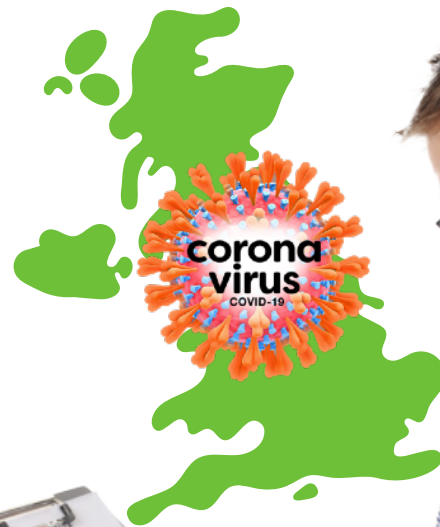# UK Covid-19 Inquiry

What we will look at

June 2022

easy read

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry

This information is about the UK Covid-19 Inquiry.

We are the independent group that has been set up to look at how the UK dealt with Covid-19, including:

- The decisions and changes that the Government made.

- How different people were affected.

- What could be done better in the future.

Baroness Heather Hallett is the Chair of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry - she is leading the group.

Terms of Reference

Before we begin our work, we need to agree the **Terms of Reference**.

The **Terms of Reference** sets out what the group is responsible for, what we are aiming to do and how we will do it.

Listening to people

In March and April we asked people to tell us what they thought about our ideas for the Terms of Reference.

Over 20,000 people told us what they thought and told us what else should be included in the Terms of Reference.

The Prime Minister has now agreed on our Final Terms of Reference.

Our aims

Our aims are things we want to do or make happen in the future.

Our aims are to:

- Write a report about how Covid-19 affected the UK, and what people did in response.

- Find out what we can learn from how Covid-19 affected people in the UK and how people responded.

This will help the UK to get ready for any other emergencies like Covid-19 in the future.

What we will look at

What the Government and health services did

We will look at:

- Whether health services were ready and strong enough to deal with hard times.

- How health services:

  - Made decisions.

  - Told people about their decisions.

  - Put their decisions into action.

- How the UK Government made decisions.

- How the UK Government worked with other organisations, like:

  - Local councils.

  - The Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish Governments.

  - Local organisations run by local people.

- How health services and the Government looked at facts, numbers and what scientists were saying.
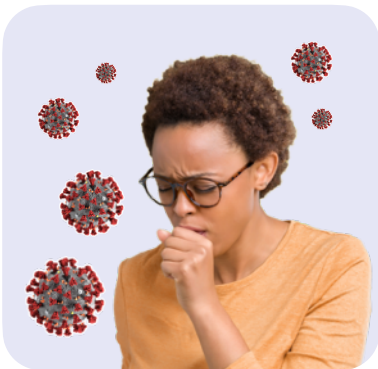
- How the Government kept control by:

  - Making laws.

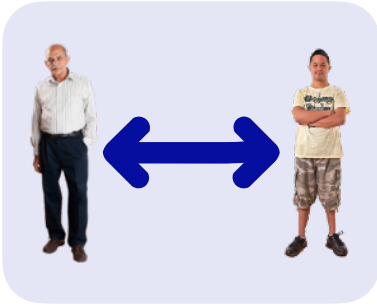 - Checking that people and organisations were following the law.

- What services did to look after people who were clinically vulnerable - these are people who are most at risk of becoming very ill from Covid-19.

- The use of **lockdowns**, **social distancing** and the wearing of masks.

  Lockdowns were when everyone had to stay indoors away from other people.

Social distancing means giving people lots of space and not getting close to them.

- Testing and **tracing** for Covid-19.

  Tracing means finding out who has been close to someone with Covid-19, to stop it spreading.

- How Covid-19 and the things the Government did to fight Covid-19 affected people's mental health and **wellbeing**.

  Wellbeing means feeling happy and healthy in your body and mind.

- The mental health and wellbeing of people whose loved ones had died of Covid-19.

- How people who work in health and care were affected.

- How children and young people were affected, including in their health, wellbeing and care.

- What schools and nurseries did.

- The closing and reopening of places like shops, pubs, churches, and other places that lots of people go.

- Housing and people who are homeless.

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- Support to keep victims of **domestic abuse** safe.

  Domestic abuse is when you are harmed by a family member or someone you live with.

- Prisons and other places where the law forces people to stay.

- Courts and the law.

- People coming to the UK from other countries.

- Travel and crossing into other countries.

- Keeping government money to be spent on public services safe.

How Covid-19 affected health and care services

We will look at:

- Whether health and care services were ready to deal with Covid-19.

- The services that people use to get help with their health, like phoning 999 and 111.

- How GPs worked.

- Ways that hospitals dealt with Covid-19 and tried to stop it spreading.

- How care homes dealt with Covid-19, like not allowing visitors into care homes.

- How carers cared for people at home.

- How pregnant women and women who had just given birth were cared for.

- How services got and managed important equipment and supplies, like masks and gloves.

- How **vaccines** were created and given to people.

  A **vaccine** is an injection or jab that helps to stop you being ill with a certain illness.

- How Covid-19 affected the way health services looked after people with health conditions not related to Covid-19.

- Helping people with long Covid - this is when some people's **symptoms** of Covid-19 last for a long time.

  Symptoms are changes or feelings in your body when you get poorly. For example, headaches or feeling sick.

Money and business

We will look at how the government spent money to support people and businesses, including:

- What the government did to support businesses and keep people in jobs.

- Giving more money to some public services.

- Giving more money to some local organisations.

- Money to support people who were sick or didn't have a job.

What we will do

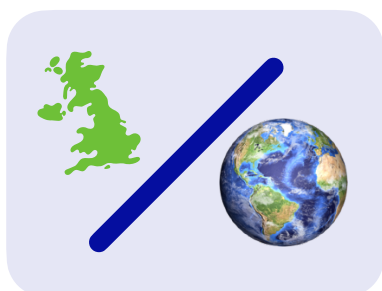When we look at all these things, we will:

- Think about whether any groups of people were unfairly treated during Covid-19.

- Listen to people who have lost family members or who found life really hard because of Covid-19.

- Point out ways that services can be more ready for emergencies like Covid-19 in the future.

- Compare how the UK dealt with Covid-19 to other countries.

- Write reports and suggest changes for the future.

For more information

You can look at our website at:
www.covid19.public-inquiry.uk

If you need more information please contact us by:

- Post:

  FREEPOST

  UK COVID-19 Public Inquiry

  That's all you have to write on the envelope. You don't need a stamp.

- Email:
  contact@covid19.public-inquiry.uk