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Nicola Sturgeon's Covid care home policy DID 'cause harm' says Jason Leitch - but he has no regrets

The outgoing first minister and former health secretary Jeane Freeman have been dubbed the 'Shipman Sisters' for their role in sending untested hospital patients into care homes weeks into the first Covid lockdown

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Nicola Sturgeon has found herself under fire for the Scottish Government's early Covid care home policy (Image: Getty Images)

Scotland's national clinical director has admitted the **SNP government's** policy of placing untested patients into care homes at the start of the Covid pandemic did 'cause harm'. But **Professor Jason Leitch** said he had no regrets about the policy as he also looked to take a pop at the Scottish Daily Express.

It emerged this week that **Nicola Sturgeon** would need to give evidence at the UK-wide **Covid** Inquiry early next year as it will probe her decision-making in Scotland.

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Ms Sturgeon and then-health minister Jeane Freeman have been **dubbed the 'Snipman Sisters' by campaigners** for their care home policy in those first few weeks of lockdown. Hundreds of untested older people were transferred from hospitals to care homes, with the Scottish Government waiting almost a week after the **UK Government** to ditch the practice.

READ MORE: [Jason Leitch says he fronted Scottish Covid response because 'half the country' didn't like Sturgeon](#)

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And speaking on the anniversary of the first full lockdown being announced on March 23, 2023, Prof Leitch seemed to acknowledge the policy had been a mistake. Asked on **Radio Scotland's** Good Morning Scotland show if he regretted the strategy, he said: "I'm not sure regret is the right word but I think that will remain with me for the rest of my life.

"There is a sadness today and a sadness every day in many lives around this country. And the decision to protect people who were in hospital, because we knew Covid was coming to the hospitals, and moving them to their homes, which on some occasions were care homes, of course was a very, very difficult thing and in hindsight, that did cause some harm.

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Professor Jason Leitch (Image: Scottish Government Handout)

"The reality is we will never know what would have happened if we left them in hospital when Covid was arriving. But all of those nuanced choices - the schools closures, the closing of places of worship across the country - these were enormously difficult pieces of advice and the people who made the decisions, I think it will stay with them and with me forever."

Prof Leitch also dismissed the Scottish Express story on what he said to worshippers at a church in Edinburgh. We told at the weekend he had said it might have been a mistake to lockdown schools and that lockdown was "an old-fashioned approach to managing a disease". He also revealed he played such a visible role in the Covid response because at least half the country didn't like Nicola Sturgeon.

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But he told host Gary Robertson: "You shouldn't believe everything you read in the media," before admitting that he had said the quotes attributed to him. He added: "The only thing we had was an old-fashioned approach. That was the only thing we had for the very reasons I've just described. No drugs, no vaccine, no other way."

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Blood Leitch as guilty as Shipman sisters

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GOod luck getting answers from Sturgeon. It will either be, 'Nodody told her,' or 'I can't recall Covid.'

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2

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Was he party to advising in his role ??? If so, he is implicated

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Is Radio Scotland Breakfast show TRYING to get involved in a Police Inquiry, to make a charge of Corporate Manslaughter impossible? In my opinion Bloodsucking Leich has incriminated himself.

Care home residents, in hospital testing POSITIVE, were returned to there care homes resulting in DEATH. Because Sturgeon "DETESTS" Westminster and England and refused to anything THEY

were doing delayed ONE WEEK causing death (CORPORATE MANSLAUGHTER)

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