



# UK Commission on Covid Commemoration

## Consultation Questions

The Commission is aware of significant activity across the UK to remember those who have died during the pandemic. The Commission is keen to build on this good work and consider further ways to commemorate across the UK.

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (RCPE) is pleased to respond to this consultation. Our response is based on the views of Fellows who answered our call for views on this and also includes the views of Members of the College's Lay Advisory Committee. We sought their views to ensure a balance of opinion from a larger spectrum of people and in order to make our response as holistic as possible. Where only one answer can be given, the response is based on the answer which received greatest support.

### 1. The Commission is considering a national day of remembrance. On which date(s), would it be most appropriate to commemorate? (please rank, where 1 is your preferred option)

The anniversary of the first confirmed case in the UK: 30 January	3
The anniversary of the announcement of the first recorded death in the UK: 5 March	
The anniversary of the date that the World Health Organisation declared a pandemic: 11 March	1
The anniversary of the start of the first lockdown: 23 March	2
World Health Day: 7 April	
The anniversary of the NHS being founded: 5 July	

The three preferences above were the only ones chosen by our Fellows and Lay Advisers, with the number one preference enjoying strong majority support as Fellows considered it reflected the global nature of Covid. A minority of Fellows and Lay Advisers expressed the view that a national day of remembrance was not appropriate and that a better 'memorial' would be learning from Covid times and ensuring better health as a result. Some expressed concern that a national day of remembrance ran the risk of not remembering those who did not die of Covid during the pandemic but due to Covid's impact on other services and associated delays. In addition it was not apparent whether this would encompass the many sufferers of long Covid and huge mental distress to many.



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Others raised issues around why Covid was to be commemorated when other illnesses, many of which also led to significant loss of life, were not marked in this way.

**2. Do you think there should be a symbol to commemorate COVID-19 in the same way that a poppy represents Remembrance Sunday?**

Yes

X No

I don't have a strong view about this topic

There will more than likely be future pandemics.

**3. Which type of memorial or commemorative space do you prefer? (please rank)**

Green Memorial e.g. woodland or garden	1
Physical structure or sculpture	2
Online Memorial	

**4. How many memorials or commemorative spaces do you think we should have across the UK? (please rank, where 1 is your preferred option)**

One UK memorial	2
Regional memorials across the UK	1
Local smaller memorials within each Local Authority	



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**5. Would you be in favour of the creation of a website to find memorials and commemoration activities near you?**

Yes

No

I don't have a strong view about this topic

It is important to mark this period in our history to ensure that future generations are aware of the sacrifices that took place as well as the efforts of those involved who kept the country running. In particular the healthcare workforce in the community and secondary care settings delivered care in the midst of huge personal risk.

**6. What do you consider to be the best way(s) to educate future generations about COVID-19? (please tick as many as you wish. If you do not have a strong view about this topic, please tick the last option only)**

As part of the school curriculum

Museum / learning centre

Online resources

I don't have a strong view about this topic

**7. Would you be in favour of having a Commemorative Covid Coin?**

Yes



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No

I don't have a strong view about this topic

**8. Millions of workers and volunteers contributed to the pandemic response across the UK in different ways. The Commission is considering how to recognise people's efforts throughout the pandemic. Who of the following do you think should be recognised? (please tick one)**

Everyone

Certain groups

Certain individuals

I don't think there should be any recognition for this effort

I don't have a strong view about this topic

**9. Do you have any other suggestions on how we should commemorate and remember the COVID-19 pandemic? (Please answer in 500 characters or less)**

A number of our Fellows expressed the view that the best way of commemorating the pandemic would be long term commitments to deliver better environmental protection- such as in the area of air quality or reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions- and public health or health service and social care support. In addition there was support for the concept of helping developing countries prepare effective vaccination programmes as a meaningful commemoration of the pandemic.

It was also felt that effective planning and better preparedness for future pandemics, including in relation to those who shielded and the impact of shielding, would also be considered an appropriate way to commemorate it.