UK Covid-19 Inquiry

July 2026 Newsletter

Introduction

By Baroness Hallett

Chair of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry

Welcome to our July newsletter.

In this month's newsletter, you can read about:

- **The Module 5 report**
- **Things we found out during Module 5**
- **Where to find the full report, and accessible versions of it.**
- **Module 6: The Care Sector**
- **Future reports**

This is a short version of my video message about Module 5:

At the start of the pandemic, the UK did not have a good plan about how to buy and give out **equipment** quickly.

Equipment means things like ventilators, masks, aprons and gloves.

Every other country in the world was also trying to buy equipment. This made things very expensive and hard to get.

The government made some special rules to help them buy equipment called the “High Priority Lane” or “VIP Lane”.

This “VIP Lane” should not have happened. It should not happen again.

Businesses and the people of the UK worked well together to make sure that people got the equipment they needed.

UK businesses made new masks, ventilators and testing kits.

The army helped by taking equipment around the country to where it was needed.

We must make plans to make sure that people and businesses work well together again, if we have another pandemic.

Module 5 report

The Module 5 report has now been published.

It is about how healthcare equipment was bought and given out to people.

You can read the report here:

Link to Module 5 web page

Baroness Hallett has talked about it in a video.

Watch the video on our YouTube Channel:

Link to Module 5 Chair's statement

Some things people said about healthcare equipment:

I couldn't get any tests.
I had to choose between earning money or risk spreading the virus.

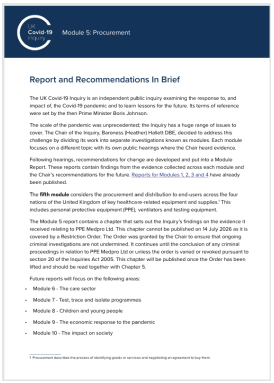
Some NHS staff were ordering gowns on Amazon, using their own money.

I looked after patients with Covid-19.
I wore goggles from home, a shower cap and bin bags.

Our masks kept breaking.
People were extremely anxious. They did not feel safe.

Quotes have been simplified.

There are accessible versions of the Module 5 Report. Here are the links:


Module 5: Procurement

Report and Recommendations In Brief

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry is an independent public inquiry examining the response to, and impact of, the Covid-19 pandemic and to learn lessons for the future. Its terms of reference were set by the then Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

The scale of the pandemic was unprecedented; the Inquiry has a huge range of issues to cover. The Chair of the Inquiry, Baroness (Heather) Hallett DBE, decided to address this challenge by dividing its work into separate investigations known as modules. Each module focuses on a different topic with its own public hearings where the Chair heard evidence.

Following hearings, recommendations for change are developed and put into a Module Report. These reports contain findings from the evidence collected across each module and the Chair's recommendations for the future. Reports for Modules 1, 2, 3 and 4 have already been published.

The **fifth module** considers the procurement and distribution to end-users across the four nations of the United Kingdom of key healthcare-related equipment and supplies.[1] This includes personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators and testing equipment.

The Module 5 report contains a chapter that sets out the Inquiry's findings on the evidence it received relating to PPE Medpro Ltd. This chapter cannot be published on 14 July 2026 as it is covered by a Restriction Order. The Order was granted by the Chair to ensure that ongoing criminal investigations are not undermined. It continues until the conclusion of any criminal proceedings in relation to PPE Medpro Ltd or unless the order is varied or revoked pursuant to section 20 of the Inquiries Act 2005. This chapter will be published once the Order has been lifted and should be read together with Chapter 5.

Future reports will focus on the following areas:

- Module 6 - The care sector
- Module 7 - Test, trace and isolate programmes
- Module 8 - Children and young people
- Module 9 - The economic response to the pandemic
- Module 10 - The impact on society

[1] Procurement describes the process of identifying goods or services and negotiating an agreement to buy them.

In Brief report

A short version of the main report.

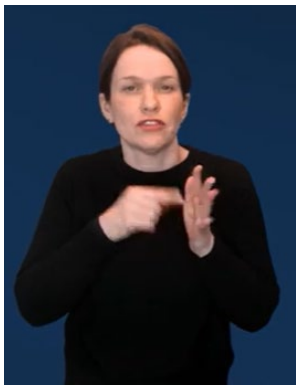
Link to Module 5 In Brief Report

Easy Read

Easy Read

Large print, easy words and pictures.

Link to Module 5 Easy Read



British Sign Language

A video of a person signing the report.

Link to Module 5 British Sign Language

Audio

A recording of a person reading the report.

Link to Module 5 Audio

Animation

A video about the main points in the report.

Link to Module 5 Animation

Welsh

A version of In Brief, written in Welsh.

Link to Module 5 Welsh

Recommendations

These are things governments must do to protect people in the future.

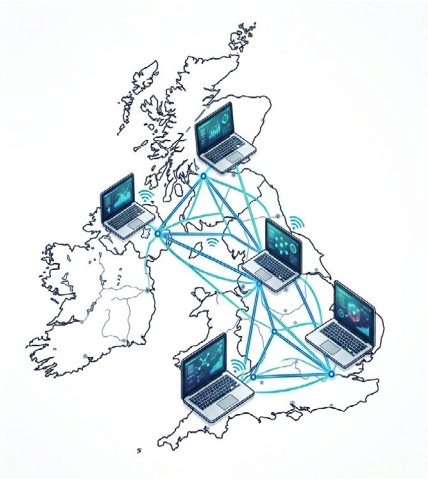
There are **11** recommendations in the Module 5 report. Here are **5** of them:

1. Find new ways to organise how we buy and give out healthcare equipment.

A way of organising things is called a **system**. The new systems need to be strong and reliable.

2. Make a plan about how we will make and buy healthcare equipment.

This should include buying things from other countries and buying things that are made in the UK.



3. Use technology to help with making, buying and giving out PPE and other equipment.

The technology should be used across the UK.

4. Our pandemic supplies.

Make sure we have enough PPE and other equipment stored, to cope with another pandemic.

5. Tell the public more about what is happening, and how decisions are made.

This will help people to trust that governments are doing the right thing.

Our next report

Our next report is about what happened in the **care sector** during the pandemic.

Care sector means things like:

- Care homes
- People getting care in their own homes

The hearings happened last summer.
We heard evidence from 54 people.

We heard from people whose family members died, charities, politicians, government workers and experts.

Where to find out more about

Module 6: The Care Sector

Module 6 webpage

Every Story Matters Record

Every Story Matters: Easy Read

Impact Film

Baroness Hallett is using all of the information from the hearings to write her report and recommendations.

Future reports

There will be 5 more reports:

Module 6: The care sector

Module 7: Test, trace and isolate

Module 8: Children and young people

Module 9: The economic response

Module 10: The impact on society