



**Glasgow/Argyll:** It will be a sunny day with some light drizzle. High 16C (61F).

**Edinburgh:** Dry with some sun, but there will be more clouds. High 16C (61F).

**Fife/Dundee:** Dry with some sun, but there will be more clouds. High 15C (59F).

**The Borders:** Dry with some sun, but there will be more clouds. High 15C (59F).

**SW Scotland:** Dry with some sun, but there will be more clouds. High 15C (59F).

**Shetland/Orkney:** Dry with some sun, but there will be more clouds. High 15C (59F).

**UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW:** Cloud cover will tend to build during the day with westerly winds.

**Caitness/North West:** Dry with sunny spells and patches of cloud. High 14C (57F).

**Falkirk/Stirling:** Dry with sunny spells and patches of cloud. High 14C (57F).

**Central Highlands:** Mostly cloudy day with some sun. Light drizzle. High 14C (57F).

**Moray Firth/Aberdeen:** A dry day with a sun. High 14C (57F).

**England, Wales and Northern Ireland:** Dry with sunny spells but some clouds. High 18C (64F).

**Sea:** Breeze, Irish Sea: Slight.

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	min max	min max	min max	min max	min max	min max
Glasgow	11 16	12 17	13 18	11 16	11 16	11 16
Aberdeen	10 15	11 16	13 16	12 18	10 16	10 14
Belfast	12 16	12 18	14 17	12 18	10 16	10 15
Cardiff	10 18	11 18	15 19	15 20	11 20	11 20
Edinburgh	10 16	11 16	14 18	12 18	9 17	9 16
Inverness	10 16	11 17	13 20	11 19	9 16	9 14
London	12 18	12 19	15 21	16 22	13 23	12 21
Manchester	10 17	11 17	15 19	13 20	11 19	10 18
Newcastle	7 16	9 17	14 18	12 20	9 18	9 16

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**The National Lottery**  
**JACKPOT £7.4MILLION**  
**5 10 21 47 51 57** BONUS BALL **16**  
**THUNDERBALL**  
**1 2 4 5 12** THUNDERBALL **1**

**The Health Lottery**  
**DRAW ON SATURDAY AUGUST 29, 2020**  
**18 29 37 47 48** BONUS BALL **34**  
The society benefiting from all draws in the month ending August 31 is Health Lottery South East.

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# SNP ACCUSED OF THROWING OUR CHILDREN UNDER A BUS

**EXCLUSIVE**

By **Lucy Johnston** and **Paula Murray**

THE SNP has “thrown school children under the bus” over face masks because it is so keen to embarrass Westminster, a professor and UK Government adviser has claimed.

Professor Robert Dingwall said the decision to make pupils wear masks in Scottish schools was a “deliberate attempt to make mischief”. Shortly after the Holyrood decision, the UK Government, which had ruled out masks in schools, U-turned, saying they would be needed where a local lockdown was in place or at the headteacher’s discretion.

The move prompted Sir Charles Walker, vice-chairman of the 1922



**CLAIMS: Prof Robert Dingwall**

committee of backbench Tory MPs, to accuse the government of repeatedly following the Scottish lead.

Speaking in a personal capacity, Prof Dingwall said he believed the SNP manoeuvres were aimed at “embarrassing” Westminster.

They came at a time when education secretary Gavin Williamson was reeling from the A-level fiasco and also preyed on the fears of parents nervous about children returning to class in England, he said.

A “kind or compassionate” government would not compel children to wear masks, said the professor.

He explained that before the mask row he could understand why the Scottish Government might have taken a different approach to the rest of the UK because of the uncertainty of the science.

“If Scotland and Westminster diverge, this does not have to mean the Scottish path has been chosen to promote the SNP at the expense of the UK Government,” he said. “And I’ve cut the Scottish Government a fair bit of slack in their management of the Covid-19 pandemic.”

But the professor of sociology at Nottingham Trent University added: “This week’s fiasco over face coverings in secondary schools forces me to change my mind. The interests of Scottish children have been sacrificed

to the desire to embarrass the Westminster government.

“It is a deliberate attempt to make mischief when a weakened education minister is trying to coax fearful parents and their children back to school.”

Schools in Scotland started to reopen in the second week of August. But the mask ruling only comes into force in secondary schools from tomorrow.

Prof Dingwall suggested, if there had been genuine fears about transmission in schools, Holyrood would have acted earlier.

Ms Sturgeon claimed she was following the advice of the World Health Organisation that children over 12 should wear masks, but Prof Dingwall said the actual recommendations from the WHO were more nuanced.

He said: “The science has not changed but the political opportunity beckoned. The result is that English children have also been thrown under the bus.”

“The Scottish Government claims that the change was based on a new WHO recommendation.

“The actual WHO document is complex and elaborately worded to balance weak evidence with different political and cultural contexts.”

He said the recommendation was not just a “simple instruction to cover faces in busy corridors” but one that stressed the main value of face coverings was when there was a high level of community infection.

He suggested children would not be spending long enough in corridors for it to be a risk of transmission, adding that ventilation was a better solution.

He said: “Requiring face covering for pupils is not the action of a kind or compassionate government.

“Implementation beyond the legal minimum is not the action of a teaching profession that claims to have the welfare of children as its first consideration.”

Ellen Townsend, a professor of psychology at the University of Nottingham, also expressed alarm, saying she was worried masks in schools contradicted the rights of children with the rights of adults superseding them. She added: “Most

**CORONAVIRUS:**

**SCHOOLS MASK ROW**

By **Vivienne Nicoll**

CARE homes in Scotland had fewer excess deaths at the height of the coronavirus pandemic than England and Wales, according to a new report.

A study co-ordinated from Stirling University’s management school found homes in England recorded a 79 per cent increase in excess deaths compared to 66 per cent in Wales, 62 per cent in Scotland and 46 per cent in Northern Ireland.

However, Scotland had the highest proportion of care homes affected by the virus and the highest proportion of care home deaths attributed to Covid-19.

In Scotland, 47 per cent of deaths linked to the pandemic occurred in care homes compared with 42 per cent in Northern Ireland and 30 per cent in England and 28 per cent in Wales.

The findings form part of a larger study offering an insight into the impact of the virus on the

**‘Deficiencies have been highlighted’**

UK’s care sector. Professor David Bell, the report’s lead author, said: “Given the variation in testing and death registration practices across the UK, it will never be possible to unequivocally assign care home deaths during the pandemic to Covid-19 or other causes.

“Therefore, measuring excess deaths presents the most reliable approach by which to assess the relative failure or success in handling the pandemic in care homes. Scotland, Wales and particularly England appear to have performed poorly.”

The study revealed significant gaps in the availability of data, including a lack of accurate and timely information on the transfers of patients from hospital into care homes and reliable data on testing of residents and staff.

It also identified an “erratic” testing strategy, constrained by the availability of tests.

Co-author Elizabeth Lemmon, from Edinburgh University, said:



**TOUGH TIMES: Care homes were badly hit by the virus**

## Scotland suffered fewer excess deaths than down south at pandemic peak

“The pandemic has brought to the fore the urgency of appropriately funding long-term health care.

“This includes the need to develop robust data collection and infrastructure that will allow us to understand and meet the needs of those individuals receiving care across the UK.

“A crucial next stage for the analysis of the impact of Covid-19 in care homes will be to understand how the virus got into

care homes in the first place. This will be very difficult with the available data. There is also a huge gap in our understanding on how the pandemic has impacted on those receiving social care in their own homes.”

Dr Dermot O’Reilly, of Queen’s University Belfast Centre for Public Health and another co-writer, said producing the report was “hampered” by the dearth of accessible and

timely data about those in contact with social services.

He added: “This is in stark contrast to the quality and availability of data relating to patients within the health system.

“These deficiencies have been dramatically highlighted during the pandemic. There is an urgent need to improve the quality of social services statistics to better understand the lived experience of the most vulnerable.”

By **Craig Paton**

## 88 new cases mark second biggest surge since May 22

SCOTLAND has recorded 88 new cases of coronavirus in the past 24 hours, the highest daily rise in the past week.

The highest number of new cases came from the Greater Glasgow and Clyde health board area, which saw a rise of 36 from Friday.

No new deaths were recorded, according to the Scottish Government.

Areas where localised outbreaks were being dealt with saw a small increase in new cases, with six in NHS Grampian, seven in Lanarkshire, 11 in Tayside and

two in the Scottish Borders. The number of people in hospital due to Covid-19 rose by three to 258, with five people in intensive care – a rise of two from the previous day.

Yesterday’s figure for new cases was the highest rise since the previous Saturday, when a jump of 123 was recorded.

However, the total is the second highest rise in a day since May 22, when 113 more people were confirmed to have contracted the virus.

The statistics come as the

## Disputes and noise on the up

By **Paula Murray**

NOISE complaints and neighbour disputes soared during the lockdown, latest figures show.

Police dealt with more than 130,000 anti-social behaviour incidents during the first quarter – an increase of 52 per cent from previous year. The increase amounted to 45,272 additional cases reported to the force.

Noise complaints rose by a third to 19,077, while neighbour disputes soared by 56 per cent to 10,169.

But the biggest increase was in public nuisance calls, many of which were in relation to non-compliance of regulations. They soared by an astonishing 167 per cent to 56,744.

The total number of anti-social behaviour incidents reported was 131,688 compared to 86,416 during the same period last year, while complaints regarding disorder went from 61,801 to 104,075 – an increase of over 68 per cent.

Charity ASB Help said it had also seen complaints shoot up between 25 and 300 per cent across the board with most related to noise.

Chief executive Rebecca Brown added: “With more people working at home and without the usual coping mechanism tools at our disposal because of the pandemic, things have quickly escalated.

“Even everyday noise, which we can usually put up with, can become irritating when you have few means of escaping it.

“The truth is that the 25 to 300 per cent increase we are seeing is actually nothing. That’s barely scratching the surface.”

She added those called to deal with noise complaints should always bear in mind there could be other issues involved, such as domestic abuse.

Scottish Government is due to release the programme for government, an annual publication detailing their plans for the coming year.

A tweet from the Scottish Government on Friday said the legislative agenda, which will last until the dissolution of parliament next year for the Scottish elections in May, will focus on the “economic and social recovery” from the pandemic, while “continuing to make Scotland the best country in the world in which to grow up, learn, work and live”.