

Press Release for immediate release

## Bereaved Families' petition reaches 100,000 signatures

The Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice group's [petition for an immediate public inquiry](#) has grown to over 100,000 signatures. The petition follows on from the group of over 1,000 bereaved family members formally writing to Boris Johnson and Matt Hancock to request an inquiry in order to swiftly learn lessons ahead of a potential second wave. The letter, sent on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June, is yet to receive more than a holding response.

In recent weeks the support for a public inquiry has grown, with the [Health Ombudsman having also joined the call](#) and [the formation of an All-Parliamentary Group](#). This follows [the open letter written by health leaders in the British Medical Journal](#).

With scientists continuing to express concern that the lifting of lockdown measures may be too much, too soon with case numbers still high and without a fully functioning test and trace system, the group believe it is essential that lessons are learned rapidly. This has been emphasised in the past 24 hours with the news that three pubs have had to close due to confirmed cases of Covid-19 and that Boris Johnson appears to be trying to shift blame onto care homes rather than seeking to learn lessons.

Matt Fowler, co-founder of the group says:

*"It is becoming ever clearer that there is a need for an immediate inquiry. Our petition has gained over 100,000 signatures to date. Not only are the families of those lost looking for answers, but the wider British public are questioning how we have ended up here with the highest death toll in Europe.*

*Despite this public support however, the government are still avoiding and ignoring the bereaved and their insistence for public protection. People are still being infected and still dying every day. It is critically important that this is thoroughly investigated and stopped now.*

*The reckless lifting of lockdown measures and the government's unwillingness to entertain the thought of scrutiny is deeply disturbing. Even more so is the recent scrambling to shift the blame.*

*Now is the time for action. Lives are at stake, and if the government refuse to engage, they are throwing those lives away."*

**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](http://www.covidfamiliesforjustice.org)