

June 15, 2023

FROM - Richard Griffiths, Senior Advisor to the Cabinet

ACTION

Proposal for a Comprehensive COVID-19 Inquiry

SUMMARY

1. Given the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our nation, it is crucial to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into our handling of the crisis. This inquiry aims to scrutinize the government's response to the pandemic, from the initial stages to recovery, to evaluate its effectiveness and learn valuable lessons for the future.

RECOMMENDATION

2. We propose the launch of a comprehensive COVID-19 inquiry. Does the Minister approve the initiation of this investigative process?

TIMING

3. A decision is required by July 1, 2023. A delay in initiating this inquiry could hinder our ability to identify valuable lessons, which may be crucial for our preparedness for any potential future public health emergencies.

BACKGROUND

4. A comprehensive COVID-19 inquiry is vital to assess our actions and strategies during the pandemic and to improve our public health responses.
5. **OBJECTIVES:** The inquiry will scrutinise the various stages of our response, from the initial outbreak to the subsequent recovery stages, including vaccine rollout and economic measures.
6. **METHODOLOGY:** The inquiry will involve reviewing various government documents, conducting interviews with key personnel, and inviting public submissions. It will focus on evaluating the effectiveness of our strategies and identifying areas for improvement.
7. **FUTURE PREPAREDNESS:** The insights from this inquiry will be instrumental in shaping our preparedness and response for any future public health crises.
8. **TRANSPARENCY:** This inquiry is a part of our commitment to transparency, providing an opportunity for the public to understand the decision-making process during the crisis.
9. The launch of this COVID-19 inquiry is an essential step in ensuring we learn valuable lessons from our handling of the pandemic.

CLEARANCE LIST

Team	Clearance necessary?	Named lead who has cleared
SCS	Yes	Sir Winston Radcliffe
Perm Sec	No	
Second Perm Sec	No	
Communications (inc named Press Officer)	Yes	Lara Chambers
Finance/Fiscal Events	No	
HR	No	
Legal	Yes	Maxwell Hawthorne
Parliamentary Unit	No	
Devolution	No	
Analysis	No	
HMTc	No	
Other	Yes	Department of Health and Social Care, National Health Service (NHS)