

Hon. Lady Poole QC  
c/o [COVID-19publicinquirysetupteam@gov.scot](mailto:COVID-19publicinquirysetupteam@gov.scot)

17 May 2022

Dear Lady Poole,

## **Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry**

I write further to your meeting with our former Chair, Judith Robertson earlier this year and ahead of the Inquiry's public launch, which I understand is scheduled for early summer.

Judith Robertson demitted office as Chair of the Commission on 11th March and we expect that her successor, Ian Duddy, will take up office in early June. We understand that your team is currently working to finalise the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Inquiry.

As discussed at the meeting with Judith, the ToR published on 14 December 2021 did not reflect all of the recommendations we set out in our [consultation response](#). Among several key recommendations, we highlighted the value of applying a human rights based approach (HRBA) to the Inquiry.

We note that Baroness Hallett, the Chair of the UK Covid-19 Public Inquiry, recently wrote to the Prime Minister with her proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for that Inquiry. Some of these changes reflect issues and concerns outlined in our consultation response and subsequent engagement.

As a consequence, we have written to the Deputy First Minister, asking him to revisit our earlier recommendations in light of these developments. Please find a copy of that letter enclosed.

We would of course welcome the opportunity to further discuss any of the matters set out in that letter and hope that we can continue to support you and your team in this critically important work.

Yours sincerely

Dr Anna Black  
Commissioner

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