

## National context

### Government's daily press conference

The press conference was chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak.

The latest coronavirus figures were reported: 302,599 people have been tested, 93,873 of whom have tested positive. 19,706 people in the UK have been admitted to hospital with the virus, and there have been 12,107 deaths.

Analysis undertaken by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) on the effect of coronavirus on the economy, was highlighted. The figures suggest that the impact on the economy will be severe, however this is expected to be temporary. The Government confirmed that their response aims to help both people and businesses and that this will in turn support economic recovery.

Also confirmed was that the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care will provide an update on plans for adult social care tomorrow.

The slides and datasets to accompany today's coronavirus press conference will be available to [view online](#).

### OBR analysis of the economic impact of coronavirus

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has [published](#) its analysis of the possible economic impact of coronavirus. The OBR's modelling is based on a tight lockdown for three months, followed by a partial lockdown for a further three months. The analysis predicts: GDP to fall by 35% in the second quarter of this year, but to quickly recover once things return to normal; unemployment to rise by 2 million to 10% in the second quarter of this year, taking longer to recover than GDP and; government borrowing to be £218bn higher this year than planned. Most of the economic disruption is likely to be temporary. However, the amount of long-term economic damage will increase the longer the situation lasts.

### Coronavirus emergency response fund

The Treasury has [confirmed](#) that £14.5 billion from the Coronavirus emergency response fund will go towards public services, including the NHS and local authorities. Of this, £1.6 billion will go to local authorities to help them deal with additional spending pressures arising from the coronavirus pandemic. The funding is being allocated according to assessments of spending needs in 2013–14 – the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has [published](#) a short report which considers the funding allocations.

### Support for domestic abuse victims

The Home Secretary, Priti Patel, [launched](#) a new public awareness raising campaign, under the hashtag #YouAreNotAlone, highlighting that if anyone is at risk of or experiencing domestic abuse, help is available. The campaign will be publicising support available including the 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline number – 0808 2000 247 – run by Refuge, and the website - [www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk).

Train companies have [announced](#) that people fleeing domestic abuse during the coronavirus restrictions can apply for free train travel to refuge accommodation. The ['rail to refuge' scheme](#) is a partnership between train companies and Women's Aid.

## Personal protective equipment (PPE)

A new cross-government [3-strand plan](#) to ensure that PPE is delivered to those on the frontline has been published by Health and Social Care Secretary, Matt Hancock. In addition, a [new PPE hub](#) has been created to provide easy access to all the Government's guidance on PPE.

## Adoption support

The Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, has [announced](#) an £8 million fund to be used by local authorities and regional adoption agencies to pay for activities such as virtual peer to peer support, access to helplines and counselling to meet additional needs of adoptive parents arising from the outbreak of coronavirus.

## Schools

The Department for Education has updated the [school closures guidance](#) with information on mental health issues, educational staff from overseas, primary school place offers for April 2020, exclusion and the governing board's duty to reinstate excluded pupils. In addition, the Department has [added](#) new guidance on the coronavirus impact on school admission appeals.

## Awarding technical and vocational qualifications

Ofqual has [published](#) information on calculated results for qualifications used for progression to higher and further education. Arrangements for other qualifications will be issued soon.

## Self-employment Income Support Scheme

HMRC has [published](#) new guidance which outlines how they will assess self-employed people's eligibility for the Self-employment Income Support Scheme, based on total income and trading profits.

## Testing

NHS England has confirmed in a [letter](#) that testing will be extended to NHS staff and household members outside of acute care, who are in the first three days of the onset of COVID-19 symptoms. Health organisations will continue to give priority to testing patients admitted to hospitals with possible COVID-19 symptoms and to ensuring staff working in critical care, emergency departments and ambulance services are able to work. In the coming weeks and months testing will be extended to sectors outside the NHS, including social care – this is in Pillar 2 of the [National Testing Strategy](#).

The first of three 'Lighthouse Labs' - diagnostics facility with the capacity to test tens of thousands of patient samples each day for coronavirus – has opened in Milton Keynes. Two further 'Lighthouse Labs' will be opened in Alderley Park and Glasgow in the next two weeks.

## Shielding programme

The Communities Secretary, Robert Jenrick, has [announced](#) the former Olympic director, Chris Townsend OBE, has been appointed to lead the Government's shielding programme to protect those at highest risk from coronavirus.

## Looking Out For Each Other campaign

The Government has [launched](#) a 'Looking Out For Each Other' campaign. The campaign aims to inform those who are well and not at risk, of the things that they can do to help support their friends and neighbours who need to stay at home because of coronavirus.

## International aid

The International Development Secretary, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, has [announced](#) a package of £200 million that will back UK charities and international organisations to help reduce mass

infections in developing countries which often lack the healthcare systems to track and halt the virus.

## Gas safety checks

The Health and Safety Executive has published further guidance setting out [advice on undertaking gas safety checks](#) in a range of scenarios.

## Medicines

The [Commission of Human Medicines](#) Expert Working Group on coronavirus has [concluded](#) that there is currently insufficient evidence to establish a link between use of ibuprofen, or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, and susceptibility to contracting COVID-19 or the worsening of its symptoms.

The government of India has approved the export of 2,800,000 packets of paracetamol to the UK. The medicine will be distributed to leading UK supermarkets and retailers.

## Local context

### Personal protective equipment (PPE)

The second tranche of PPE arrived from the Government in Hampshire on Friday (10 April). This follows the first delivery which was received on 8 April. The PPE has been checked into the warehouse and distribution began today (14 April). No further government deliveries are currently expected. Volunteer drivers and military personnel are among those supporting the distribution of supplies to priority areas.

### Countryside posters

Hampshire County Council has produced a series of safety information posters on using public rights of way during the coronavirus pandemic. The notices are in line with Defra and Public Health England guidance – including instructions to keep to the path, remain at least 2m away from others and not to stop and picnic.

## Additional links

- Hampshire County Council webpages on coronavirus (including links to press releases): <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus>
- Latest information on coronavirus: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- NHS information on coronavirus: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Q&A from Public Health England on coronavirus: <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>
- Guidance for local government: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-government>
- County Councils Network (CCN) coronavirus information pages: <https://www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk/coronavirus-information-for-local-authorities/>
- Local Government Association (LGA) councillor guidance: <https://www.local.gov.uk/covid-19-outbreak-councillor-guidance>

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