

Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS  
First Minister  
Welsh Government

10 August 2022

Dear Mark

### UK COVID-19 Inquiry

Thank you for your letter of 3 April 2022, confirming that the Welsh Government will take an approach of candour to the UK COVID-19 Inquiry, and will engage fully and openly with its work. Thank you also for confirming that the Inquiry Chair will be responsible for publishing the Inquiry's reports, including any interim reports.

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, following the publication of the [Inquiry's launch statement](#) on 21 July 2022, we would welcome:

1. Your views on whether the modular approach outlined in the launch statement, including the different approaches to devolution proposed for each of the first three modules, will ensure that there is a sufficient Welsh-specific focus throughout the Inquiry's work. We note that only in relation to Module 2 will there be sub-modules looking specifically at each of the devolved nations. Some concerns have been raised about this, as in-depth questions also need to be asked about Wales' COVID preparedness and response in relation to Modules 1 and 3.
2. Information about whether the Welsh Government has applied, or will be applying, to be a core participant for each of the modules so far announced.

3. Confirmation of whether the Welsh Government intends to respond to the Inquiry's interim and final reports—for example to indicate whether it accepts any recommendations made and what actions it will take to implement them—and whether the Welsh Government will publish its responses to all Inquiry reports.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell George". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Russell George MS

Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

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