

**LONGCOVIDSOS / BHATT MURPHY SOLICITORS
PRESS RELEASE**

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(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

LongCovidSOS C19 Public Inquiry

LongCovidSOS (<https://www.longcovidsos.org/>) has [written](#) to the Prime Minister Boris Johnson calling for the inclusion in the forthcoming Public Inquiry, of the survivors of Covid-19 with Long Covid and for the Inquiry to take place as soon as possible.

LongCovidSOS is a campaign and advocacy organisation composed of long-term sufferers and survivors of Covid-19. They have lived experience of the devastating impact of the virus, having suffered life changing health consequences from Long Covid, and therefore have a very significant interest in the Public Inquiry. This week marks the one year anniversary since the LongCovidSOS campaign launched with a [film](#) and [open letter](#) to Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Since then they have continued to advocate for recognition, research and rehabilitation for those with Long Covid, many of whom are still struggling to get treatment. In response to the forthcoming lifting of restrictions, LongCovidSOS has [written](#) to Secretary of Health Sajid Javid to express their concerns that Long Covid is still not being considered in policy decision making.

Kay Whitehead of **LongCovidSOS** stated:

"It is imperative that the voices of those with Long Covid are included in the Public Inquiry. We continue to suffer debilitating symptoms and we need assurance that urgent lessons will be learned from the government's response to the Pandemic. A shocking lack of attention has been paid to those that have been infected by C19 and continue to suffer. Long Covid numbers are growing and are impacted by policies that do not adequately take the condition into account, such as the current

plans to lift restrictions at a time when so many people are still being infected and put at risk of debilitating long-term illness. We have been an afterthought in the Government's response. We call for the inquiry to take place as soon as possible."

Long Covid is an extremely serious public health problem which requires urgent attention in the Inquiry. The Office for National Statistics [estimates](#) that 13.7% of people who contracted Covid-19 continue to experience symptoms for at least 12 weeks. Their latest [report](#) suggests that 962,000 people, or 1.5% of the UK population, have symptoms persisting for four or more weeks and that as many as 385,000 have been affected for at least a year. This huge group of UK citizens represents a largely ignored cohort of Covid-19 victims.

For further information about **LongCovidSOS** please contact: LongCovidSOS Team info@longcovidsos.org

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