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Coronavirus: Quarantine restrictions for travellers from Greece

🕒 2 September 2020 · [Comments](#)



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| Travellers re-entering the UK from Greece currently do not have to quarantine

Quarantine restrictions will be imposed on people travelling from Greece to Scotland, the Scottish government has announced.

They will be required to isolate for 14 days if they arrive in Scotland after 04:00 on Thursday.

Ministers said they have taken the move due to a "significant rise" in cases of Covid-19 being brought into Scotland from people who have been to Greece.

It has been linked to travellers returning from the Greek islands.

As a result, the country has been removed from the "travel corridor" exemption list on public health grounds.

The prevalence of Covid-19 in Greece is currently about 20 per 100,000, but a number of cases of the virus in Scotland have been traced back to travel from Greece.

They include a passenger who flew to Glasgow from Zante on 23 August.

Proportionate and targeted action

The deputy first minister, John Swinney, told Good Morning Scotland that there had been "an increased number of cases coming in from Greece as a consequence of international travel".

He said: "We judge, based on the evidence available to us, there is a necessity to apply that quarantine restriction and that's to essentially protect us here in Scotland from a spread of the virus as a consequence of importation from other countries."

Asked why the restriction covered the whole of Greece when media reports suggested there was a particular problem with some islands, Mr Swinney said: "The whole process of travel can generate some of the cases that are taking their course".

So he said it was "proportionate" and designed to "give us as much protection as possible here domestically to avoid a rise in cases and that's what we're trying to avoid at all possible costs".

He added that it was important to take proportionate and targeted action where it was possible to do so.



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Travellers returning to the UK from the Greek island of Zante have tested positive for coronavirus

Scotland's chief medical officer Dr Gregor Smith said: "There is a compelling public health risk around importation of the virus, especially given the number of imported cases linked to the Greek islands.

"The flow of travel between Scotland and Greece, and the behaviour we have seen from some of those travellers, means that on public health grounds there is a strong case - supported by public health directors - to remove Greece from the exemption list."

'A bit harsh'

Greece's Tourism Minister **Harry Theoharis said the restrictions were "a bit harsh"**.

He said every country had a right to protect its citizens, but that Greece was "well below" the 20 cases per 100,000 threshold that the UK nations use as a guide for imposing quarantine restrictions on returning travellers.

Mr Theoharis added: "We have put in place a comprehensive set of protocols and measures... We take targeted measures where we see concentration."

He added that Greece conducted the fifth most tests in Europe.

"We feel that we have taken every possible precaution", he added.

Which countries are on Scotland's quarantine list?

Spain		Austria	
Croatia		Trinidad & Tobago	
Switzerland		Aruba	
Czech Republic		Turks and Caicos	
Jamaica		Monaco	
France		Luxembourg	
The Netherlands		Andorra	
Malta		The Bahamas	
Belgium		Greece*	

*Greece quarantine for arrivals after 04:00 on Thursday

People travelling to Scotland from these countries are subject **quarantine restrictions**.



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Holidaymakers have tested positive for coronavirus after flights to the UK from Zante

Travellers **arriving home to Wales** from Zante are also being asked to self-isolate for 14 days.

Wales' Health Minister Vaughan Gething said there were six clusters of cases, amounting to 30 infections, linked to flights from the Greek island.

Meanwhile, ministers are considering re-imposing quarantine measures **for those arriving in the UK from Portugal** as coronavirus cases rise, sources have told the BBC.

The UK considers imposing quarantine on travellers when a country's infection rate exceeds 20 cases per 100,000, over seven days.

But each of the four nations can add or remove countries to their own list.

Mike Tibbert, vice president of the Scottish Passenger Agents' Association, said he is "extremely concerned" about the workload being placed on its members by the changing quarantine rules.

"The removal of Greece in this ongoing hokey-cokey of countries which are 'in or out' means it's impossible for Scots to plan or reorganise a holiday which they have already paid for. And equally impossible for our members to run a business," he said.

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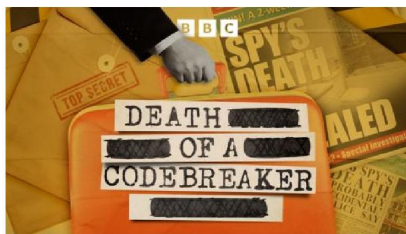
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