

A procurement update

The Covid Inquiry has just completed its preliminary hearing into Module 5;

Procurement and Distribution for health and social care during the pandemic...

... thus preparing the ground for substantive hearings in March next year.

Evidence will be sought about

- PPE,
- Ventilators,
- Lateral Flow Tests and
- PCR test kits.

Reserve stocks were covered in the resilience module.

Why were front line staff left without protective clothing and hospitals short of ventilators?

How many emergency purchases failed to meet quality and safety specifications and had to be binned.

Did the Cabinet Office intervention help or hinder the work of NHS staff who understood the NHS procurement world.

Fast track emergency procurement rules and VIP access will no doubt feature highly.

The extent to which the four governments worked together in the procurement areas will be reviewed.

The inquiry will work alongside those investigating possible criminality as well as the newly appointed Covid Corruption Commissioner whose focus is on recouping public money.

Two academic experts will present on public



procurement policies generally and supply chain management.

Essential reading for those working in NHS procurement and distribution.

We will enter a murky world where politics and business meet.

