overman & Philip McCann	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BBY_4aA5RU

25/06/2020	Chris Giles Organiser: Jagjit Chadha	Public	Monetary Policy Tools in the COVID-19 Crisis	Roger Farmer (UCLA), Willem Buiters (Visiting Professor, Columbia University), Tatiana Kirsanova (Glasgow), Paul Tucker (Harvard), Chair: Chris Giles (FT).	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QK7F8s51hPg
09/07/2020	Marina Della Giusta	Public	Women in lockdown	Almudena Sevilla (Moderator), Pietro Biroli, Libertad Gonzalez, Abigail Adams-Prassl	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jyc0PxxV2bU
16/07/2020	Lucrezia Reichlin (LBS) Organiser: Jagjit Chadha	Public	Forecasting	Hashem Pesaran (UCSD), Jennifer Castle (Oxford), Robert Chote (OBR), Garry Young (NIESR).	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SUBIUIInIqI

Annex D: Table identifying responses to each Rule 9 question in Annex A

Question number	Has this question been answered in the statement?	If yes, what is the paragraph reference in the statement	If not, why not?
1	Y	1-3	
2	Y	4-9	
3	Y	10	
4	Y	11	
5	Y	12	
6	Y	13	
7	Y	13	
8	Y	13	
9	Y	14	
10	Y	15	
11	N		Not applicable given answer to Q10
12	Y	16	
13	Y	16	
14	Y	17	
15	Y	17	
16	Y	17	
17	Y	18	