

Timeline: THE COVID INQUIRY

OLLIERS SOLICITORS

17th November 2020

The Government made it clear that a public inquiry into the Government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic would take place.

May 2021

An initial and informal announcement was made by Boris Johnson. He said to MPs that an independent inquiry would take place Spring 2022.

15th December 2021

Baroness Hallett DBE was appointed by Boris Johnson as the Chair of the public inquiry into the pandemic.

11th March 2022

Baroness Hallett wrote an open letter to the public detailing the plans to take the consultation forward. Baroness Hallett detailed how she hopes people throughout the UK will engage with the online consultation to understand the experiences of those most affected.

21st March 2022

Transcripts were made available from consultation meetings which took place in March and April 2022 with representatives from various sectors including charities, unions, faith groups, education and healthcare. This was to enable such representatives to have an input on how the inquiry should be conducted.

The Prime Minister published the draft Terms of Reference for the Inquiry, which has now been replaced by the Final Terms of Reference.

21st July 2022

Baroness Hallett makes UK Covid Inquiry Opening Statement. In the statement Baroness Hallett outlines the initial timetable for the Inquiry including modules 1 which will open on the 21st July 2022 and module 2. Baroness Hallett outlines the procedures for deadlines for core participant applications in respect of module 1. Baroness Hallett also sets out the contents of module 3. The Inquiry base for public hearings will be in London.

June 2022

The Inquiry Chair, Baroness Heather Hallett, appointed 49 junior Counsel to join its legal team for the Covid-19 Inquiry, they will support Hugo Keith QC, Lead Counsel to the Inquiry, Martin Smith, Solicitor to the Inquiry, and 11 QC's.

The Prime Minister confirmed the Terms of Reference for the UK Covid-19 Inquiry.

Boris Johnson accepted all of the proposals the Chair had made subject to a small number of clarificatory changes. Boris Johnson confirmed that the inquiry's "setting up date" was the date of his letter, 28th June 2022.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Hearings are expected to take place next year. In her letter Baroness Hallett, dated 11 March 2022, said the following "we shall gather evidence throughout the year and I hope to begin public hearings in 2023."

As part of the process of obtaining evidence, Baroness Hallett, referred to a 'Listening Project', expected to be conducted this summer. It is expected to be focused on obtaining information wide ranging groups affected by the pandemic.