

# Crunch day for French quarantine decision

Holidaymakers left in suspense as PM warns he will be ruthless in imposing tough measures if required

By Amy Jones  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS will today decide whether to impose a two-week quarantine on France, after Boris Johnson warned he would be "ruthless" about imposing new restrictions.

Britain's second favourite holiday destination edged closer to being struck from the UK's "travel corridor"

list last night as new coronavirus cases in the country hit a post-lockdown daily high. Yesterday the French health ministry reported 2,699 new coronavirus infections in 24 hours, breaking its post-lockdown record.

The new statistics were released as the Government delayed an anticipated announcement on changes to the quarantine-free list of nations, prompting fresh fears France would lose its place. Yesterday morning it was thought that France had done "enough" to retain its status, with government sources indicating new restrictions would not be imposed.

However, a last-minute delay fuelled speculation that travellers to France

would be forced to quarantine for 14 days on their return. It is understood that a decision had not yet been made on whether to strike the country from the safe list last night as ministers wanted to assess the latest data before acting.

The Prime Minister warned the Government would be "absolutely ruthless" with imposing the measures, even with "our closest and dearest partners".

On a visit to Northern Ireland Mr Johnson said: "We can't be remotely complacent about our own situation. Everybody understands that in a pandemic you don't allow our population to be reinfected or the disease to come back in. That is why the quarantine

measures are very important and we have to apply them in a very strict way."

Meanwhile, the Netherlands and Malta are set to be removed from England's travel corridor list, government sources confirmed yesterday. The Turks and Caicos Islands and Aruba are also expected to lose their places on the safe list.

A formal announcement on the status of the nations is now expected tomorrow, giving ministers more time to analyse cases patterns in France.

Up to 400,000 Britons on holiday in the nation face a potential last-minute dash to return home before the measures come into effect. It is understood that the Government would try to give

at least 30 hours notice before imposing new restrictions.

David Davis warned that "uncertainty" around France's future would be "devastating for the travel industry".

The former Brexit Secretary said: "If you are a factory worker and you're told that your holiday is likely to require one month out of work then you have to worry about hanging on to your job and your wages. It fuels cancellations and stalls bookings for a sector that is already struggling."

Mr Davis urged the Government to "rethink" its border policy, and urged ministers to listen to the requests of the travel industry. He said: "I don't think the Government is doing as much as it

can about testing. We ought to have testing at the airport or even before return, which is something the industry has been asking for."

A separate senior backbencher suggested that "diplomacy" around the ongoing migrant crisis could be behind the delay in an announcement.

"There is a lot of tension with the French over the Channel crossings as it is and Paris has been reluctant to heed UK demands. To add France to the quarantine list would add yet more friction to the situation," he said.

Paris has said it will impose reciprocal quarantine restrictions on British travellers if the Government does move to strike France from its "green list".

## Arts industry worst hit with many staff still on furlough

By Jack Hardy

THE arts industry has been hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, with 46 per cent of workers still furloughed, figures suggested yesterday.

A business survey by the Office for National Statistics found that the arts, entertainment and recreation industry had the largest proportion of its workforce on furlough at a time that venues are struggling to reopen. The figures, based on responses between July 13 and 26, far outstripped other hard-hit professions such as accommodation and food services, which had 31 per cent of its workforce on furlough.

The Government recently postponed plans to allow indoor live performances to return to the UK, warning the country "cannot be complacent" amid a rise in the infection rate. It has left many theatres and other venues in a parlous financial state, even after Boris Johnson last month announced a £1.57 billion support package.

The ONS found the arts sector had the largest proportion of businesses indicating that operating costs were exceeding turnover, at 42 per cent.

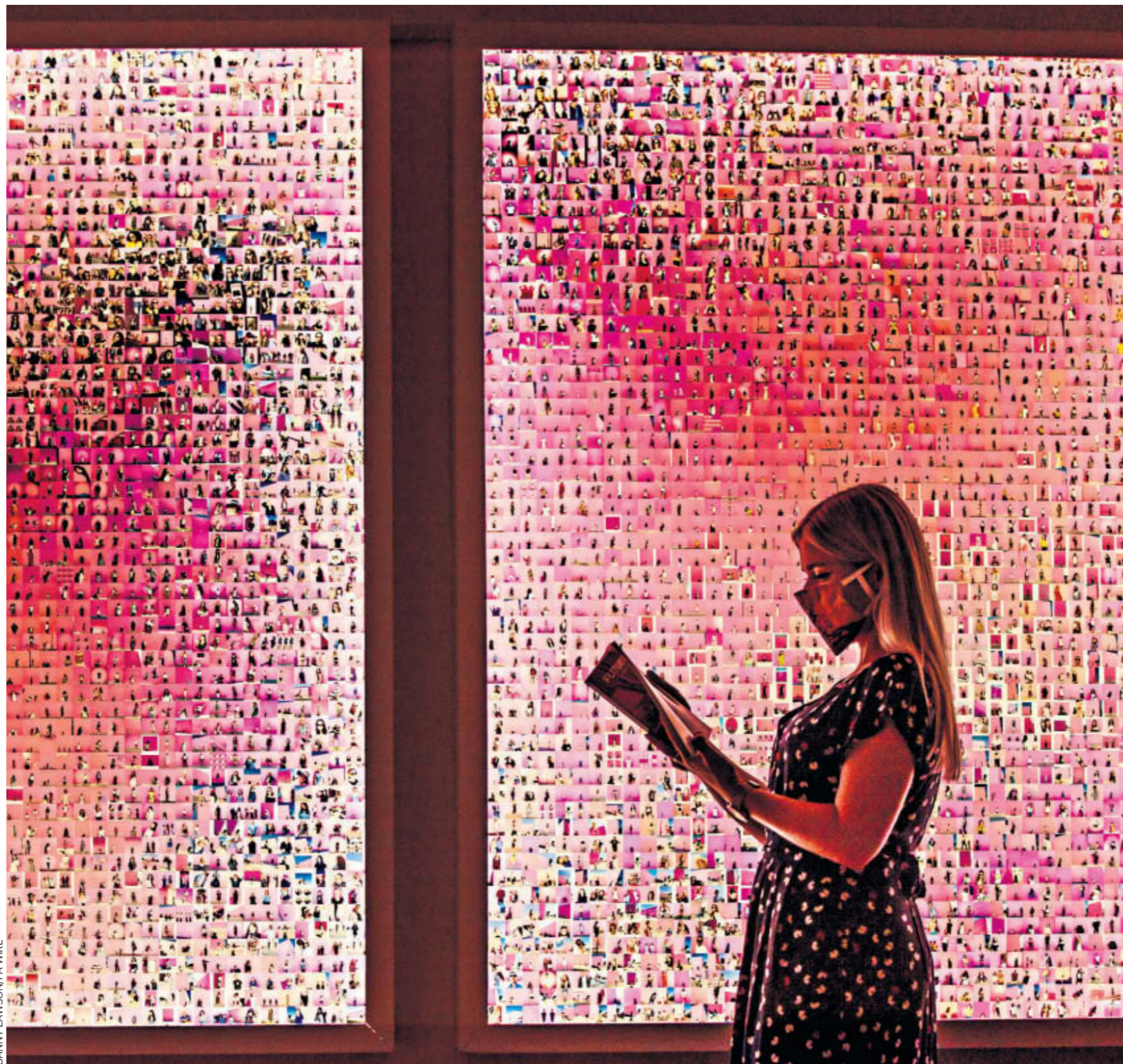
In a more positive development, the industry also reported the highest proportion of the workforce - 25 per cent - returning from furlough leave in the last two weeks before the survey.

It was followed by the accommodation and food services sector, where 17 per cent had recently returned, and the construction sector, where 10 per cent were off furlough.

The majority of the workforce across all industries were either working remotely or at their normal place of work, 38 per cent and 44 per cent respectively, according to the ONS.

Earlier this week, Bectu, the entertainment union, wrote to Oliver Dowden, the Culture Secretary, calling for grants to be paid out in August to allow theatres and live venues to "halt redundancies and support their workforce".

Union head Philippa Childs said organisations still do not know whether they will be eligible for grants or loans or when the money will be paid out.



**Sense of self** A visitor reads a programme in front of a work titled 'Murmurations #23: 10,000 selfies (with a pink wall in Los Angeles)' by Stephanie Potter Corwin, which forms part of the Aesthetica Art Prize exhibition on show at York Art Gallery.

## Let Christmas come early to spread cheer, shops urge

By Phoebe Southworth

CHRISTMAS lights should be switched on earlier to help retailers struggling through the pandemic, West End bosses have urged.

Enticing shoppers back into central London by turning on the Oxford Street display during the October half-term will speed up the footfall recovery, they argue.

By making "Christmas come early", traders believe this will also spread out the traditional seasonal rush to spend money in the weeks leading up to Dec 25 and a steady flow of visitors will make social distancing easier.

Latest figures show the gradual return of shoppers has stalled, with numbers stuck at 63 per cent down on last year for the past three weeks.

The call comes after Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, visited stores in the capital to hear the concerns of owners struggling to stay afloat.

Jace Tyrrell, chief executive of the New West End Company, which represents 600 traders, said: "If we can bring the start of Christmas early, it will make it easier for people to spread their spending. It would be great if they could spread it over two months rather than two weeks."

The Oxford Street lights are traditionally turned on in the first week of November - although it was later last year - but this could come forward by as much as two weeks.

The latest data show the number of people visiting the West End has not yet returned to even half of last year's level since "non-essential" retailers were allowed to reopen on June 15.

They initially saw about 25 per cent of "normal" levels of shoppers come through their doors. This rose over the summer but is now stuck on 37 per cent. About one in 10 Londoners is employed in the West End and NWECC has warned the district faces job losses of 50,000 if footfall does not pick up.

Mr Tyrrell called on the Mayor to "write a love letter" to Londoners to persuade them to return to the West End.

# Bank of Mum and Dad foots £2,700 bill for children coming home

By Sam Meadows  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS EDITOR

ADULT children moving back in with their parents during lockdown cost mum and dad £2,700, a study by Barclays found.

Many young adults returned to their childhood homes during lockdown, often to escape cramped living conditions in cities and take advantage of their parents' spare bedrooms.

Polling by AJ Bell, a savings firm, for *The Daily Telegraph* suggested that

nearly one in 10 young people moved back in with their parents for at least part of the lockdown.

The research by Barclays showed that this came at a cost. A survey on the additional spending of around 1,000 families in such a position suggested they spent £2,702 extra for items such as energy bills and food over an average 10-and-a-half-week stay.

Jo Harris, of Barclays Money Mentors, which provides support with finances, said: "As someone who has moved in with their parents during

lockdown, I know first-hand how much of an adjustment it can be and how uncomfortable approaching the topic of money can feel.

"Like many, I've been very fortunate that my parents haven't charged me rent but I think it's really important to keep communication as open and honest as possible, so we did have a frank chat about how I would contribute during my time back at home."

The survey by Barclays suggested 90 per cent of parents had not asked their children to contribute, despite the in-

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The percentage of parents who had not asked their children to contribute, despite the increased costs after they went home

creased costs. However, 51 per cent of adult children had chipped in to the cost of running the family home where possible.

Laura Suter, an analyst at AJ Bell,

said: "Lots of people have decided to move back in with their parents during lockdown, maybe because they couldn't face living and working in a house share, or because they've taken a hit to their income and want to save some cash, or because they want help with childcare while schools and nurseries are shut."

"Parents should tackle the tricky topic of money early on so that no one gets resentful."

"If they're still getting their normal income it's only fair that the kids should

pay their way, particularly for food or extra bills."

The Barclays research found that parents were forced to pay an average of £26.59 extra on petrol, £25.30 on food shopping and £22.09 on wine, beer and spirits. Meanwhile, families enjoying takeaways together spent an estimated £19.09 more than expected.

Dr Peter Brooks, Barclays head of behavioural science, said parents should be confident about talking to their children about money and be direct, rather than "skirting around the subject".

## Exam lavatory ban forced law students to use bottles

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

LAW students barred from using the lavatory during exams say they were forced to urinate in bottles and buckets.

Prospective barristers taking Bar exams online this week were told that they must face the camera on their computer at all times, or the test would be terminated and they could fail.

This forced several to relieve themselves in bottles or buckets under their desk during two-and-a-half hour sittings, in sight and hearing of the online invigilators.

Tian Juin See, 23, studying at City University in London, told *The Daily Telegraph* that he "begged" to be allowed to go to the lavatory, but was not allowed. He claims the invigilator just told him not to turn away from the camera or he would be forced to end the exam.

He said: "I had to empty my water bottle on the floor and pee blindly while facing the camera."

Despite trying to see the funny side, he said the experience affected his performance, and he was annoyed by the "heartlessness" of the rule and felt "degraded".

Sophie Lamb, 28 and a part-time student at BPP in Leeds, was forced to use a bucket under her chair. She said: "It

was 28 degrees in my kitchen and I knew I wouldn't last. So I took a bucket with me, placed it under my seat and wore a long maxi dress, meaning that I could squat down with my face still in view of the screen."

Pete Kennedy, 30, studying at the University of Law, in London, who "stealthily" relieved himself into a bottle, said: "It's pretty outrageous to force students into this dilemma. This is the culmination of years of study and we are forced to terminate our exams to use the bathroom or wee in a bucket."

He said students had raised the issue in advance, but were told that the only alternative was to attend a physical exam centre, which would force them to travel during the pandemic.

Covid meant the exams, which are usually taken in April, were postponed to August.

A spokesman for the Bar Standards Board, which regulates barristers' training and practice, said: "We quite appreciate that some people need to visit the lavatory more often and our guidance was clear that anyone who might need a lavatory break during their exams was offered the opportunity to apply to go to a test centre."



**Baby love** A carer with five-month-old panda Chun Sheng, at Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, China.

### IN BRIEF

#### Pandemic put funeral price controls on hold

Funeral price controls have been delayed in the wake of Covid-19, the Competition and Markets Authority announced yesterday, despite admitting that the sector does not work well for the bereaved.

Its report found that the average cost of a funeral had increased by more than £1,000 in a decade - far higher than the rate of inflation.

It said that funeral providers would need to display the prices of services more clearly, but other remedies, including price controls and regulation, have been pushed back.

#### Surge in debt collector and childcare vacancies

Vacancies for debt collectors and childminders have surged by 20 per cent and 27 per cent respectively since the first week of July, figures show.

There are more than 1.1 million active jobs, according to the Recruitment and Employment Confederation, including an extra 125,000 vacancies posted in the past week, the highest since late March.

Adverts for gardeners have risen the most in the past week, by 24.8 per cent, followed by construction workers, painters and decorators, all up by around 15 per cent.

#### Lockdown leads to more vlogging by over-55s

The lockdown has led to a rise in people vlogging - video blogging - research suggests. A study by Sony says half of Britons created video content for social media more than three times a week during lockdown, an increase of 20 per cent. Despite such activity being seen as one for young people, the research found that the highest uptake in video creation was among the over-55s, rising 27 per cent compared with the pre-lockdown figures. Earlier this year, Sony launched its first device aimed specifically at vloggers - the ZV-1.

#### Nearly 300 at sandwich factory test positive

A coronavirus outbreak has occurred at a Northampton sandwich factory after nearly 300 workers tested positive. Greencore, the UK's largest maker of pre-packaged sandwiches, tested workers as a result of a rise in cases in the town. The outbreak at the food company has seen 292 confirmed cases of Covid-19.

Northampton had 85 new cases last week, up from 66 the week before. It is one of 29 places on Public Health England's watch list, although local lockdowns have not been imposed across all of them.