



**PROVISIONAL NOTICE OF DETERMINATION**  
**CORE PARTICIPANT APPLICATION**  
**MODULE 4 - UK MEDICAL FREEDOM ALLIANCE (UKMFA)**

**Introduction**

1. In my [Opening Statement](#) on 21 July 2022, I explained that Modules would be announced and opened in sequence, with those wishing to take a formal role in the Inquiry invited to apply to become Core Participants for each module. On 5 June 2023, the Inquiry opened Module 4 and invited anyone who wished to be considered as a Core Participant to that Module to submit an application in writing to the Solicitor to the Inquiry by 30 June 2023.
2. The Inquiry has published the [Provisional Outline of Scope](#) for Module 4, which states that this module will consider a range of issues relating to the development of Covid-19 vaccines and the implementation of the vaccine rollout programme in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Issues relating to the treatment of Covid-19 through both existing and new medications will be examined in parallel. Further modules will be announced and opened in due course, to address other aspects of the Inquiry's Terms of Reference.
3. On 30 June 2023 the Inquiry received an application from UK Medical Freedom Alliance (UKMFA) ("the Applicant") for Core Participant status in Module 4. This Notice sets out my determination of the application.

**Application**

4. Applications for Core Participant status are considered in accordance with Rule 5 of the Inquiry Rules 2006, which provides:

*5.—(1) The chairman may designate a person as a core participant at any time during the course of the inquiry, provided that person consents to being so designated.*

*(2) In deciding whether to designate a person as a core participant, the chairman must in particular consider whether—*

*(a) the person played, or may have played, a direct and significant role in relation to the matters to which the inquiry relates;*

*(b) the person has a significant interest in an important aspect of the matters to which the inquiry relates; or*

*(c) the person may be subject to explicit or significant criticism during the inquiry proceedings or in the report, or in any interim report.*

*(3) A person ceases to be a core participant on—*

*(a) the date specified by the chairman in writing; or*

*(b) the end of the inquiry.*

5. In accordance with the approach set out in my Opening Statement and the Inquiry's [Core Participant Protocol](#), I considered whether the application fulfils the requirements set out in Rule 5(2) in relation to the issues set out in the Provisional Outline of Scope for Module 4.

## **Summary of Application**

6. The applicant, UK Medical Freedom Alliance ("UKMFA") describes itself as a group of concerned doctors, healthcare professionals, scientists and lawyers and "the UK's most recognised and respected organisation advocating for every individual's right to Informed Consent, Bodily Autonomy and Medical Choice".
7. The application relies on Rule 5(2)(b) and states that it is applying in respect of the issues within the Module 4 provisional outline of scope addressing the development, procurement, manufacture and approval of vaccines, vaccine delivery and vaccine safety. UKMFA lists its relevant areas of expertise as (i) informed consent for the Covid-19 vaccination; and (ii) medical ethics and the GMC/NMC Codes of Practice and NHS Constitution.
8. UKMFA refers to a series of open letters which it has written, namely (i) letter to the MHRA, the JCVI and Matt Hancock dated 23 November 2020 regarding the Covid-19 vaccine roll-out setting out concerns that any rushed rollout may compromise safety

and medical ethics; (ii) letter to Matt Hancock, Nadhim Zahawi, Boris Johnson, the MHRA and the JCVI dated 7 February 2021 regarding media reports and epidemiological data which indicated there may be a link between Covid-19 vaccination and a rise in deaths/Covid-19 cases in care homes and in the elderly population; (iii) letter to child health experts, Nadhim Zahawi, the JCVI and MHRA dated 25 February 2021 referencing scientific evidence which it says showed that the risk/benefit calculation did not support administering experimental Covid-19 vaccines to healthy children; and (iv) various letters in 2021/2022 to GMC/NMC, Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Royal College of Midwives, MHRA, GPs, vaccinators, care home managers, universities, employers, House of Lords, MPs/MSPs/MSs, CMOs, headteachers and public health officers.

### **Provisional Decision**

9. I have considered with great care everything that is said in the application. Having done so, my view is that the Applicant does not meet the criteria in Rule 5(2)(b) for the purposes of Module 4.
10. As a voluntary group of doctors, healthcare professionals, scientists and lawyers who have engaged during the pandemic and thereafter with multiple issues relating to the Covid-19 vaccine, the Applicant can be said to have an interest in matters relevant to Module 4. However, this in itself does not amount to a significant interest for the purposes of Rule 5(2)(b). It would not be practicable to grant Core Participant status to every individual or body with an interest in the relevant expertise and policy decisions taken in relation to the vaccine roll-out programme.
11. I bear in mind that the Applicant has placed emphasis on the matters about which it would like to provide the Inquiry with evidence. However, it is not necessary for an individual or organisation to be a Core Participant in order to provide evidence to the Inquiry. The Inquiry will seek information from a range of individuals, organisations and bodies who may have information relevant to the issues raised in Module 4 and, where appropriate, make requests for witness statements and documents. I have asked the Module 4 legal team to liaise with UKMFA to make sure the concerns they raise are reflected in the Inquiry's investigation.

12. As I am minded to decline the application, I will offer the Applicant an opportunity to renew the application. If they wish to renew the application, they must do so in writing to the Solicitor to the Inquiry by **4pm on 24 July 2023**. Renewed applications should not repeat information provided in the original application but should provide any additional information that may assist me in considering the renewed application. I intend to determine any applications on paper without oral submissions, other than in exceptional circumstances. If the application is not renewed, I will confirm that this Provisional Decision has become final.
13. I will keep the scope of Module 4 and the designation of Core Participants under review. My decision not to designate the Applicant as a Core Participant in Module 4 does not preclude the Applicant from making a further application in respect of any later modules. I will consider any future applications they may wish to make on their merits at the time they are made.

**Rt Hon Baroness Heather Hallett**  
**Chair of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry**  
**17 July 2023**