

COVID INQUIRY UPDATE



Preparations are well in hand for the start of 16 days of hearings, starting 24th November.

Module 9 the Economic Impact of the pandemic.

The brief is strictly limited to examining the measures taken to alleviating economic hardship during the pandemic...

... including the uplift to Universal Credit but not legacy benefits and why this was not continued after the pandemic to cover long covid.

Business relief will no doubt be covered as will the relief provided to vulnerable groups and families as well as migrants.

I could find no specific mention of NHS funding although this has to some extent been covered in other modules.

Many big names are being lined up to give evidence.

At the end of September, the Inquiry will start to take evidence about the impact on children and young people.

This may turn out to be one of the most controversial modules and will be reported in some detail in this column.

Towards the end of the year we can expect some early conclusions about the evidence taken in early modules.

They will be of great

interest to political commentators and one hopes, civil servants will probably be used by politicians to apportion blame whilst they focus on short term and leadership issues.

NHS Leaders need to take whatever the recommendations are very

seriously indeed in case another pandemic appears on the horizon..

