

Communications and social media

Press / Media

Press Office has been approached by print and broadcast outlets, including Sky and BBC, on a number of small boat incidents this morning. There are reports that some of the migrants who were picked up are presenting with symptoms of COVID-19. Press Office is working with Border Force colleagues to correct this and gather further information.

We continue to be approached by journalists on COVID-19 and social distancing in immigration removal centres, with some outlets reporting that detainees in three difference centres are now showing symptoms. Press Office is working with policy colleagues to agree lines.

We will be publishing revised guidance on DBS checks for community volunteers following the Prime Minister's announcement. We are also preparing a reactive Q&A on expedited checks for health and social care professionals.

Press Office has drafted a social media schedule of content for the Home Office, Home Secretary and the Policing Minister which shows how the police are supporting communities and enforcing restrictions. We will continue to update this.

Policing: The role of police in enforcing social distancing measures continues to attract media scrutiny. The Telegraph reports today that officers will 'persuade, cajole, negotiate and advise' the public to follow restrictions. Reporting also focuses on the possibility that those who fail to comply could be issued with £30 penalty notices.

Crime: [The Guardian](#) reports that police chiefs have warned the coronavirus pandemic could "bring out the worst in humanity" after a spate of opportunistic crimes hindered efforts to control the crisis. [The Mirror](#) reports that online crime could rise during the coronavirus outbreak as more people spend time on the internet, the Justice Secretary has warned. Robert Buckland told the Commons Justice Committee on Tuesday the country may also see more cases of fraud and domestic abuse.

Immigration: The [BBC \(online\)](#) has reported this morning on claims from campaigners that three immigration removal centres are housing people with symptoms of coronavirus. The BBC adds that Brook House (near Gatwick Airport) has been placed on "lockdown", according to detainees. The article notes that a High Court challenge has been brought against the Home Office in an attempt to have detainees temporarily released whilst the coronavirus crisis is ongoing.

Yesterday, the Home Office announced an extension of visas for those unable to return home due to flight restrictions or self-isolation caused by COVID-19, which was covered by [The Independent](#), [The Press Association](#), [The Metro](#) and in international media, such as [Hindustan Times](#) and [7news](#) (Australia).

Digital

Posting an animation on Twitter with accompanying text at 10.30am to promote yesterday's announcement on visa extensions until the 31 May 2020 for those who cannot leave the UK because of travel restrictions or self-isolation related to COVID-19.

Amplifying content from OGDs (specifically No10 and DHSC) on Covid-19.

Strat Comms

Updated PHE posters will be delivered to all ports today

The External Affairs team are having meetings with Domestic Abuse charities including SafeLives, Refuge, Women's Aid and Mankind to discuss key issues they are facing, and how we can support their services and amplify messaging. We're sharing their insights with Press and policy to inform our key messaging and comms to reassure domestic abuse victims. We have also shared insights from calls to CSE stakeholders with policy, and are discussing next steps.

Internal Comms

G7 – SCS dial ins for internal comms



Home Office

25/03/2020

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

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