

What should the COVID-19 inquiry focus on?

This webinar will begin shortly

23 June 2022



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#CovidInquiry

The background to the UK COVID-19 Inquiry

Tim Gardner

23 June 2022



Statutory public inquiries



Inquiries Act 2005

CHAPTER 12

CONTENTS

Establish inquiry
Constitution of inquiry
Panel of inquiry

Constitution of inquiry

- Independent from government
- Presumption of transparency
- Powers to:
 - Compel disclosure of documents
 - Subpoena witnesses
 - Hear testimony under oath
- Must report findings
- Full report must be published
- But no determination of liability

The UK COVID-19 Inquiry so far

15 July 2020	PM pledges independent inquiry during PMQs
21 May 2021	Government confirms plan for statutory public inquiry
15 December 2021	Ministers announce Baroness Hallett as chair
11 March 2022	Draft terms of reference published for consultation
12 May 2022	Inquiry publishes recommendations to PM
TBC	Final terms of reference published, inquiry established

The draft terms of reference



- The impact on individuals
- The public health response
- The consequences for society at large
- The health and social care sector response
- The economic response
- Inequalities
- Lessons for future emergencies

Recommended changes

Broaden existing points on:

- Inequalities
- The health and care response
- The public health response

Add new points on:

- Children and young people
- Mental health and wellbeing

Where next?

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11 March 2022	Draft terms of reference published for consultation
12 May 2022	Inquiry publishes recommendations to PM
TBC	Final terms of reference published, inquiry established
Autumn 2022	Launch of inquiry listening project
2023	Evidence hearings begin

Stay in touch

- Read a collection of our work looking at responding to COVID-19:
<https://www.health.org.uk/what-we-do/responding-to-covid-19>
- Sign up to receive webinar updates here:
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Thank you

