

Bhatt Murphy Solicitors

COVID-19 INQUIRY PRESS RELEASE

2 October 2023

Long Covid Groups

The Long Covid Groups, Long Covid Kids, Long Covid SOS and Long Covid Support, make an opening statement on the first day of Module 2 of the Covid-19 Inquiry on 3 October 2023.

They participate in the Inquiry as representative organisations for nearly 2 million adults and children who have suffered from Long Covid.

They want to know what the Government knew, when they knew it, and why the Government failed to warn the public about the risk of developing long-term damage to health from Covid-19 infection. A central question for the Inquiry to grapple with is: since Long Covid was foreseeable, why was it not foreseen?

The Long Covid Groups have six framework questions which must be answered in Module 2 of the Covid-19 Inquiry:

- 1) What decision-makers' understanding of long-term sequelae and Long Covid was;
- 2) What was the role of patient advocacy in the recognition and response to Long Covid;
- 3) Was there data collection and modelling of Long Covid;
- 4) Was the prevalence and the risk of Long Covid taken into account when decisions, like the imposition and then easing of non-pharmaceutical interventions, were adopted;
- 5) How - and to what extent - did decision makers warn the public about the risk of developing Long Covid and take the disease into account in public health communications; and
- 6) Whether nearly 2 million adults and children suffering with Long Covid today was avoidable?

For further information and enquiries please contact:

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The Long Covid Groups are represented by Jane Ryan of Bhatt Murphy, Anthony Metzger KC and Sangeetha Iengar of Goldsmiths Chambers and Shanthi Sivakumaran of Doughty Street Chambers.

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