

**Press release on behalf of *Keep Our NHS Public* for IMMEDIATE use**

**Leading lawyer and NHS campaigners report the government to the police over their handling of the pandemic**

This morning (Tuesday 21st December) renowned human rights barrister Michael Mansfield QC and prominent lawyer Lorna Hackett, together with health campaigners from *Keep Our NHS Public* [1] delivered a letter [2] to the commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Dame Cressida Dick for 'due consideration in relation to the commission of serious offences in the handling of the pandemic by the government'.

The submission of this letter follows the conclusion of the People's Covid Inquiry [3] conducted by Keep Our NHS Public and chaired by Michael Mansfield, with Lorna Hackett as counsel. The inquiry's final report [4] (which was launched earlier this month) found a number of major failings, including that of 'misconduct in a public office' by several key ministers. Campaigners hope to hold those responsible to account for their actions, and to affect positive change in the government's handling of this and any future pandemics.

**People's Covid Inquiry Chair, Michael Mansfield QC, said:**

*"The panel was of the clear view that what was disclosed by the evidence, heard over many weeks...gave reason to be concerned that criminal offences of some gravity had been committed. These events are serious and involve the unnecessary deaths of many thousands of UK citizens. There are two obvious criminal matters. One is a statutory offence of corporate manslaughter, where gross negligence has been manifested on a systemic level, and the other is misconduct in public office, a common law offence to which the Commissioner's attention is particularly drawn and the essence of which is ' a public officer who wilfully neglects to perform his duty to such a degree as to amount to an abuse of the public's trust in the office holder "*

**Co-Chair of Keep Our NHS Public, Dr Tony O'Sullivan, said:**

*"Political leaders of this country with deliberate care and attention to detail, have left the NHS, social care and public health so weakened as to place millions of the population at risk. Since March 2020, they have used the*

*pandemic to divert unimaginable wealth to private contracts, rather than to build the health and care frontline support services needed to defend the population. Experts told us that up to 30,000 deaths were avoidable in the first wave, probably over 50,000 on subsequent waves. Frontline health and care staff are literally on their knees, 1500 have died. The NHS now faces an unchecked Omicron pandemic still without support, adequate staffing, or effective PPE. The Metropolitan Police have a duty to investigate ministers for their reckless misconduct in public office that has caused such death, suffering and damage."*

**[ends]**

Spokespeople are available for interview. Contact Samantha Wathen, Press Officer for Keep Our NHS Public [press@keepournhspublic.com](mailto:press@keepournhspublic.com) or Call/WhatsApp: 0777 6047472

**Notes to editors**

1. Keep Our NHS Public is a national independent organisation campaigning for a well-funded, publicly owned and provided NHS [www.keepournhspublic.com](http://www.keepournhspublic.com)
2. Read the letter here: [https://36085122-5b58-481e-afa4-a0eb0aaf80ca.usrfiles.com/ugd/360851\\_814bdd39d6134bb69927cdafba\\_f41c97.pdf](https://36085122-5b58-481e-afa4-a0eb0aaf80ca.usrfiles.com/ugd/360851_814bdd39d6134bb69927cdafba_f41c97.pdf)
3. The People's Covid Inquiry took place from February to July 2021 and heard from a number of key expert and lay witnesses <https://www.peoplescovidinquiry.com/>
4. Link to the final report of the People's Covid Inquiry: <https://www.peoplescovidinquiry.com/>