



**Public Administration
and Constitutional Affairs
Committee**

From the Chair
Simon Hoare MP

Kenneth Gibson, Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee
Scottish Parliament

By email only

27 January 2026

Implementation monitoring of public inquiry recommendations

The Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee of the UK Parliament recently launched an inquiry into the recommendations of the Infected Blood Inquiry. The Infected Blood Inquiry's report includes recommendations for the UK Parliament on two key areas: responding to calls for public inquiries and scrutiny of the implementation of public inquiry recommendations. The full terms of reference of our inquiry are attached as an Annex.

As part of our inquiry, we are keen to consider how 'Westminster' scrutiny and implementation monitoring of the recommendations resulting from public inquiries can complement and respect the scrutiny mechanisms of the devolved Parliaments in relation to inquiries established by UK ministers, particularly those containing recommendations which are in devolved areas of competence.

Our inquiry hopes to produce recommendations for a sustainable scrutiny system that provides reassurance that lessons are being learned, and action taken by governments to avoid disasters repeating. We are keen to receive submissions from those with these responsibilities within the devolved Parliaments on current practice, previous experience or ideas for future scrutiny that we should consider.

The formal deadline for written evidence is 6 February but we would be happy to receive submissions in any form until the end of March. As the inquiry progresses, and



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our recommendations formulate, we may seek further help in clarifying information and seeking consensus around our proposals.

Should you have any questions please contact the Clerk of the Committee, Mike Winter, who would be pleased to discuss the inquiry with you.

Simon Hoare MP
Chair, Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee



Annex - Terms of reference

Responding to calls for a public inquiry

- If a minister has decided not to hold a public inquiry, what role should (a) the House of Commons and (b) PACAC have in scrutinising that decision?
- When and how should (a) the House of Commons and/or (b) PACAC be able to challenge the decision of a minister not to hold a public inquiry?
- How should the House of Commons/PACAC gauge whether a public inquiry has “sufficient parliamentary support”?
- What should happen if the House of Commons/PACAC concludes that a public inquiry should be held, or that the minister’s reasons for not holding one are inadequate?

Scrutinising the implementation of the recommendations of the infected blood and future inquiries

- What role should Parliament play in scrutinising the recommendations of public inquiries?
- What inquiries should be in scope of any new processes for scrutinising the implementation of recommendations (for example, should non-statutory inquiries be included)?
- At what point following the inquiry process should scrutiny of the implementation of recommendations begin and end?
- How does such a process deal with phased inquiries?
- How should any new process respect the work and remit of the committees of both Houses and with the internal monitoring processes of inquiries themselves?
- What role should the government play to effectively support a new scrutiny process?
- How should the role of the governments of the devolved nations and the scrutiny mechanisms of the devolved Parliaments be respected in relation to inquiries established by UK ministers?