

# ‘How’s Monday for you, Prime Minister?’ – Covid-bereaved families respond to PM blaming non-existent ‘litigation’

*London, Wednesday 3 September* – [Asked at Prime Minister’s Questions](#) if he would meet with Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice, Boris Johnson blamed non-existent ‘litigation’ as he doubled-down on [yesterday’s U-turn](#), refusing to meet with the bereaved families. The group represents over 1,600 people who have lost loved ones to Covid-19.

**In response, Jo Goodman, co-founder of Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice, who lost her dad Stuart to the virus, said:**

‘The Prime Minister just told Parliament that he can’t meet with us because we’re in “litigation against the Government”. We’re not. Our five letters make clear to him that we want to meet to avoid that. The Prime Minister then said he will “certainly meet [us] once that litigation is concluded.” That’s great: it never started. So how’s Monday for you, Prime Minister?

‘It feels like we’re the wrong kind of bereaved people - like the Prime Minister only wants to meet with bereaved people who won’t ask difficult questions. There’s no legal action happening, so that can’t be the reason he’s not meeting with us. So will he now commit to meet with us so we can share our experiences of serious issues - from deaths in care homes to inadequate protective equipment - that can help him learn crucial lessons and save lives? We just want to spare others the pain we’re going through, that’s why we’re calling for a Statutory Public Inquiry with a quick reporting first phase, so that it can report back within weeks not months and save lives as the pandemic continues.

**ENDS**

## **Notes to Editors**

Transcript from Prime Minister’s Questions:

### **Sir Keir Starmer, Leader of the Opposition:**

"Mr Speaker, the Prime Minister will recall that before the recess I asked him if he would meet the Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice Group. I had the privilege of meeting the families on the 15th July. They gave me incredibly moving accounts of how Covid-19 had taken their loved ones from them. On Sky News last week, the Prime Minister was asked if he would meet the families and he said, and I quote, 'Of course I will meet the bereaved. Of course, I will do that.' But yesterday, they received a letter from the Prime Minister saying that meeting them now was ‘regrettably not possible’. The Prime Minister will understand the frustration and the hurt of those families that he said one thing to camera and another to them. Can I urge the Prime Minister to reconsider, to do the right thing, and find time to meet these grieving families?"

**Prime Minister Boris Johnson:**

“Mr Speaker, if I may say to the Rt Hon Gentleman this is absolutely typical of him that he should frame it in that way. When I made that answer – and of course I am happy to meet the families of the bereaved and I sympathise deeply with all those who have lost loved ones throughout this pandemic and we all feel their pain and their grief. But it turns out that this particular group that he refers to are currently in litigation against the Government and I will certainly meet them once that litigation is concluded.”

**About the campaign**

Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice is a group of over 1,600 families bereaved by Covid-19. We are campaigning for lessons to be learned as quickly as possible in order to save lives and prevent others from going through the same pain we have.

We are calling for:

- An independent, judge-led Statutory Public Inquiry into the Government’s handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, with an urgent ‘rapid review’ phase to learn lessons and save lives as the crisis continues.
- A Government commitment to fund specific support services for those bereaved by Covid-19.

Our reference to a second spike is based on the report commissioned by Sir Patrick Valance, published on July 14th 2020. Preparing for a challenging winter which cites a reasonable worst case scenario of 119,000 hospital deaths this [winter](#).

**Media Contact:**

Fiona Kirton, Press Officer (voluntary), [press.covid19bereaved@gmail.com](mailto:press.covid19bereaved@gmail.com), 07875596858

**For more information about the campaign:**

Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice: [www.covidfamiliesforjustice.org](http://www.covidfamiliesforjustice.org)

Twitter: [@CovidJusticeUK](https://twitter.com/CovidJusticeUK)

Facebook: [@CovidJusticeUK](https://www.facebook.com/CovidJusticeUK)