

BAPEN requests core participant status and additional terms of reference in the  
UK COVID-19 Public Inquiry

BAPEN and the Covid Airborne Protection Alliance (CAPA) welcomes the [independent Public Inquiry](#) into the COVID-19 response, and the process of public engagement and consultation to finalise the Inquiry's terms of reference. This consultation process will shape the Chair of the Inquiry's recommendations to the Prime Minister on the final Terms of Reference, which will set the topics for the Inquiry's investigations into the UK's pandemic response.

BAPEN – as part of CAPA – has requested core participant status and strengthened terms of reference for the COVID-19 Public Inquiry, to be chaired by Rt Hon Baroness Heather Hallett DBE.

In order to ensure the Inquiry thoroughly examines the UK's pandemic response and draws out the right lessons for the future, CAPA has asked through CATA for the Inquiry to address a number of additional areas on top of the [draft terms of reference](#). CATA submitted additional suggestions as follows:

1. To examine the IPC guidance throughout the pandemic with a special focus on the failure to acknowledge the airborne route of transmission.
2. To examine the failure to provide proper respiratory protective equipment (RPE) for all close contact care including nasogastric tube insertion and dysphagia assessment. Neither of these procedures are included in the AGP list still espoused by the WHO and UKHSA.
3. To assess the impact of nosocomial transmission on patients and the workforce in hospitals, care homes, ambulances etc. as a result of inadequate RPE.
4. To examine the failure to engage meaningfully with stakeholders such as BAPEN, NNNG, the BDA and others throughout the pandemic on the subject of airborne transmission.
5. To examine inconsistencies in IPC guidance from various official sources in the UK and internationally.

CAPA, of which Dr Barry Jones of BAPEN is Chair, comprises an alliance of professional organisations and groups who have long campaigned for improved RPE during the pandemic, citing evidence of airborne transmission. CAPA, and therefore BAPEN, are members of the Covid Airborne Transmission Alliance (CATA), comprising other interested parties represented by Saunders Law. CATA comprises a total of over 65,000 individual members covering a wide range of professional organisations, trade unions, frontline health and care workers, and charitable bodies working in the medical sector.