

Freedom and Responsibility

Report into the UK Covid Response: UK Government Harmful Measures



Legalisation of Government Criminal Negligence

- The Coronavirus Act legalises criminal negligence which is preventable. Whilst it may be advisable to provide cover for volunteers, the Act goes far beyond the remit of what is necessary and effectively blanket insulates lower tier staff, managers, bureaucrats and ministers from prosecution for poor planning, preparation or execution.
- Given that the policy provides blanket cover, it will fail to disincentivise actions which will harm patients and likely cost lives. Whilst staff who are placed in compromising positions must be protected, this legislation goes too far.

Psychologically Harmful Forced Confinement

- Forced confinement has been shown to have many detrimental impacts upon mental health, including anxiety and depression, with long-term lingering effects.
- For those who live by themselves, forced confinement amounts to solitary confinement, a form of torture. The social distancing and media hysteria effectively prevents normal interaction outside, increasing social detachment and isolation.
- Similarly, for those suffering from mental health conditions, it can also be extremely distressing.
- A number of people have already committed suicide due to the Government measures, although the full cost will likely be borne in the many years to come.
- These costs to mental health are likely to far outweigh the low level of harm caused by the virus directly.

Prevention of Safe Economic Activity among Healthy Households

- Whilst households with at-risk individuals may face risk from going outside, the majority of households do not have at risk individuals and therefore can safely attend work without adverse consequences.
- Government forced confinement prevents these individuals from attending employment, like leading to 800,000 businesses going bust immediately, roughly 40% of businesses closing and debt to GDP strongly exceeding 100% for the first time in 60 years.
- Government bailouts further in debt the UK and will lead to huge spending cuts by future government, significantly harming many, or bankruptcy. The language used in the insistence on banks providing bailouts to companies which are likely to fail has a significant chance to cause another financial meltdown, based on a modern iteration of the 'Greenspan Put'.
- Unless ended, the UK economy will suffer permanent financial damage which will inevitably lead to huge social damage to health and other factors.

Prevention of Herd Immunity among Healthy Households

- Herd immunity at a level of 60% has been suggested by UK health officials to be sufficient to protect many of the most at-risk individuals, as fewer of the people that they come into contact with will emit the disease.
- By preventing the economic engagement of healthy households, the Government prevent herd immunity in the population, meaning that by the Winter the NHS could face a greater burden, as opposed to the relative glut during Summer months.

Introducing Emergency Powers which Limit Government Oversight

- Emergency powers reduce oversight of government, preventing the public from adequately scrutinising their representatives. This directly impacts democratic function of the UK.
- Further, the normalisation of the loss of liberty has a significant track record in a host of countries of being abused and likely will in the UK, setting a watershed moment in the history of UK civil liberties.

Taking an Opportunity-Averse Attitude to Medicine Access

- Medicines with good indications to their efficacy are being barred from use, even with patient consent, due to failing to meet thresholds which do not reflect the urgency and severity of the crisis, when the time taken for large scale trials may see tens of thousands of deaths.
- Failing to respect patient choice, this deprives patients of a greater chance of survival and valuable information which could save many lives in future.

Reducing Public Exposure to Sunlight and so Overall Health

- The result of confinement is likely to be reduced sunlight exposure, leading to deficient vitamin D and lowered overall health, given the Northern climate.
- The groups most likely to be impacted by this are people with darker skin, people in large apartment buildings (likely to be on lower incomes) and the elderly (who often fail to produce sufficient Vitamin D naturally).
- Sunlight also kills viruses, indicating outdoor pursuits may be preferable to indoors, where viruses can gather and circulate, particularly in large buildings

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Failing to Reduce Barriers to Qualified Doctors Volunteering

- The opportunity-averse NHS culture, which minimises perceived 'risk', is actively turning doctors and other qualified medical professionals away from volunteering, increasing actual risk to both doctors and patients.
- Multiple layers of bureaucracy prevent doctors from practicing and thus from patients being able to access the healthcare they desire. These include requiring doctors travel into major hotspots in public transport for relatively unimportant blood tests. Patient choice is not regarded.

Continuing Facilitation of Cross-Border Infection

- The Government continues to facilitate travel of over a hundred thousand people into the UK weekly, even from epicentres, despite this proven harmful.
- This further retards any efforts to control the disease domestically.

Using Flawed Data and Inaccurately Recording Deaths

- The UK has been reliant primarily upon the demonstrably false data from China. The UK also relies heavily upon discredited advice from the 'World Health Organisation', which failed fundamentally in its handling of the crisis.
- The UK continues to unscientifically register deaths 'with' the disease as 'of' the disease, despite having the capacity to do otherwise at present.
- The UK Government continues to bow to media hysteria and contributes to a climate of fear and stress, thus harming the immune systems of its citizens.