



Rushcliffe

Ruth's Rushcliffe Round-up!

March 2021

Budget 2021 - Helping People and Businesses get Back on their Feet

We started last month with the 2021 Budget Announcement which included some fantastic news for people and businesses in Rushcliffe. Chancellor Rishi Sunak unveiled the Government's plan for a robust UK recovery after the Coronavirus Pandemic. This included:

- An extension to the Furlough/Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme which will now run to the end of September.
- An extension to the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme to include a 4th grant and a 5th grant for those hit hardest by the pandemic.
- The introduction of Restart Grants which will support businesses opening first as we come out of lockdown.
 - An extension to the 100% Business Rates Holiday to include the first 3 months until June, before rates are cut by two-thirds for the remaining 9 months.
- No increase to VAT, Income Tax, or National Insurance. The reduced 5% VAT rate will also be extended until the end of September. In addition, this includes a freeze on all alcohol duties.
- An unprecedented tax 'Super Deduction' of up to 130% on new equipment for businesses.
- An extension to the Stamp Duty Cut until the end of June. A £250,000 nil rate band will then replace the current £500,000 band until the end of September before returning to its normal level of £125,000 from 1 October.
- An increase to National Minimum Wage to £8.91 - this will also be extended to all people over 23.

And, of course, we got our Freeport! In addition to 7 other Freeports located around the UK, the Chancellor gave the green light to our East Midlands Freeport which will be based at the East Midlands Intermodal Park in Derbyshire, East Midlands Airport, and Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station located right here in Rushcliffe. I wrote about some of the main benefits of Freeports in the House Magazine which you can read [here](#).

In Parliament, I spoke about how this announcement will deliver for people and businesses in Rushcliffe and, indeed, for our entire Region.

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RUTH EDWARDS



Member of Parliament for Rushcliffe



RUTH EDWARDS: This virus, MDS, has dealt our economy its worst blow in 300 years,

I also met with Rishi to discuss our Freeport and to say 'thank you' in-person.

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More recently, the Government has announced that Rushcliffe's local highstreets will receive extra support in the form of the Welcome Back Fund. This £56 million fund will help councils prepare for the end of lockdown and assist in revitalising our highstreets to boost tourism and shopping, improve green spaces, and provide more outdoor seating areas, markets and food stall pop-ups. Of this funding, Rushcliffe Borough Council will receive £106,209!

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill

If you follow my [Facebook page](#), you will have seen that there has been a lot of talk about the Government's new Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Bill. This Bill was introduced to fulfill the Government's primary duty to protect citizens and communities throughout the UK, ensuring they can get on with their daily lives peacefully and without unnecessary interference. The measures in the bill are directed to this end. They will:

- protect the police and other emergency workers and enhance the wellbeing of police officers and staff by increasing the custodial sentence for assaulting an emergency services worker

- protect the public by giving the police the tools needed to tackle crime and disorder, and by addressing the root causes of serious violent crime using multi-agency approaches to prevention
- uphold the right to peaceful protest while providing the police with the necessary powers to stop disruptive protests from disproportionately infringing on the rights and freedoms of others
- strengthen police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments
- ensure serious criminals spend longer in custody, including: ending the automatic halfway release point from prison for an additional cohort of serious sexual and violent offenders and making a Whole Life Order the starting point for the premeditated murder of a child
- make community sentences more effective so that they offer an appropriate level of punishment and address the underlying drivers of offending, including: piloting a problem-solving court approach for certain community and suspended sentence orders and extending the use of Electronic Monitoring
- strengthen alternatives to custody for children who have offended which promote rehabilitation, and raise the threshold for custodial remand, while at the same time ensuring that children who commit serious offences and pose a risk to the public receive sentences that reflect the seriousness of their offending
- empower future providers of Secure Schools, which represent our vision for the future of youth custody - schools with security, rather than prisons with education: with education, healthcare and purposeful activity at their heart

This Bill delivers on an important promise made to the British Public back in 2019 to champion justice and support our police to do their duty to protect ordinary people trying to get on with their everyday lives - that is why I was proud to stand up in support of it in Parliament.

[Click here:](#)



**RUTH
EDWARDS**



Member of Parliament for Rushcliffe



workers in Nottinghamshire and I want to share just some of their stories.

I have heard the accusations that this Bill will criminalise protest in the UK, but this is simply not true. As I explained on the BBC's 'The World Tonight' and 'News Night', this Bill would not criminalise peaceful protests. It would, however, give the police the powers to take action against protestors who block access to medical treatment, obstruct the printing of the free press, or prevent other people from living their lives; being able to get to work or home to see their families.

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**RUTH
EDWARDS**



Member of Parliament for Rushcliffe



RUTH EDWARDS: No, I don't think that's a fair characterisation of the Bill at all. It does not

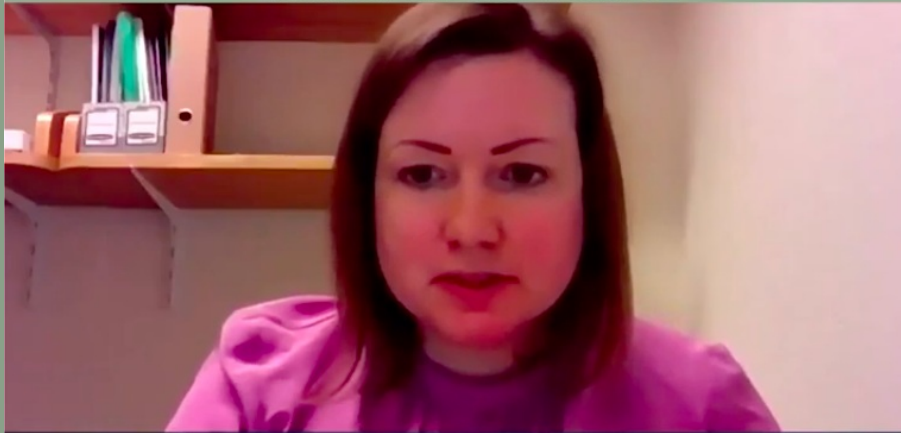
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RUTH EDWARDS



Member of Parliament for Rushcliffe



Ruth Edwards MP
Home Affairs Select Committee

NEWS N NIGH

published'. I think that's a ridiculous argument to make.

Campaign Win - Threats to Share Criminalise

As I wrote to you earlier in the month, the Government has announced that threatening to share intimate images will become a crime under the Domestic Abuse Bill with offenders facing up to 2 years in prison.

Because of the bravery of women like Natasha Saunders, a survivor of domestic abuse and passionate campaigner who I have campaigned with, many more people will now be protected from threats to share their most intimate and private moments. This new law will make what has been a tool which abusers use to control their victims a criminal offence.

The Domestic Abuse Bill will soon be coming back to the House of Commons and I will be proud to support it.

Integrated Review

On 16 March, the Government released its Integrated Review which is a comprehensive articulation of the UK's national security and international policy. It outlines three fundamental national interests that bind together the citizens of the UK - sovereignty, security and prosperity - alongside our values of democracy and a commitment to universal human rights, the rule of law, freedom of speech and faith, and equality. Since the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review, the world has changed considerably, meaning our strategic outlook must also change.

In particular, the cyber frontier is now one we must commit to exploring and navigating. With increased cyber threats from malicious actors around the world, we can no longer afford to underestimate the potential of cyber security.

I am pleased that the Integrated Review gave a firm commitment to increasing our cyber defence and capabilities to ultimately deter our adversaries and defend our interests.

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RUTH EDWARDS



Member of Parliament for Rushcliffe



to the UK's cyber capability.
Can my RHF confirm that the Integrated

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RUTH EDWARDS



Member of Parliament for Rushcliffe



RUTH EDWARDS: Very large companies that are part of the critical national infrastructure do have

Good News for Rushcliffe's Stilton Makers

Last month, the Government reached a joint agreement with the US to remove tariffs on a range of UK goods. The benefits of this will be felt across every region and nation of the United Kingdom, especially here in Rushcliffe where our world-class Stilton producers can now export to the US at a lower cost.

The US will suspend all tariffs on direct exports for the next four months from the UK to the US, resulting from the Airbus dispute, in an effort to reach a negotiated solution. This measure will come into force on Monday 8 March.

This follows the UK's decision to suspend Boeing tariffs against the US from January, a gesture of good faith which ensured the UK was not hit by further tariffs and allowed both countries to work on ending the dispute and focus on deepening our future trading relationship.

Vaccine Update

March has been another great month for our vaccine deployment in the UK. To date more than 30.9 million people have received a first dose of the vaccine, with 4.1 million people having received a second dose. More than half of UK adults have now received a vaccine dose and we are well on track to offer a vaccination to those in the top 9 cohorts of people most likely to become seriously ill with COVID-19.

The NHS in Nottinghamshire is still very much open for bookings for all residents over 50, those of any age in the clinically vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable groups, and also carers.

Over 50s book [here](#).

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable book [here](#).
(Find out if you are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable [here](#))

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(Find out if you are classed as clinically vulnerable [here](#))

Eligible Carers book [here](#).

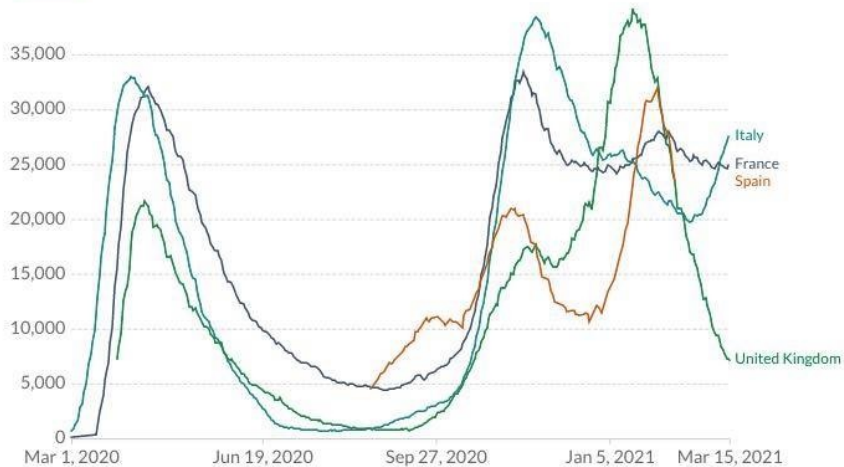
All groups can also book via the phonenumber on 0115 883 4640, open 8am to

To put our vaccine roll-out into perspective and to show the positive impact it is having, please see the graphs below taken from 'Our World in Data'.

Number of COVID-19 patients in hospital



LINEAR LOG + Add country



Source: European CDC for EU countries, government sources for other countries

OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

Feb 2, 2020 Mar 15, 2021

CHART

MAP

TABLE

SOURCES

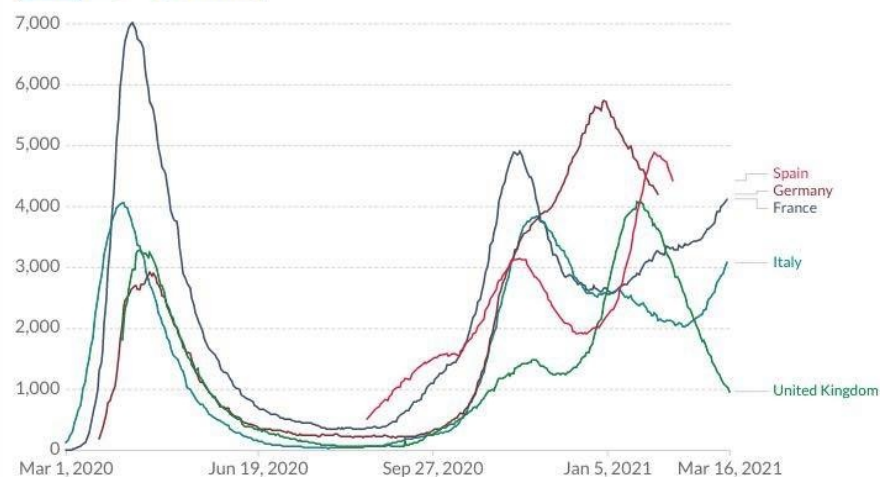
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Number of COVID-19 patients in intensive care (ICU)



LINEAR LOG + Add country



Source: European CDC for EU countries, government sources for other countries

OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

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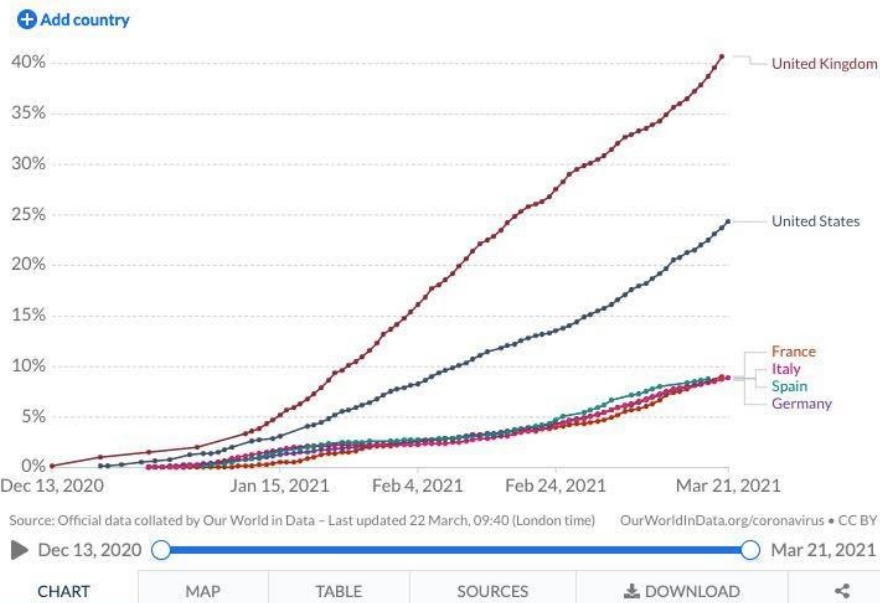
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Share of people who received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine

Share of the total population that received at least one vaccine dose. This may not equal the share that are fully vaccinated if the vaccine requires two doses.

Our World
in Data



Of course, however, we must still remember the people whose lives were tragically cut short because of this virus and the families, friends, and loved ones they left behind. On the National Day of Reflection on 24 March, I joined the rest of the country in lighting a candle in memory of those who we have lost since the pandemic began.



International Women's Day

Last month we celebrated International Women's Day - a day when we celebrate

and honour social, economic, political and cultural achievements of women.

In particular, I wanted to pay tribute to four women in Rushcliffe who have gone to great lengths to support our community during the pandemic.

Firstly, Hetvi Parekh and her Sewa Volunteer team who have done an enormous amount to support the most vulnerable during the pandemic, including providing hot meals to frontline NHS staff, 750 activity packs for children on low incomes, and supporting anyone who came to her for help.

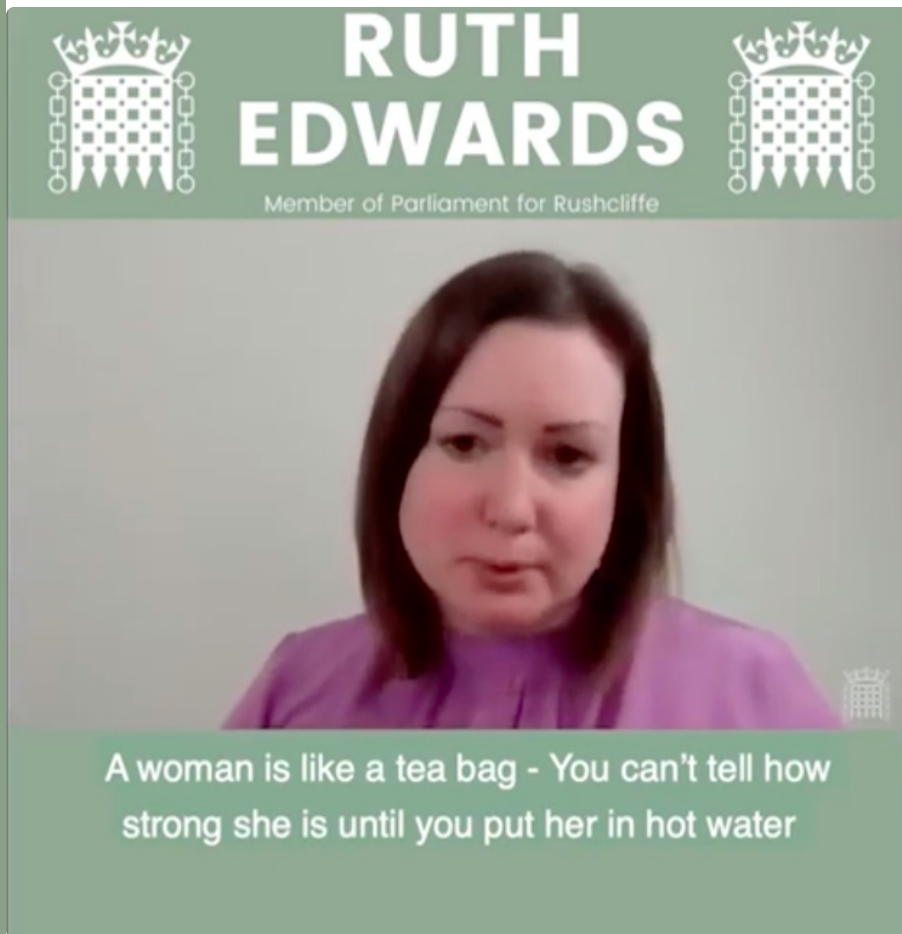
Secondly, Nicola Brindley who is helping to build a network of [19 safe spaces](#) throughout Rushcliffe to give survivors of domestic abuse a place to access vital support service.

Thirdly, Farah Jamil who is using her Meet, Greet and Eat project to help adults with additional needs build confidence, communication and practical skills by serving the wider community.

And finally, Jill Mathers who started the Cotgrave Community Kitchen in 2019 to bring people together and provide them with a nutritious meal at an affordable price.

These women have made our community one to be proud of and I am honoured to know each of them.

Click here:



The image is a video thumbnail for Ruth Edwards, Member of Parliament for Rushcliffe. It features a green header with the text 'RUTH EDWARDS' in large white letters, flanked by two white crests. Below the name, it says 'Member of Parliament for Rushcliffe'. The main part of the image is a video frame showing a woman with dark hair wearing a purple top. At the bottom of the video frame, there is a green bar with white text that reads: 'A woman is like a tea bag - You can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water'. A small white crest is visible in the bottom right corner of the video frame.

Out and About

Last month, I met with representatives from local town and parish councils from around Rushcliffe for the Rushcliffe Town and Parish Council Forum meeting.

We discussed their main priorities in their respective areas and how I plan to further support them with their various issues. I work closely with local councils and we support each other to deliver for the people of Rushcliffe

I also took part in Digital Tories' Panel Discussion event on Online Harms, which has become a very serious issue for many. Specifically, we covered:

- Tackling misinformation
- Dealing with online scams

- Online Safety and the most effective way to protect our children



Continuing on the theme of online safety, it was fantastic to see such a great turnout for the #BeInternetLegends Assembly ran by Google and ParentZone for schools in Rushcliffe. The assembly teaches children and parents how to be safe online and what they can do to safeguard themselves when going online.



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Ruth Edwards MP
Houses of Parliament
Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA

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