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Majorca looks to Spain to try and ease damage caused by the UK: Page 4

Contact-tracing app could be available in the Balearics early next week

Palma.—Carme Artigas, the secretary of state for digitalisation and artificial intelligence, said yesterday that a voluntary app for Covid contagion alert could be operational in the Balearics by next Monday.

The RadarCovid app more or less doubles the detection of positive Covid-19 contacts, Artigas explaining that a trial in La Gomera (the Canary Islands) has produced “tremendously positive” results.

Conducted for a month from the end of June, this increased the detection of close contacts to 6.4, which compares with 3.5 through manual tracing.

The Spanish government hopes to make the app available nationwide by mid-September, which would be one month ahead of schedule.

However, there is the possibility that regions such as the Balearics will have it by next week.

Because of the tourism dependence, there is an urgency.

All regions, Artigas added, have shown “huge interest” in introducing the app. A code has to be delivered to an infected person in order to communicate that he or she is positive.

The app will then notify anyone who has been within two metres of this person for at least fifteen minutes.

This is the same criterion used by manual tracing.

Artigas said that the app has demonstrated reliability, and the technical advisor for the project, Pablo Rodríguez, explained that a target of 3,000 downloads in La Gomera had been



“greatly” exceeded. There is no minimum percentage of the population who have installed the app for it to be

effective, but above 20%, “it could help to reduce the impact of the pandemic by 30%”.

Former King Juan Carlos to leave Spain

● The former king, Juan Carlos, yesterday informed King Felipe that he intends to live outside Spain.

His decision has been taken in light of “certain past events” in his private life.

Last night, the Royal Household issued a communiqué which included the letter from Juan Carlos to his son and the King’s response.

Juan Carlos said that the decision had been taken with “deep feeling but with great serenity”.

“I was king of Spain for almost forty years, and for all of them I always wanted the best for Spain and for the Crown.”

The King, the Royal Household’s communiqué states, has expressed his “heartfelt respect and gratitude for the decision”.

“The King wishes to emphasise the historical importance of his father’s reign, the legacy and political and institutional work in service to Spain and democracy.”

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