

Press Release – for immediate release

Bereaved Families respond to PM’s “Independent Inquiry” announcement

The commitment for an "independent inquiry" at an unspecified point in the future is a long way from what families need to see. We need to know that any inquiry will be public, with the ability for families to contribute their experiences and that it will have the power to access all of the evidence and witnesses needed. We also believe that a part of any inquiry must begin now to take fast action in order to prevent further unnecessary deaths should we encounter a second wave, which could lead to 120,000 lost lives¹.

We have been asking the Prime Minister to meet us for over a month now to discuss our request but have been met with silence. This is disappointing. If the Prime Minister listened to our concerns he would understand the many urgent lessons that need to be learnt now including making sure care homes and hospitals are stocked with PPE, testing works so no-one is discharged without a test and that the 111 service is appropriately identifying those who need urgent care.

Today our families met with the Labour Party leader, Sir Keir Starmer and Angela Rayner and we hope to see the leaders of all major parties in order to build support for our aims. Sir Keir is the first party leader to meet with us to offer his condolences and express genuine empathy for our suffering - something Boris Johnson has yet to do.

We continue to be ready and waiting to speak to the Prime Minister to discuss our call for an immediate phase to an inquiry.

Ends

Contact:

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Phone: If you would like to discuss the release by phone, please send your phone number to the above email address and someone will call you as soon as possible.

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CovidJusticeUK>

Twitter: @CovidJusticeUK

Website: www.covidfamiliesforjustice.org

¹ This Inquiry must be ordered now in order to prevent a further predicted 120,000 deaths next winter if measures are not put in place now as stated in the ‘Preparing for a Challenging Winter’ report.