

Keep Our NHS Public's response to breaking news for IMMEDIATE use:

Michael Mansfield QC: Not implementing recommended procedures an "Extraordinary negligence towards public safety"

Michael Mansfield QC, world-renowned human rights barrister and lately Chair of campaigning organisation Keep Our NHS Public's [People's Covid Inquiry](#) has taken aim at the government. According to document's released under an FOI request, the government conducted an operation into planning for a coronavirus in 2016, yet failed to implement the findings including stockpiling PPE, when the pandemic began in 2020.

Mr Mansfield said:

"Given the participating organisations and the Cabinet Office it is an omission of gross negligence for there to have been no follow up actions and no public servant prepared to speak out in the public interest about such extraordinary negligence towards public safety. The combination of this exercise and Cygnus in the same year provides the explanation for still no real prospect of a judicial Inquiry which would expose the unparalleled disregard for health and safety."

In 2016 The People's Covid Inquiry interviewed key academics and government advisors and gathered evidence on (amongst other things) the government's pandemic planning; their report will be produced later this year.

People's Covid Inquiry panellist, author and consultant radiologist Dr Jacky Davis, said:

"Thanks to the diligence of Dr Moosa Qureshi, we now know that the government conducted exercise Alice in 2016 which looked at preparedness for a coronavirus pandemic. It warned there was a need for stockpiles of PPE, a computerised test and trace system, and appropriate border controls. The government did nothing in response to these warnings. When challenged over the report they first lied and then blocked its release. There is no doubt that the government through its inaction is responsible for tens of thousands of unnecessary deaths from Covid in this country, and we now have the proof of this."

[ends]

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

Notes to editors

Keep Our NHS Public is a national independent organisation campaigning for a well-funded, publicly owned and provided NHS www.keepournhspublic.com