

Meeting with Lady Poole, Chair Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry  
21 September 2022  
10.30 – 11.15, DFM's Office, Parliament

### **ADDITIONAL MEETING BRIEFING**

1. As indicated in my covering email on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> attaching the primary briefing for this meeting, we received this new information and proposed options in relation to Lady Poole's letter of appointment (correspondence enclosed at Annex) from the Inquiry [redacted] on behalf of Lady Poole at mid-morning on Friday.

2. This meeting has been in planning for some weeks [redacted]. The sponsor team [redacted] have worked as best we can with the time available to consider them. However, due to the timing constraints and the detail and complexity of the proposals, we have not been able to give the full extent of consideration needed in order to make recommendations to Ministers.

3. This briefing provides initial views from the sponsor team [redacted] on the options put forward by the Inquiry on behalf of Lady Poole to resolve the one remaining point on text in relation to waiver of rights. It also offers suggested discussion points that could be covered at tomorrow's meeting. The new information and proposals may provide some potential to progress Lady Poole's letter of appointment, in particular the third option (option c), but do not as it stands offer something that we could recommend to Ministers as a solution on the text in question.

4. It is therefore proposed that you use tomorrow's meeting with Lady Poole to raise the key questions that we have identified in relation to her new proposals, and that you undertake to use that additional information to consider them further.

[redacted]

5. [redacted].

6. [redacted].

7. [redacted].

8. [redacted].

9. [redacted].

10. [redacted]. It is therefore recommended that you also explore this question of reasoning in tomorrow's meeting.

**Is there, for example, another basis upon which Lady Poole considers her position can be distinguished from all other current public inquiry chairs in Scotland at present?**

11. [redacted].

12. [redacted].

13. [redacted].

**Next steps**

14. The meeting with Lady Poole provides an opportunity to hear first-hand her concerns and why she believes she requires unique provision in her terms of appointment. [redacted] the sponsor team can then work with the Inquiry on how to address those concerns if they have merit.

**Inquiry Option Proposals**

15. [redacted]

Response from [redacted], sent 16 September.

[redacted]

[redacted], you asked me for a cast list for Wednesday – Lady Poole of course will attend. It's likely that I will attend, and/or [redacted]. [redacted] may also attend. Depending on how/if things progress between now and Wednesday, it may be that [redacted] from [redacted] also attends – given I'm sure you'll need a list for Parliament security, maybe best to put all of us down for now on the basis it's unlikely all of us will be required?

Thanks

[redacted]

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