

I worry about how politics might come out on the other ...


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I [have already noted this morning](#) that exceptionally serious scientists and the UK's chief medical officers all agree that we face the risk of the NHS being entirely overwhelmed by the Covid crisis that we now face. The scale of risk is utterly unprecedented.

In the face of this we get the likes of Marcus Fysh MP who has said in the Express that:

Daily Express Friday, December 10, 2021

COMMENT
MARCUS FYSH
Tory MP for Yeovil



VACCINE passports that centralise personal data and segregate people going about daily lives are the thin end of a dangerous authoritarian wedge and I will not support them.

Even worse would be compulsory vaccination such as seen in some parts of Europe, and the Government should rule these things out.

We would need incredibly strong evidence of danger to give up such basic freedoms of association and control of our own bodies.

I much prefer persuasion as the way to operate in a free society. Indeed some communities that are suspicious of vaccination are just made more hesitant by the authoritarian approach.

Cautious

There is no evidence that suggests such draconian moves are necessary, and the evidence from Scotland is that vaccine passports don't even work.

The general immunity we have from vaccination and prior infections means the situation is nothing like a year ago. This is likely a part explanation for the degree of "mildness" of the Omicron variant.

It would be great if Omicron also turned out to be less severe in effect because of its mutations rather than just our immunity.

Until we know for certain I am happy to be a bit more cautious and I welcome that regular lateral flow tests will be available to keep the most infectious out of circulation rather than self-isolation rules that could result in a counterproductive "pingdemic".

Vaccine passports are no way to

Yesterday [on the BBC he said](#):

Conservative MP Marcus Fysh has told BBC Radio 5 Live that he will be "voting against vaccine passports" on Wednesday as the UK is not "Nazi Germany".

The PM announced last week that Covid passes - showing either proof of vaccination or a negative test - will be required for entry for some venues (such as nightclubs) from Wednesday, when Parliament will also vote on the measures.

Commenting on the proposals, Fysh says: "We live in a free society in this country" where "people have the freedom to do what they want with their own bodies and freedom of association".

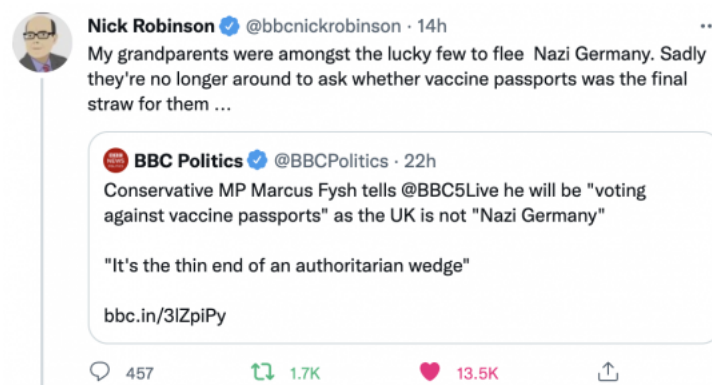
He says the concept of vaccine passports would be "segregating society based on an unacceptable thing".

Fysh goes on to say "we are not a 'papers please' society".

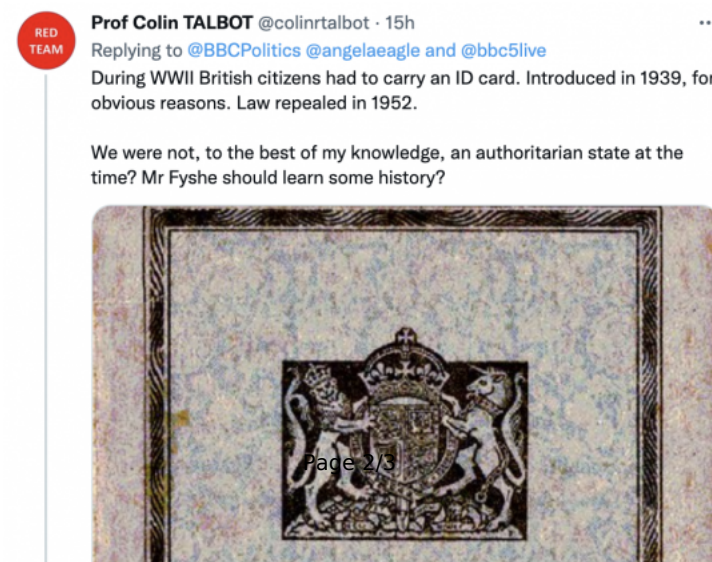
"This is not Nazi Germany," he says. "It's the thin end of an authoritarian wedge."

And this from a man who voted for voter ID to be required in future elections. His choice of 'papers please' appears to be entirely dependent upon whether it is his freedom that is being impinged, or not.

As Nick Robinson of the BBC noted:



And as Prof Colin Talbot of the University of Manchester noted:



Defeating an enemy sometimes requires actions that are necessary even if normally undesirable, such is the scale of the threat.

But, apparently, we do not face a threat from omicron according to these MPs. Note this crass tweet from last night:



It so happens that I agree that vaccine passports are not a great idea. They will not stop the spread of covid. The evidence of that is now so clear that we should instead shut all hospitality and places of mass entertainment now and require that people work from home. And we should definitely be closing schools and universities with no plan that they will reopen in January until the risk has abated, as it eventually will if that is what we do.

The government is nowhere near discussing these absolute necessities, which is what they are.

Nor, come to that is Labour. It is calling this wrong.

Instead, we have politicians frightened to use the evidence that now unambiguously exists to both demand and then decide upon the appropriate measures that we need to address the crisis that we face, which they are utterly unwilling to do.

How politics might come out the other side of this I do not know. I can only hope that something better might. But I fear it will cost a lot of lives to get to that point. If it does we will have a duty to deliver the changes to make sure this never happens again.