



e-UPDATE #102 - 26.09.2021

Welcome to this latest update. I hope you have had a good weekend - enjoying the last, if the forecast is to be believed, of sunny weather in Cheltenham for a bit.

There's lots of Cheltenham-related news in the update below. I have deliberately not focused on the supply chain issues; for chapter and verse do of course email and I'll be able to respond more fully than I can here.

I am delighted that since I last wrote, the **UK's first ever GCHQ/NCSC-accredited cyber skills course** has been unveiled at Gloucestershire College's Advanced Digital Academy in Hesters Way.

It's brilliant news. Driving social mobility, and creating life-changing opportunities for Cheltenham youngsters from all backgrounds is what got me into politics in the first place - and it was at the heart of the vision that I laid out at local IT firm Converge back in 2014. **This £3m, Government-funded, facility is a major step forward, offering unrivalled opportunities here on our doorstep for young people to go as far as their talents will take them.**

In other news, I've spent two days on the landings with prison officers at HMP Wandsworth. I wanted to meet prisoners - including those on 'the seg' and those mentoring first-night inmates - and also to hear from prison officers about how we can improve retention in this vital public service.

It was fantastic to be out on a Saturday night with the brilliant **Cheltenham Guardians**. They, like the Cheltenham Street Pastors, are an amazing bunch of volunteers.

It was a pleasure (kind of...) to be grilled by '**Judge**' Rinder on talkRADIO - you can listen below. A big highlight too was the fantastic event at Pittville Pump Room to celebrate the new heritage trail.

The economy is surging back strongly in Gloucestershire. **Unemployment is down to under 4% in the county**, which is quite a turnaround - at the pandemic peak, around a third of the county's workforce was on furlough.

Finally, I was honoured to have been sworn in by the Lord Chief Justice as a QC and [HM Solicitor General for England and Wales](#) - see below for what the role entails. I'm told it's a first for Cheltenham, and I hope it will allow me to fly our town's flag that little bit higher.

Thank you for reading.

Best wishes,

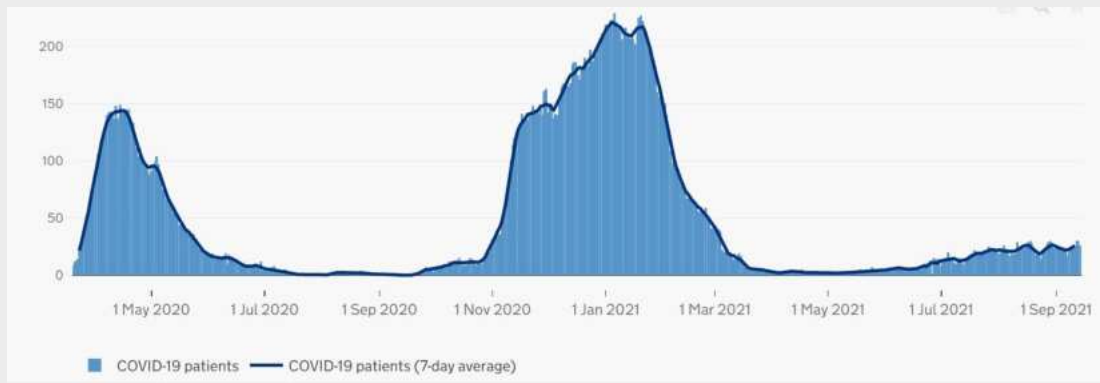


Alex Chalk QC MP

PS I have been asked to advertise a lecture as part of **Cheltenham International Film Festival** by Baroness Lola Young entitled "Diversity and British Cinema" at 5:30pm on 4 October. Link to Eventbrite [here](#)

In line with data protection regulations, Alex Chalk's office processes constituents' data for policy and casework purposes under the lawful basis of public task. In instances where this lawful basis is not sufficient and explicit consent is required, a member of staff will get in touch with you to establish consent. You can find the full privacy notice on Alex's website [HERE](#)

COVID UPDATE



[Daily count of confirmed COVID-19 patients in CGH and GRH. Source: DHSC]

COVID Hospital Patients:

As at 21 September, there were 28 COVID-positive patients in Cheltenham General and Gloucestershire Royal hospitals, with 4 in critical care.

Gloucestershire Death Registrations Mentioning COVID-19:

8 in last 7 days (as at 21 September).

Covid Virtual Ward Patients:

COVID virtual wards support safe and earlier discharge of coronavirus patients from hospitals. When moving from hospital to a virtual ward people are given a pulse oximeter and supporting information to monitor their oxygen levels at home.

During the last 7 days there have been 47 new referrals to the COVID virtual ward which is fewer than in previous weeks.

TOP STORIES





[Alex with the Principal and Chief Financial Officer at Glos College]

CYBER VISION TAKE-OFF!

Cheltenham has scored a UK first in opening our country's first ever GCHQ/NCSC-accredited cyber skills course at Gloucestershire College in Hesters Way.

Funded by a £3m Government grant, which Alex lobbied for, the new Advanced Digital Academy will provide fantastic opportunities for young people and help Gloucestershire recover from the pandemic.

The facility will offer BSc (Hons) Cyber Security Technical Professional degree recognised by the National Cyber Security Centre (part of GCHQ) for delivering quality education and training - including 'attack' and 'defence' rooms to stage 'battles' in cyberspace.

When Alex first launched his cyber vision in 2014, it was because he spotted the potential for GCHQ to generate local opportunities for young people - including those from the most deprived parts of the town. That vision has now taken a step forward. Alex said:

"This is absolutely fantastic news for Cheltenham - and for youngsters from all backgrounds who live here.

"Social mobility is what brought me into politics - and this £3m government investment generates unrivalled opportunities here on our doorstep for people to go as far as their talents will take them."

For more information and details on how to apply, please click [HERE](#).



ALEX HITS THE STREETS WITH THE CHELTENHAM GUARDIANS

Alex was delighted to join Cheltenham Guardians on weekend patrol, staying out until 2am to see for himself the positive contribution they are making to the town.

The Cheltenham Guardians are a volunteer-led safeguarding service provider who work in partnership with Gloucestershire Constabulary and Cheltenham Borough Council.

They work to ensure the safety and security of lone females in the night-time economy every Saturday night and Sunday morning between between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Alex said: *"I went out with the Cheltenham Guardians – a team of three women and one man – who look out for late-night revellers who find themselves alone or otherwise vulnerable.*

"They had given their time for free, and I saw how they made an enormous difference – including supporting one particular worse-for-wear youngster in Montpellier who might otherwise have struggled to get home.

"What's so striking about Cheltenham is that the Guardians are not the only such group in our town. Cheltenham Street Pastors were out too, with their familiar horsebox support centre

near the Prom. I challenge readers to find a town where the volunteering, philanthropic tradition is so strong. It makes me very proud."



ALEX HAILS CHELTENHAM'S CULTURE BOUNCE-BACK

Alex was at Pittville Pump Room to support the opening of a new heritage trail.

The free, immersive heritage trail includes vignettes, artefacts, an audio tour and the

opportunity to try on replica Regency costumes.

During the opening weekend, there was live music, strolling characters, themed food and drink and dance displays.

It could all have been very different. When the virus first hit it was grimly clear that Cheltenham's cultural icons faced ruin. Without audiences and visitors, the future was bleak.

The Government stepped in to provide over £2.5m in grants for institutions including the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham Trust (which manages the Pump Room, the Wilson etc), Playhouse and the Cheltenham Festivals - part of a wider package of business and financial lifeline support that we secured, totalling more than **£350m** for Cheltenham alone.

Writing on Facebook, Alex said:

"At a fantastic event today to celebrate the heritage of Pittville Pump Room. As you know, PPR was home to US Army soldiers during WWII. Great to see so many vehicles and uniforms from that era on display - as well as Regency costumes, and even pretty psychedelic outfits from the Sixties!"

ALEX'S MINISTERIAL ROUND-UP



10 DOWNING STREET

The Queen has been pleased to approve the following appointments:

- Alex Chalk MP as Solicitor General;

ALEX APPOINTED AS HM SOLICITOR GENERAL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

HM the Queen has appointed Alex as HM Solicitor General for England and Wales. Alex is Cheltenham's first ever Solicitor General - and indeed its first minister since 1856.

As Solicitor General, Alex will oversee the work of the Law Officers' Departments which include the Crown Prosecution Service and Serious Fraud Office, as well as the Government Legal Department and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

The Solicitor General also carries out a number of functions in the public interest, such as considering unduly lenient sentences (ie where a court has sentenced a defendant too leniently, and Alex may refer it to the Court of Appeal and seek an additional penalty) and taking action when there has been a contempt of court.

Following his appointment, Alex said: *"I am delighted to be appointed Solicitor General for England and Wales.*

"It is an honour to be joining this unique and historic government department which occupies a vital place at the heart of the UK constitution."

To watch Alex's first video as Solicitor General, please click [HERE](#). You can read more about the role of the Law Officers [here](#).



ALEX ADDRESSES 200 NEWLY QUALIFIED PRISON OFFICERS

Alex was invited to address 200 newly qualified prison officers from the Unlocked Graduate scheme.

Unlocked Graduates is a two-year graduate programme that selects the brightest and best graduates with the ability to develop into the next generation of innovative prison leaders.

The scheme, which lasts for two years, sees graduates working in prisons whilst studying for a Master's degree at Leeds Trinity University.

The Times recently [reported](#) that the scheme has become more competitive than the City, rejecting 92 per cent of Oxbridge graduates this year.

During his address, Alex praised Unlocked Graduates for bringing fresh thinking and new ideas to prisons and for helping prisoners make more positive choices whilst helping them to prepare for life outside of prisons.

After the event, Alex tweeted: *"A privilege to address today the brilliant Unlocked Graduates who have overwhelmingly injected intelligence, integrity, compassion, professionalism, commitment and resilience into the prisons they've joined."*



'BANGED UP' IN HMP WANDSWORTH

Alex spent two days at HMP Wandsworth to immerse himself in prison life - speaking to prisoners and prison staff, and getting

Whilst serving as Prisons and Probation Minister, one of Alex's main priorities was replacing unstructured mass association with smaller groups and purposeful activity to support rehabilitation, including education, work and training.

As part of this, Alex has helped develop the Prisoner Education Service to improve prisoners' functional, vocational and life skills to address the complex issues that increase the likelihood of reoffending when a prisoner is released.

After his visit, Alex tweeted: *"Really valuable to spend two days on the wings in HMP Wandsworth. This meant I could have many detailed conversations with officers and prisoners which is impossible on quick visits. I was particularly impressed by the candour of the Governor and his commitment to expanding the regime for inmates."*



ALEX GRILLED BY 'JUDGE' RINDER

Alex was interviewed by Judge Rinder on talkRADIO and talkRADIO TV.

During the interview, Alex discussed prisons, rehabilitation and the release of Colin Pitchfork.

You can watch Alex's interview by clicking [HERE](#). Alex's interview begins at 34.04.



ALEX ANSWERS MPs' QUESTIONS ON VACCINES AND DRUG USE

In one of his final appearances as Prisons and Probation Minister, Alex was at the despatch box to answer questions from MPs.

Alex answered a range of questions, including about the roll-out of vaccines in prisons (the refusal rate is over 50% in some London prisons), reducing drug use in prisons and the decline of violence in prisons.

To watch Alex answering questions, please click [HERE](#).



ALEX VOWS NO REPEAT OF HILLSBOROUGH FAMILIES ORDEAL

Alex was at the despatch box to respond on behalf of the Government to a sensitive debate on learning from the Hillsborough disaster.

Following powerful speeches from both sides of the House (including former Prime Minister Theresa May and a Labour MP who had been at the ground on the fateful day in 1989) Alex announced that the Government will be responding to the Hillsborough Independent Panel review by the end of the year.

To watch the debate click [HERE](#). There are extracts from Alex's speech below:

"Occasionally—very occasionally—a debate takes place in this House that has such searing force that it lodges forever in the memory because of the way in which it measures up to the gravity of the subject matter. This is one such debate.

"I thank the honourable member for Garston and Halewood for securing it, but even more for giving a speech that was of such exceptional clarity and force that I hope not just her constituents, but those more widely in the great city of Liverpool, will read it and, even better, listen to it.

"The Government recognise the fundamental importance of placing the bereaved at the heart of any investigation that follows a major disaster. That, perhaps, is taken as read. We remain

committed to ensuring that bereaved people are supported. That means that they are not just treated with the basic humanity and respect, which I am afraid was not the case in the past, but provided with—the hon. Member for Garston and Halewood used this word—"agency", given a voice and thought of not as spectators but as participants. The way she put it—I think she was absolutely right—was that the bereaved cannot be considered a mere adjunct to proceedings. I cannot put it better than that.

"I am pleased to announce today that we will be responding to the 2018 review by the end of this year, and I expect it to be rather earlier than that.

"...It is critical that the lessons that can be learned from their awful experience are not lost. To that end, the Home Office has been working closely with its partners in the relevant Departments and organisations, and is now engaging with the Hillsborough families before publishing the Government's overarching response."



Project
ADDER

ALEX UPDATES THE HOUSE ON PLANS TO TACKLE DRUGS MISUSE IN PRISON

Alex set out to MPs that through Project ADDER, work is underway to improve outcomes for offenders with substance misuse needs in prisons.

In all Project ADDER areas, local authority commissioners are mobilising plans for additional community-based drug treatment staff. These staff will be working closely with the existing prison-based treatment services to ensure continuity of care processes are maintained and strengthened.

This includes investing in 'through the gate' and prison in-reach posts. Some ADDER areas are also introducing specific family, employment and housing support to those involved in the criminal justice system including those in prison and prison leavers.

CHELTENHAM UPDATES:



[Alex laid a wreath on behalf of the people of Cheltenham]

ALEX PAYS HIS RESPECTS AT BATTLE OF BRITAIN CEREMONY

A ceremony was held to commemorate the 81st Anniversary of the Battle of Britain to remember the day when RAF Fighter Command secured victory over the Luftwaffe in 1940.

To mark this anniversary, a short ceremony was held at the War Memorial in Cheltenham.

In a past speech to Cheltenham's RAF cadets, Alex has joked that he owes his very existence

to the RAF - his paternal grandparents met as RAF service colleagues, marrying shortly after the War.



ALEX BACKS 'PRIDE IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE 2021'

Alex backed Pride in Gloucestershire and joined them to celebrate Gloucestershire's LGBTQ+ community.

The event began with a parade through Gloucester City centre before ending at Gloucester Park.

At Gloucester Park, local LGBTQ+ artists performed whilst attendees celebrated the LGBTQ+ community and discussed the issues that members of the community face.

Alex said: *"Gloucestershire Pride is not just about individuals showing confidence in who they are; it's about the community showing its pride in them too."*



WARDEN HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL GETS NEW £6.5 MILLION CARBON NEUTRAL SCHOOL BUILDING

Warden Hill Primary will benefit from new £6.5 million carbon neutral school building, in the latest investment boost for education in the town.

Plans for the new school, which will replace the existing building in Cheltenham, have been given planning approval and building work will start in late October.

The two-form entry school will remain at its current size, offering 420 places, providing pupils with better facilities for teaching and learning.

Alex said: *"A new school building at Warden Hill Primary will provide the excellent learning environment that pupils in Cheltenham deserve.*

"These new and improved facilities will give every child a high-quality of education in order to reach their full potential."



[Click the image above to watch the BBC's coverage]

LILIAN FAITHFULL RESIDENTS AMONG FIRST IN COUNTRY TO RECEIVE BOOSTER JAB

Residents of Astell House in Cheltenham were among the first in the country to be offered the booster vaccine against Covid-19.

Residents were delighted to be receiving the booster jab. There was spontaneous applause after the first resident, Evelyn, received the vaccination.

In an interview with the BBC, Evelyn remarked: *"I haven't been this popular for years!"*

"I think it's important we should have it and I think everyone should have it. I know you can't eradicate it but if you do develop it at least you have a chance of overcoming it."

"We have to pay tribute to the staff, they gave up a lot to keep us safe and we have a great deal to thank them for. "

Faithfull House, also in Cheltenham, took part in an NHS pilot programme last December and was one of the first homes in the UK to offer the Pfizer vaccine to residents.

Alex said: *"Although I was stuck in Parliament for the reshuffle, I was delighted to speak over the phone to the leader of the local NHS vaccination team to thank and congratulate her and her team for all that they are doing to save lives here in Cheltenham."*



ALEX GETS BEHIND MACMILLAN'S CANCER CAMPAIGN

As a committed supporter of Macmillan, Alex has again got behind Macmillan's 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' in Parliament.

At the event he met with people living with cancer and NHS professionals to understand their experiences and how he can better support constituents living with cancer.

Earlier this month, it was confirmed that Cheltenham General has been awarded £36 million. This will enhance further the Oncology Department's outstanding reputation, as will the establishment of a new Interventional Radiology room (spoke) to provide specialist support to Urology and Oncology services.

Alex said: "*I was pleased to attend Macmillan Cancer Support's 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' to show support to the many Macmillan nurses that work with those affected by cancer.*

"The dedicated nurses and other healthcare workers with Macmillan work hard every day to help make a difference to people that suffer with cancer, as well as their loved ones, ensuring that they have someone alongside them throughout the process, and even after their treatment has finished."



ALEX BACKS GLOUCESTERSHIRE YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE IN WHADDON

Alex pledged support for Gloucestershire Youth Offending Service (YOS) whilst visiting the brilliant team in Whaddon.

During his visit, Alex discussed Gloucestershire's YOS successful 'Children First' programme.

Children First aims to divert young people from the criminal justice system through early intervention.

The initiative has introduced a joint decision making panel consisting of police sergeants, youth support team managers and an NHS mental health representative.

The plans are working. Since 2010, the number of young people going into custody in England & Wales has dropped from over 2,000 to around 550.

Alex said: *"It was inspiring to see the fantastic work that the Gloucestershire Youth Offending Service are doing to divert young people from the criminal justice system."*

"Since Children First was launched in Gloucestershire, 63% of first time offenders have been offered youth restorative intervention."

"Throughout the country, we have drastically reduced the number of children entering the youth secure estate. It is critical that the personal issues that all too often provide the context for offending are tackled, to help them live law-abiding lives in the future."



[Punch and Judy and Professor Cobbywobbles at the Holst Victorian House]

ALEX ATTENDS RELAUNCH OF HOLST VICTORIAN HOUSE

Alex was invited to attend the launch of the Holst Victorian House.

The relaunch took place following the Holst Birthplace Trust's decision to rebrand the Holst Birthplace Museum as the 'Holst Victorian House'.

The museum, where composer Gustav Holst was born in 1874, gives visitors an insight into his life and an opportunity to view some of his personal items, including a piano on which he composed *The Planets*.

Following the rebrand, visitors will now also be able to experience living in a Victorian home, with a new hands on attraction giving visitors insight into 19th century life with a working Victorian kitchen, Victorian bedroom, scullery and nursery.

The museum also hosts a range of exhibitions, events and children's activities throughout the year, including its popular 'Bake Back in Time' events using the working coal-fired range.

For more information, please click [HERE](#).



ALEX

MEETS CHELTENHAM-BASED CDS DEFENCE & SECURITY TO DISCUSS FUTURE OF DEFENCE SECTOR IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alex met with CDS Defence & Security, a Cheltenham based company to discuss the future of the defence sector in Gloucestershire.

CDS Defence & Security provide defence & security consultancy in support engineering, training & learning and cyber security & information assurance.

During his visit, CDS DS updated Alex on the growth of its cyber security division and how this will add value to Gloucestershire as it becomes the home of the UK's cyber industry.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

ALSO SINCE THE LAST UPDATE, ALEX HAS:

As Prisons Minister:

- Met with **Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons**
- Met with the **Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing** to discuss prison leaver accommodation

As Cheltenham's MP:

- Met with the **Vice-Chancellor of the University of Gloucestershire** to discuss the impact of the pandemic on universities and students
- Attended an afternoon tea to welcome **Minister Revd Iain McLaren to Cheltenham United Reform Church**
- Met with **Gloucestershire Dyslexia Association** to discuss training in Cheltenham
- Met with members of **Gloucestershire's ME/CFS group**
- Cheered on riders setting off on a **Pedal for Maggie's fundraiser**
- Met with constituents who work in the **travel and entertainment industries**
- Met the owner of **Home & Botanic Nightclub to discuss vaccine passports**
- Attended the **Animal Shelter Dog Show**
- Attended the **Soroptimist International Centenary tree planting event**

Received Briefings from:

- **NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group** about health in Cheltenham
- **Vaccines Minister** Nadhim Zahawi
- **The Welfare Minister** on Universal Credit
- **Gloucestershire Fire Office** on High Rise Buildings in Gloucestershire

ALEX IN THE COURTS

The Unduly Lenient Sentence Scheme allows the public to invite Attorney General's Office to refer a sentence to the Court of Appeal for being too lenient.

As Solicitor General, Alex will then make a decision (in accordance with the law) as to whether to make such a reference. In certain cases he may decide to present the case in court himself.

Since the last update, Alex has referred a number of cases to the Court of Appeal, including:

- 1) A drug dealer's sentence which Alex felt did not take into account seriousness of his crimes and the impact of drugs on the community.
- 2) A commuter who sexually assaulted two women whilst travelling on public transport in London.
- 3) A fraudster who manipulated a vulnerable victim.

WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS:

Since the last update, Alex has answered 53 Written Parliamentary Questions from MPs. Some of the topics raised include prison leaver accommodation, drugs and indeterminate sentences for public protection.

See below some examples:

Q. To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the suitability of housing arrangements for inmates who do not have housing upon leaving prisons.

Alex responded:

"Having stable accommodation can prevent offenders committing further crimes. To ensure offenders are not homeless upon release, HMPPS has developed a Community Accommodation Service ([CAS](#)) so that people leaving prison can access suitable accommodation. CAS brings [Approved Premises \(AP\)](#), [Bail Accommodation and Support Service \(BASS\)](#), and a new provision of transitional accommodation together under the auspices of one accommodation system.

"As a whole system, CAS enables accommodation to be provided that is suitable to an offender's risk level and circumstances. AP house high-risk offenders with a strict curfew and [CCTV](#) inside and out to monitor behaviour. BASS provides accommodation to those released on bail or [Home Detention Curfew](#) without otherwise suitable accommodation. These combine with the new provision of temporary accommodation and support for those leaving prison at risk of homelessness, introduced in July. Initially launched in five probation areas in England, the service will support around 3,000 offenders in its first year and will provide up to 12 weeks of temporary accommodation and will be supported into long-term settled accommodation before the end of that 12-week period."

Q. To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection who do not have access to any offending behaviour programmes or accredited interventions to allow progression towards release.

Alex responded:

"[HM Prison and Probation Service](#) (HMPPS) continue to work with prisoners serving indeterminate sentences of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) to offer them opportunities to reduce their identified risks. The latest published national figures at the end of June 2021 show the unreleased IPP population standing at 1,722, which is a reduction from 1,969 at the end of June 2020 and the 6,000 at its highest in 2012.

"This demonstrates that opportunities remain available to IPP prisoners wishing to progress despite the pandemic. To continue the progress already made, HMPPS undertakes case file reviews with IPPs which now includes those prisoners who have an index offence that is not classed as violence or a sexual offence, those with a robbery index offence, as well as those that are post-tariff expiry of five years or more. These reviews reinvigorate cases that are not progressing and identify appropriate individual progression pathways.

"Every effort is made to locate an IPP prisoner to a prison best placed to meet their sentence planning needs as promptly as is reasonably possible. However, transfers during a parole review would usually only take place if it is to access a progression opportunity and does not disrupt an impending parole hearing date. Prisons will otherwise seek to progress IPP prisoners at the earliest opportunity following the conclusion of a parole review.

"Access to offending behaviour programmes is not relevant for all IPPs. Where it is, IPPs are prioritised for a place and the number of IPPs waiting for an [OBP](#) place is kept under review. Where required, all those serving an IPP can access interventions necessary to support their progression."

Q. To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many drug finds in prisons there have been in the (a) two year before and (b) two years since the launch of the National Prison Drug Strategy in April 2019.

Alex responded:

"Data on drugs finds are published online in the HMPPS Annual Digests. Although the data does not cover the precise period detailed in the question each Digest provides data for a 12-month time period up to March for a given year. From this data it is possible to calculate how many drug finds in prisons there have been in the two years before 1 April and the two years following 1 April 2019 (inclusive).

"In August 2019, the Government committed to invest £100 million in prison security in an ambitious new Security Investment Programme. One of the aims of the Programme was to reduce the quantity of illicit items, including drugs, entering the prison estate.

"Since then, we have seen the installation of 73 X-ray body scanners, with over 9000 positive indications. This has included contraband being retrieved, for example in one case 10.5g of cocaine with an estimated prison value of £4000 was recovered. The roll out of Enhanced Gate Security ([EGS](#)), based on the measures used in airport screening, has resulted in hundreds of illicit items prevented from entering prisons."

IN THE MEDIA

SINCE THE LAST UPDATE:

Alex has:

- (i) been interviewed on talkRADIO TV about prisons and rehabilitation
- (ii) written four articles for the **Cheltenham Post**
- (iii) written three articles for the **Gloucestershire Echo**, in which he:

1. Welcomed £36 million of additional funding for Cheltenham General Hospital. [READ HERE.](#)
 2. Gave his thoughts on the new Health and Social Care levy. [READ HERE.](#)
 3. Expressed his pride at Cheltenham's volunteering tradition. [READ HERE.](#)
 4. Welcomed the return of cultural events in Cheltenham. [READ HERE.](#)
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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



[David and Judith during their 1063 mile ride]

DAVID AND JUDITH WEEKS COMPLETE 'END TO END' CYCLE FOR CHARITY

Cheltenham residents David and Judith Weeks have cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise money for two health charities close to their hearts.

David and Judith cycled 1,063 miles and have raised over £4,000 so far for Sarcoma UK and 'Above and Beyond'.

Because of COVID, the challenge had to be completed in three legs. The first leg in April was Land's End to Cheltenham, the second in June from Cheltenham to Carlisle and the third in August from Carlisle to John O'Groats.

If you would like to read more about the challenge or to donate, please click [HERE](#).



LONDON PADDINGTON CLOSURE 26.09.21

Great Western Railway have asked Alex to inform constituents that London Paddington will be closed on Sunday 26 September as work on the line is taking place to improve reliability. There will be no services in or out of the station until 12.00.

The morning services from Cheltenham to London will start and terminate at Reading, where customers can change for South Western Railway services to London Waterloo.

For more information please click [HERE](#).



ALL SAINTS PARKING REVIEW ANNOUNCED

Gloucestershire County Council have announced a review into residents' parking in All Saints, Cheltenham.

Residents are being asked for their views on new proposals to free up parking spaces for households, with an informal consultation now open for people to provide their feedback.

Residents have eight weeks to have their say on a potential new and improved permit scheme aiming to make it easier for them to park closer to home.

To view the plans and to give feedback, please click [HERE](#).



FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS AVAILABLE

As part of the Government's Towns Fund, GCC has launched a Build Back Better Market Towns fund to help areas put on community events as part of their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding worth £500,000 is available to market towns for events such as Christmas fairs, spring shows, summer fetes, vintage car shows, music festivals or farmers' markets.

Applications can be made by parish and town councils, as well as voluntary and community organisations, for bids ranging from £1,000 to £25,000.

Completed applications must be received by midnight on 26 September 2021 and applicants will be informed of the outcome on 4 October.

For more information, please click [HERE](#).

USEFUL LOCAL CONTACTS

Gloucestershire County Council

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk

01452 425000

Cheltenham Borough Council

www.cheltenham.gov.uk

01242 262626

Age UK Gloucestershire

www.ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire

01452 422660

Gloucestershire Abuse Support

01452 726570

Citizens Advice Gloucestershire

01452 527202

GRASAC (Gloucestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre)

www.glosrasac.org

01452 305421



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