

# Majorca Daily Bulletin

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## Spain on red alert as cases mount

London.—Spain's coronavirus infection rate rose above 500 cases per 100,000 people on Friday, crossing over the threshold considered "very high risk" by the Health Ministry and more than doubling since the start of December. On Friday the infection rate, or incidence, as measured over the preceding 14 days, was 511 cases per 100,000, up 38 points on Thursday's 473. There were 33,359 new infections

and 41 deaths according to Health Ministry data.

Roughly 80% of Spain's population of 47 million has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and some 10 million have received booster shots.

On Thursday Spain approved booster vaccines for people aged over 40. Spain has recorded 5.46 million cases and 88,708 deaths since the pandemic began.

# CHRISTMAS TRUCK STRIKE CANCELLED

London.—Spain's truck drivers have called off a three-day strike during the week leading up to Christmas after reaching an agreement with the government late on Friday, the national truck driving association said.

It said the agreement means drivers will not have to load and unload goods from trucks, a "historic claim

of the sector that benefits working conditions." The agreement will also halve the amount of time drivers will have to wait before they are entitled to extra pay and ensure tolls on heavy transport are not implemented without the agreement of the national truck driving association.

The strike had been called from midnight on Dec. 19 to midnight on Dec. 22.

Truck drivers had accused the government of ignoring their grievances and clients of insensitivity and exploitative behaviour.

It would have disrupted supply chains and goods delivery at a time

of heightened economic activity in the run up to Christmas and New Year celebrations.

"This is an historic agreement that improves the conditions for the transport of goods and will make it possible to cancel the stoppages planned for Christmas," Transport Minister Raquel Sanchez tweeted.



## The big debate winners: P20–21

### FULL FESTIVE WHAT'S ON: Inside

#### Head of UK COVID-19 lockdown parties probe drops out over own event

● Britain's top civil servant Simon Case has stepped down from leading an investigation into alleged parties last year in government offices in breach of COVID-19 lockdowns after an event was held in his own office.

"To ensure the ongoing investigation retains public confidence the Cabinet Secretary has recused himself for the remainder of the process," a spokesperson for Prime Minister Boris Johnson's office said.

"The work will be concluded by Sue Gray, second permanent secretary at the Department for Leveling Up, Housing and Communities.

"She will ascertain the facts and present her findings to the Prime Minister."

A video emerged earlier this month showing Johnson's staff laughing and joking about a Downing Street party during a 2020 Christmas lockdown when such festivities were banned, resulting in condemnation from political opponents and the public. Johnson, who has said he had been assured COVID rules were not broken and that there had been no party, asked Case to investigate.

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