



The scene at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, this week. Jason Leitch, Scotland’s national clinical director, has apologised for his comments to the BBC

PRESS ASSOCIATION

CORONAVIRUS

Coronavirus in Scotland: Clinical director Jason Leitch sorry for his herd immunity claim

Mark McLaughlin

Saturday May 30 2020, 12.01am, The Times

Scotland’s national clinical director has apologised for his claim that the Scottish government was following a “herd immunity” strategy in the early stages of the coronavirus outbreak.

Jason Leitch said he was “unusually sorry” for telling the BBC that the Scottish government wanted to gradually increase the number of people infected with coronavirus on March 10.

Professor Leitch doubled down in a Channel 4 interview six days later, expressing agreement with Sir Patrick Vallance, the

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the plan to tackle COVID-19.

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Nicola Sturgeon, the first minister, and Boris Johnson, the prime minister, later denied pursuing herd immunity after scientists warned it could see up to 80 per cent of the population infected and lead to 250,000 deaths.

Ms Sturgeon is under fresh scrutiny over decisions taken in early March as more details emerge about Scotland's [earliest known outbreak at a Nike conference in Edinburgh](#) in February that was not disclosed to the public.

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Public Health Scotland conducted just 1,393 tests in the eight days from March 2, when a Dutch delegate at the Nike conference tested positive.

Just 26 new cases were detected, including eight linked to the conference, but on March 11 PHS found the first case that could

not be linked to international travel, the conference or any other known carrier

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Speaking at the daily briefing today, Mr Leitch said he regretted uttering the phrase “herd immunity”.

He said: “Any suggestion that any adviser wants people to die during this pandemic and that will make the world a safer place . . . is completely false and upsetting.

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Κέντρωμα

“The suggestion that immunity will be helpful for the virus and a pandemic remains true, we just don’t know what that immunity means yet. Five months in, we don’t know if we get long-term immunity, we don’t know if that immunity means you can’t be reinfected, but it looks as though from the global evidence you probably can’t.

“If you watch the whole Channel 4 interview, I was asked, ‘Do you agree with Sir Patrick Vallance?’ and I said ‘yes’ because Patrick Vallance is the chief scientific adviser of the UK and we’ve tried as much as possible to have consensual clinical advice.

“So I am unusually sorry that that word has become something bigger than it was ever intended to be in those early interviews two and half months ago, and things have moved on considerably, including the science.”

Coronavirus

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Duncan F aka Misdemeanor Outlaw

29 MAY, 2020

Jason Leitch.

Pretendy Professor and Dentist.

What on earth makes him an expert on pandemics ?

SNP yes man would appear to be the requisite qualification.

(Edited)
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Peter Wright

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Yes, Honarary Professor Jason Leitch, Dental Surgeon does not have the same pizzazz, does it?

He certainly knows a lot about big mouths.

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S Henderson aka Moraig McDiarmid

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29 MAY, 2020

Jason Leitch told Piers Morgan on national TV that he would have gone with his wife to the Stereophonics concert on 11th March. On 12th March he said about the Old Firm game of 14th March that there was:

"very, very weak evidence - despite what you intuitively think about being in a big, open air st...**See more**

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Graham McDowall

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Like a number of the experts who have given advice to politicians and the public he has been very wrong on occasions.

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Valeman

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The only problem with hindsight is it has a nasty habit of coming back at you

On the 12th March when Nicola was announcing mass gatherings would be cancelled the following weekend, Boris that same day said:

"We are considering the question of banning major public events such as sporting fixtures. The...**See more**

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Just what evidence does Leitch have that lockdown magically delivers immunity?

The truth is that, barring an effective vaccine, which is looking rather unlikely, we are all going to have to face this in the end.

So, a managed release from lockdown, in a way which hopefully won't overstress the SNHS, ...**See more**

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**I****Ian Clinton**

29 MAY, 2020

Shocking and it clear that the SG are directly responsible for the terrible death rate in Care Homes, Hospitals and the community generally. Leitch clearly, could live with the SNP lies. I understand he is very critical of Sturgeon in private.

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S**stewart wilson**

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Bit like Gordon Jackson and Salmond, then. Take the money and rubbish them elsewhere. Seems fair enough: what, given their behaviour, do they expect, or deserve?

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C**Cats Lockhart**

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S**Sheila Redfern**

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Look McMate, you're supposed to follow Wee Nickys script to the letter. No freelancing, or else !

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T**The Lego Economy**

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The new CMO is clearly not standing up to the government either as politics is deciding what happens not evidence based practice.

(Edited)

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U**Unbiased**

30 MAY, 2020

Prof Leitch briefings are entertaining. He appears more like car sales man than clinical director of the nation.

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D Douglas K aka Dougie



30 MAY, 2020

I wouldn't buy a car from him!

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D Douglas K aka Dougie



30 MAY, 2020

Clearly Mr Leitch is over fond of the limelight which the virus and Sturgeon (not sure which of those two is more deadly) have provided. I wouldn't mind that if he was qualified to talk about his remit but he is not - and that is abundantly clear from his public outings over the past couple of mon...**See more**

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V Valeman



30 MAY, 2020

When considering the circus of clowns running the UK government approach to Covid your comments about the FM and ScotGov are absolutely hilarious in their complete denial of the cluster bourach being presided over by the senior parliament in Westminster.

Have you not heard the latest concerning th...**See more**

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C CBR



30 MAY, 2020

When C19 arrived in Scotland, it was unfortunate that neither the NCD or the CMO had a background in public health . Even a basic understanding of the subject would have helped.

Still ,we are where we are. The new CMO is the invisible man. On medical matters ,the CMO should be centre stage. That ...**See more**

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A Alan Rodger



30 MAY, 2020

The "new CMO" is in fact the Acting CMO (and his deputy is also, I believe, acting). It is to be hoped that eventually

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remember some who were not and even way back the odd long-term civil s...**See more**

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Fin de Siecle

30 MAY, 2020



Erradicating CV19 is like trying to eradicate the common cold. It's impossible. It's in the human biosphere forever. Many of us have had it by now and hardly noticed, some have got sick, the old and frail have died. (80 is the median age of CV19 deaths) . This is the new normal. The sooner w...**See more**

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