

# **Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry Direction: Opening Statements at Hearings on the Impacts on the Justice System, Worship & Life Events and Equalities & Human Rights**

In terms of section 17 of the Inquiries Act 2005 and rule 10 of the Inquiries (Scotland) Rules 2007, Lord Brailsford (“the Chair”) of the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry (“the Inquiry”) directs that:

1. Core participants with leave to appear at the hearings on the impacts on the Justice System, Worship & Life Events and Equalities & Human Rights, due to commence on 18 February 2025 (“the hearings”), will not be invited to make opening statements either in written or oral form.
2. Counsel to the Inquiry will instead make an opening statement at the commencement of the hearings.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "L. Brailsford", with three dots below it.

The Hon. Lord Brailsford – Chair of the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry  
20 DECEMBER 2024

## **NOTE**

The Chair considers that, having considered the requirement to act with fairness and the need to avoid unnecessary cost, core participants with leave to appear at the hearings commencing on 18 February 2025 will not be invited to make opening statements to the Inquiry. Counsel to the Inquiry will make an opening statement at the commencement of the hearings, to provide context to the oral evidence that will follow.

A direction in respect of closing statements will be issued separately.