

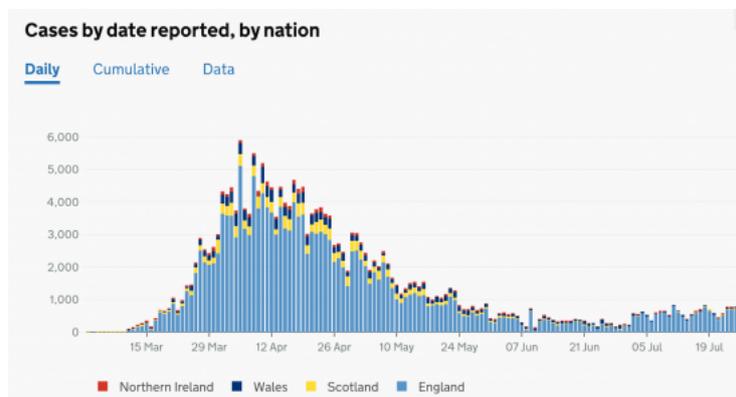
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I was out and about yesterday, enjoying time with my younger son. We were both pleased to see face masks in almost universal use in Cambridge, even if it was notable that the footfall there was way below what I would have expected.

But like so many younger people he's worried. Right now what he sees as his whole future hangs on his university being open in September. Its future might do so too. His concern is not misplaced.

And [cases are rising in the UK](#). They are double those in June. And before anyone dismisses that, remember that the growth in the spread of a virus is exponential. It always starts off looking small, but can explode.



This pandemic is not over yet. I'd love to think otherwise. I'd be happy to think that it was now controllably endemic, although that would still be pretty horribly uncomfortable.

But for those who will still get Covid 19, and those whose jobs, hopes and futures are all at risk from it, this pandemic is still very real. And government recklessness is not helping, as the case of permitting unnecessary overseas holidays proves.

People are willing to follow instruction to contain this crisis. The use of masks the

moment it became compulsory proves that. But what is missing is leadership. In some cases it's absent, sometimes (literally) in Spain.

Right now unlocking too fast, ending furlough, pre-announcing new austerity, backing away from any measures to really tackle the tsunami of unemployment coming our way, the failure to commit to a Green New Deal and the unblinking dedication to Brexit that we can be sure will bring food and medicine shortages, means it is doing everything it can to seemingly make lives worse than they need be sometime very soon.

And I just keep asking 'why?' It's the only thing to do to ask when no reasonable explanation for the government's behaviour is possible.