

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

- a. From a **non-COVID health perspective**, the redirection of NHS resources to deal with the epidemic has included the cancellation of all non-urgent elective operations. People will in general terms be exercising less, and there will be implications for mental health. The effect of these 'net health' impacts has not yet been quantified.
 - b. From an **economic perspective**, activity has reduced further than expected even after taking account of the mitigation measures. ONS data shows that 45% of firms across all sectors, including "non-closed" sectors, were reporting an abnormal fall in turnover from 9-22 March, and that this was substantially higher in some sub-sectors. These effects will worsen over time, the longer the current set of measures and headline messages remain in place. There have been more than 1 million Universal Credit claims across Great Britain since the lockdown measures were put in place.
 - c. From a **societal perspective**, people's wellbeing has been impaired: based on survey data, 24% say they are feeling more lonely than usual; the Samaritans has observed a 21% increase in contact; there has been a 400% increase in Google searches for 'food bank'; Refuge reports a 65% increase in calls to the national domestic abuse helpline; and only 1.5% of pupils remain in school. In England, only 4% of vulnerable children are in school, despite the policy that most vulnerable children should remain in school.
6. **In short, the current package of social distancing measures need to be fully assessed for their effectiveness, but it is too early to vary them.** In due course, when the evidence suggests the virus has been suppressed to a sufficient level, there will be some complex decisions to take about how the measures could be varied safely, given the wider societal and economic effects.

Messaging this week

7. In the immediate term, it remains essential that compliance continues through the long Easter bank holiday weekend. As a consequence, today's press conference will be used to reinforce the **need for continued compliance over Easter**. The government will also confirm that it **is keeping the measures under review**, in light of the latest scientific evidence, noting that SAGE will meet next week to assess the impact of the measures.