

Simon Hoare MP

Chair of the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee

UK Parliament

By email only

Pwnc | Subject: RE: Implementation monitoring of public inquiry recommendations

Dear Simon,

Thank you for your letter inviting us to contribute evidence to the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee (PACAC) inquiry into the implementation monitoring of public inquiry recommendations. We welcome the opportunity to assist your Committee's work.

In response to your request for evidence, we believe that where public inquiries cover devolved areas or include recommendations directed at the Welsh Government or public bodies in Wales that the Senedd has an important scrutiny role.

Historically, a range of different approaches have been adopted in response to such public inquiries varying from committee-led follow-up inquiries, such as the Senedd Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee's (PAPAC) scrutiny of the UK COVID-19 Inquiry recommendations described below, to more traditional parliamentary mechanisms such as Plenary debates, ministerial scrutiny by relevant Committees, and written and oral questions tabled by individual Members to Ministers. Specific examples include:

- Senedd Committees have considered matters relating to UK public inquiries within their remit. For example:
 - The Health and Social Care Committee questioned the Welsh Minister for Social Care on the implementation of the recommendations from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), as part of their scrutiny of the Health and Social Care (Wales) Bill.
 - The Housing and Local Government questioned the Welsh Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government on the Welsh Government's response to the Grenfell Inquiry, as part of their scrutiny of the Building Safety (Wales) Bill.
- Plenary debates to scrutinise the Welsh Government's implementation of the recommendations of the Infected Blood Inquiry and the IICSA.
- Written and oral questions have also been asked on IICSA (WQ96214) (OQ62129).

- Members have asked for statements from the Welsh Government in response to the publication of the additional report by the Infected Blood Inquiry on the victim compensation scheme ([15 July 2025](#)) ([18 March 2025](#)).
- Members have also responded to statements made by the Welsh Government outlining their response to UK public inquiries, for example the [Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 report](#).

An example from PAPAC's own work is our recent response to Module 1 of the UK COVID-19 Inquiry. This shows how devolved legislatures can build upon the work of UK public inquiries by ensuring that distinct Welsh issues are explored in greater detail and that Welsh Government is more robustly held to account for their effective implementation of the recommendations arising from the UK public inquiry.

Following the decision by the Welsh Government not to commission an independent public inquiry to investigate the response to the pandemic by devolved institutions in Wales, the Senedd took the decision to establish the "[Wales COVID-19 Inquiry Special Purpose Committee](#)" in May 2023. Following the publication of the UK COVID-19 Inquiry Module 1 report, the Wales Special Purpose Committee undertook work to identify any gaps which should be subject to further examination related to the remit of Module 1 and produced its own report in March 2025.

The Wales COVID-19 Inquiry Special Purpose Committee was formally dissolved on 8 October 2025 and, following a [request from the Senedd's Business Committee](#), PAPAC [agreed](#) to undertake its work. We felt that it was important to look further at the extent to which the Welsh Government has responded to the findings and recommendations of Module 1, the adequacy of the changes made to its approach to civil contingencies planning, and its preparedness for future emergencies. While we recognise that our work cannot match the depth and scale of a full statutory public inquiry, we endeavoured to use the limited time available to us before the end of this Senedd to highlight areas for improvement and lay the groundwork for further scrutiny in the next Senedd.

We have recently published our substantive [report](#) on Module 1. We made 27 recommendations, among which is for this programme of scrutiny to continue into the next Senedd term so that each of the remaining inquiry modules are subject to thorough, transparent and timely examination by the Senedd.

I hope the information outlined above is helpful in providing examples of how recommendations resulting from UK inquiries in devolved areas are dealt with.

We note the importance of monitoring the appropriate implementation of recommendations arising from public inquiries and that lessons are learned more widely—where relevant—to prevent recurrence of serious failings.

We thank you again for drawing your inquiry to our attention and hope our comments and observations are useful.

Kind regards,

Mark

Mark Isherwood MS
Chair, Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.