

Majorca Daily Bulletin

Tuesday, October 13 2020

1.20€ · Founded 1962 · N.17345 · Passeig de Mallorca 9 A, Palma 07011

Johnson reveals details of three-tier lockdown plan for England

London—Boris Johnson yesterday confirmed England is entering a three-tier local lockdown system to restrict the second wave of coronavirus infections.

Speaking in the House of Commons, the prime minister also announced Liverpool will be facing the toughest restrictions. Setting out the plan, Johnson told MPs: “We need to go further.

“Just as we simplified our national rules with the ‘rule of six’, we will now simplify and standardise our local rules by introducing a three-tiered system of local COVID alert levels.” Johnson said the levels will be set at “medium”, “high” and “very

high”. “Very high” is the tier that will apply to Liverpool. Household mixing will be banned indoors and outdoors, with pubs also forced to close. Areas in the “high” tier will see household mixing banned indoors. However, the “rule of six”, which allows social gatherings of up to six people, will still apply outdoors.

“Medium” will apply to most of England and consist of the current national measures. The announcement came after senior government advisers warned pressure is building on hospitals, with a steep rise in the number of people needing urgent treatment for the virus.

Over 40% of Spaniards back republic in wake of royal scandals

● 40.9% of respondents said they preferred a republic, while 34.9% said they supported the royal family, and 24.2% said they did not know while 48% want a referendum on the monarchy.

Madrid.—Over 40% of Spaniards support establishing a republic following the abrupt departure abroad of former king Juan Carlos amid a cloud of scandals, according to a poll published yesterday.

The 82-year-old former monarch has been living in the United Arab Emirates since he left Spain in August to avoid causing further

embarrassment to his son, King Felipe VI.

Some 40.9% of respondents said they preferred a republic, while 34.9% said they supported the royal family, and 24.2% said they did not know, according to the survey for the Platform for Independent Media, a group of mainly left-wing media.

The poll, which ques-



King Felipe led National Day celebrations yesterday.

tioned 3,000 people, also found 48% want a referendum on the monarchy, which under Spain’s constitution is the only way to decide the fate of the institution, while 25% were opposed and 16.1% did not know.

A poll published in August meant for the pro-monarchy ABC newspaper found 33.5% favouring a republic and 56% the monarchy, while 6% did not know and 4.1% were indifferent.

While not formally under investigation, Juan Carlos could become a target in two inquiries in Spain and Switzerland into alleged corruption associated with a 6.7-billion-euro high-speed Saudi train contract won by Spanish firms.

Spain’s supreme court prosecutor is considering whether to extend a corrup-

tion investigation into the train contract to formally involve Juan Carlos.

The former king has not commented publicly but his lawyer Javier Sanchez has said he is at the disposition of prosecutors if necessary.

The latest survey, published on the National Day public holiday when King Felipe led a reduced celebration due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was commissioned after the government Centre for Sociological Investigations declined to question Spaniards about the monarchy in its most recent poll.

Defence Minister Margarita Robles said the monarchy was an “essential part of the constitutional pact”, speaking in an interview published yesterday in ABC.

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