



[contact@covid19.public-inquiry.uk](mailto:contact@covid19.public-inquiry.uk)

The Rt Hon. The Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top  
House of Lords  
London  
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By email: [HPUBLICSERVICES@parliament.uk](mailto:HPUBLICSERVICES@parliament.uk)

15 June 2022

Dear Baroness Armstrong,

Thank you for your letter of 6 April to Baroness Hallett and the UK Covid-19 Inquiry. Baroness Hallett has asked me to respond, and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

Thank you for sharing your views, and in particular for drawing our attention to two of your Committee's reports with the suggestion that the Inquiry's Terms of Reference should include a focus on vulnerable children and the key principles to shape reform.

As you may be aware, on 12 May, following analysis of more than 20,000 responses to the public consultation on the draft Terms of Reference, Baroness Hallett sent her proposed amendments to the Prime Minister. This included a specific recommendation to expand the Terms of Reference to include children and young people, a reflection of the compelling arguments we heard during the consultation period from individuals and organisations alike. The Chair has also recommended that the mental health of the nation - including children - be included in the Inquiry's scope. She hopes that those recommendations will be accepted swiftly so that the Inquiry can begin its formal work without delay.

A copy of the letter and consultation summary report can be found on our [website](#). Following finalisation of the Terms of Reference, we expect the Prime Minister to formally set up the Inquiry.

Baroness Hallett is aware that several Select Committees and All-Party Parliamentary Groups have published reports into the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, including the two that you reference in your email. Throughout the coming months the Inquiry will be gathering evidence and research findings from a wide variety of sources, and will be taking into account any published reports on the topic that might help our investigations.

**FREEPOST, UK Covid-19 Public Inquiry**

The Inquiry will conduct its work in a fair and thorough manner and will maintain its independence throughout.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Connah". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ben Connah  
UK Covid-19 Inquiry Secretary