

Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS
First Minister
Welsh Government

01 April 2022

Dear Mark

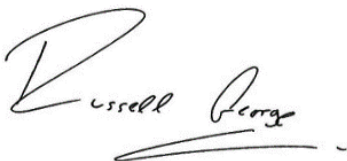
UK COVID-19 Inquiry draft terms of reference

Further to my letter of 19 January 2022, I confirm that the Health and Social Care Committee considered the draft terms of reference for the UK COVID-19 Inquiry at our meeting on 24 March 2022, and agreed to write to Baroness Hallet. I enclose a copy of that letter for your information.

While there are different views within the Committee about whether or not a specific Welsh public inquiry into the handling of the pandemic should also be established, we are nevertheless agreed in our clear expectation that the Welsh Government will engage fully and openly with the UK Inquiry. We would welcome your assurance on this point.

We are also agreed on the importance of transparency, both in respect of the inquiry itself, and in terms of the Welsh Government's engagement with it. To this end, we would be grateful if you could confirm whether you anticipate that the Inquiry will have the power to publish its own report and interim reports, or whether publication will be a matter for the UK Government.

Yours sincerely,



Russell George MS

Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.