



contact@covid19.public-inquiry.uk

Jabeer Butt OBE, CEO,
Race Equality Foundation
Via email to comms@racefound.org.uk

9 May 2022

Dear Jabeer Butt OBE,

Thank you and your co-signatories for your email of 13 April to Baroness Hallett. She has asked me to respond on her behalf, and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

We note your thoughtful comments on the draft Terms of Reference, specifically the increased risks faced by Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities during the pandemic. I can also confirm we received submissions to the public consultation both from the Race Equality Foundation and the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI). Your contributions allow the Inquiry's consideration of the UK response to the Covid-19 pandemic to be as thorough as possible.

As you are aware, the 4 week public consultation closed on 7 April, during which the Inquiry team met over 150 bereaved families across the UK, and representatives from many different sectors. The unequal impact of the pandemic was a theme touched upon not just in the specific meeting on equalities that you attended, but throughout our meetings with people representing charities, frontline/key workers, faith groups and education to name just a few. In total we received over 20,000 responses.

The responses are now being analysed, and Baroness Hallett will soon be making her recommendations to the Prime Minister. We anticipate that the Terms of Reference will be finalised shortly after, and the Inquiry will be formally established.

Baroness Hallett is grateful for your offer to facilitate discussions with the many communities and organisations you work with, and we will keep this in mind as our work progresses and we develop our plans to engage with people across

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the UK. The Inquiry is planning a 'listening project' to understand how the pandemic has affected people, in a less formal setting than a public hearing. We will be providing updates on [our website](#) in the coming weeks and months.

Throughout the Inquiry we will continue to work independently of the Government and with compassion for those most affected by the pandemic.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Connah', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ben Connah
Director, UK Covid-19 Inquiry

