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CORONAVIRUS CRISIS



Thorny questions: Dominic Cummings faces the press in the rose garden at No.10 yesterday
COURTESY FRANKFOLK

- 'I don't regret what I did' says Cummings
- No thought of quitting over breach of lockdown
- 260-mile drive to his parents 'perfectly legal'
- And that trip out? It 'was to test his eyesight'

STAY ELITE

DOMINIC CUMMINGS yesterday refused to apologise and said he had not even thought about resigning as he insisted his 260-mile trip at the bright of lockdown was within the rules.

Boris Johnson's chief adviser said he had no regrets about taking his wife and child to stay in a 'not very nice' cottage on his parents' farm on March 27.

At the time, the official government message - now changed to 'stay alert' - was 'stay at home'. But Mr Cummings denied there was one rule for him and another for everyone else.

He confirmed that, on his wife's birthday during their stay near Durham, the family drove 30 miles to scenic Barnard Castle.

But he said it was only to check that his eyesight, which had been affected by coronavirus, would be OK for the drive back to London.

During the trip out they stopped to play in the woods, he confessed.

The prime minister continued to stand by Mr Cummings last

by DOMINIC YEATMAN

night. But scientists warned his actions had left the lockdown 'trashed' and more than 20 Conservative MPs said he should be sacked.

Labour's Jonathan Ashworth, the shadow health secretary, said millions had made 'extraordinary sacrifices' by staying at home.

'It really is one rule for the PM and his elite friends and another for the rest of us,' he added as the official UK death toll rose another 121 to 36,914.

Mr Cummings said he had decided to head north to be near family after his wife Mary developed symptoms of Covid-19. He said he was worried there would be no one to look after their four-year-old son if they both became ill.

Fighting to save his career at a press conference in the garden of No.10, he insisted he hadn't broken the stay at home rules because



Defending Dom: Boris Johnson at Briefing

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