

**Keep Our NHS Public's response to the Commons Report on the pandemic, for IMMEDIATE use:**

**Dr John Puntis, Co-Chair of Keep Our NHS Public: "What passed off as catastrophic 'groupthink', amounts to gross negligent manslaughter and misconduct in a public office."**

Dr John Puntis, Co-Chair of national campaigning organisation Keep Our NHS Public and participant in the [Peoples Covid Inquiry](#), takes aim at the government over revelations today that they exacerbated the death toll and performed significantly worse than other countries.

**Dr Puntis said:**

*"Government management of the coronavirus pandemic has now been characterised by Commons committees "as one of the most important public health failures the United Kingdom has ever experienced". Despite this devastating conclusion, no blame is attributed. This relates not only to political expediency but also the decision that invited witnesses would not include any relatives of the 150,000 people who have died. The most shocking thing about the report is the implication that a successful vaccination programme provides absolution, even at a time when a 'vaccination only' policy for disease containment is leading to further unnecessary deaths. Keep Our NHS Public believe that there are those in government who must be held to account. This should include the possibility that what is passed off as catastrophic 'groupthink' amounts in fact to gross negligent manslaughter and misconduct in public office."*

From February to July this year The People's Covid Inquiry interviewed key academics and government advisors and gathered evidence on all aspects of the government's pandemic planning and delivery; their report will be produced later this year.

**[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**

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)