

Of course the government is ignoring Covid: to do other...

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The [Guardian has reported](#) this morning that:

One in five patients registered to a pair of GP surgeries in the north of England have long Covid, according to a report that lays bare stark regional inequalities.

They add:

The north-west of England had higher than average numbers of people reporting long Covid symptoms, with just over one in 20 people (5.5%), followed by the north-east and Yorkshire (5.1%).

Southern regions of England had the lowest rates overall, such as 3.4% in the south-west and 3.6% in the south-east. The average rate of long Covid across England was 4.4%.

So, on average, one in twenty-three people has long-Covid, which is quite debilitating in my eight-month experience with it. And yet the government:

- * no longer talks about Covid
- * has suppressed most Covid statistics
- * tells hospitals to treat it as a low-risk issue when it is not
- * is not providing a comprehensive vaccination programme, unlike other countries
- * is bemused as to why we have a problem with chronic sickness in the UK, which is undermining labour force availability and productivity.

Join up the dots, Wes Streeting. It isn't hard. And then treat Covid with the continued seriousness that it deserves.

Only, I can't see that happening. Covid has become a virility test for politicians of the Single Transferable Party in all its forms, including those members of it currently in

office at the Department of Health.

Treating it is presumed to deliver tacit agreement that public health is an issue, and that society exists.

Treating it is also presumed to restrict the freedom of the individual to threaten the health and well-being of others.

Neither of these things will do for a libertarian. Admitting that there is a virus that is threatening our health and social and economic well-being cannot be done. We are all paying far too high a price for that.