



UK Medical Freedom
ALLIANCE



**OPEN LETTER TO: MR PIERS MORGAN
GOOD MORNING BRITAIN
ITV
OFCOM**

18th February 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: MR PIERS MORGAN – TWEET ON 14 FEBRUARY 2021 TIMED AT 12:46

1. The UK Medical Freedom Alliance (UKMFA) is a team of medical professionals, academics, scientists and lawyers campaigning for Medical Freedom, Informed Consent and Bodily Autonomy to be protected and preserved. Lawyers for Liberty is a group of Solicitors and Barristers who have come together to monitor the situation around Covid-19. Both groups will be referred to as “we” throughout this letter.
2. We have come together to write this letter following a Tweet that Mr Morgan made on Sunday 14 February 2021 at 12:46. As far as we are aware **Mr Morgan has no medical or legal qualifications**, so it is most concerning that **he has chosen to encroach on matters which appear to support forced vaccination and potential discrimination**, without fully considering the current safety concerns over the vaccine and the law on this issue. **Mr Morgan is a public figure and as such has a responsibility to ensure that he does not discriminate in matters which he tweets about** and to be careful with the type of language used in his Tweets.
3. Mr Morgan appears not to appreciate that **at present there is no evidence that having a Covid-19 vaccine will prevent the recipient from becoming infected and spreading the virusⁱ**. In addition, **all the Covid-19 vaccines are still in clinical trials**, which are not due to finish until late 2022/early 2023ⁱⁱ, and the vaccines are unlicensed, only **being used under emergency use authorisation**. There is currently no scientific basis for his Tweet.
4. Our organisations raised the concerns set out in this letter, in relation to the efficacy and safety of Covid-19 vaccines, in Open Letters to Government and Vaccine Regulatorsⁱⁱⁱ, and our concerns remain unanswered. We see no reason why answers have not been forthcoming, and we would very much welcome a discussion and sharing of information about the issues raised. Raising these valid and important questions and concerns does not make one an “anti-vaxxer” and should not lead to an individual or organisation being labelled as such.
5. Whilst this letter is addressed to Mr Morgan and is written in relation to his recent Tweet, we would argue that the principles set out in this letter apply equally to other public figures who may wish to make public statements concerning “vaccine passports” or “anti-vaxxers”. We would ask that all public figures give full and proper consideration to matters set out herein prior to making any public statements along the lines of Mr Morgan’s Tweet.



THE TWEET

6. Mr Morgan's Tweet, which we wish to complain about, is as follows:

“Love the idea of covid vaccine passports for everywhere: flights, restaurants, clubs, football, gyms, shops etc. It's time covid-denying, anti-vaxxer loonies had their bullsh*t bluff called & bar themselves from going anywhere that responsible citizens go”

7. It is quite clear from this Tweet that Mr Morgan considers that persons, no matter what their reason for not wanting or indeed being able to have the vaccine, are “*covid-denying, anti-vaxxer loonies*” and that such people should have their “*bullsh*t bluff called*”. **We are, quite frankly, most concerned by the nature of this language and the apparent disregard for the very valid reasons of those who do not want or who cannot have the vaccine.** This is especially given the issues raised in this letter which remain unanswered. This kind of language is grossly irresponsible and can incite division in society and even violence towards those who choose not to have a Covid-19 vaccine.

8. Several legal and medical issues arise from this Tweet, which can be summarised as follows:

- 8.1 The **interference with bodily autonomy** and the right for every person to have a free and absolute right to consent to or refuse medical treatment as they desire without coercion;
- 8.2 The **potential discrimination** under the Equality Act 2010 and the issues surrounding a “hate crime”;
- 8.3 The current **limited safety data on the Covid-19 vaccines**.

THE ABSOLUTE RIGHT TO CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT

9. May we suggest that Mr Morgan very quickly appraises himself of the UK and International law surrounding informed consent and the guidance given by the Council of Europe.

10. Firstly, The Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984, an Act which was brought in to deal with infectious diseases, states at section 45E that regulations made under that Act:

“may not include provision requiring a person to undergo medical treatment “Medical treatment” includes vaccinations and other prophylactic treatment”.

11. Secondly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe passed Resolution number 2361 of 2021 ([Council of Europe](#)) on 27 January 2021 in which it was stated that:

Paragraph 7.3.1 – *“ensure that citizens are informed that the vaccination is NOT mandatory and that no one is politically, socially, or otherwise pressured to get themselves vaccinated, if they do not wish to do so themselves”*



Paragraph 7.3.2 – “ensure that no one is discriminated against for not having been vaccinated, due to possible health risks or not wanting to be vaccinated”

12. Thirdly, it is unlawful and inequitable for any person under English law to be forced to undergo medical treatment, which would include a vaccine. The following is enshrined under English law:

- i) An individual has the legal right to be free to accept or refuse any treatment^{iv};
- ii) The individual’s decision should be voluntary and must not be influenced by pressure from medical staff, friends or family;^v
- iii) The Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights states that any preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic medical intervention must only to be carried out with the prior, free and informed consent of the person concerned, based on adequate information. The consent should, where appropriate, be express and may be withdrawn by the person concerned at any time and for any reason without disadvantage or prejudice^{vi}.

13. Finally, regard must be had to an individual’s right not to be subject to any inhumane or degrading treatment, which is a protected right under Article 3 of the Human Rights Act 1998. This is an absolute right and cannot be derogated from.

DISCRIMINATION / HATE CRIME

14. Mr Morgan appears not to fully appreciate that many individuals have valid reasons for not being able to have, or indeed wanting to have, the vaccine. This does not make one an “anti-vaxxer”.

15. Individuals may be unable to have the vaccine due to “protected characteristics” such as disability, age, sex, race, pregnancy or certain medical conditions falling under the Equality Act 2010.

16. Furthermore, many individuals choose not to have the vaccine due to legitimate concerns about the ingredients, the safety and efficacy of the vaccine and some may prefer to use other systems of medicine to support their health. There is a good argument for saying that such beliefs should be protected under the Equality Act 2010.

17. It is unlawful to discriminate under the Equality Act 2010 and can result in very substantial fines for persons who actively encourage discriminatory practices. We would argue that Mr Morgan is in danger of promoting discrimination by the very nature of his Tweet and the name calling of “*covid-denying, anti-vaxxer loonies*” for those who do not want, or who cannot have, the vaccine, without proper consideration being given to the Equality Act 2010.



18. Considering the nature of the Tweet and the emotive and inflammatory language used, which we consider to be contrary to the Equality Act 2010, we also need to draw Mr Morgan's attention to the CPS website^{vii} which states as follows:

"The term 'hate crime' can be used to describe a range of criminal behaviour where the perpetrator is motivated by hostility or demonstrates hostility towards the victim's disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or transgender identity.

These aspects of a person's identity are known as 'protected characteristics'. A hate crime can include verbal abuse, intimidation, threats, harassment, assault and bullying, as well as damage to property. The perpetrator can also be a friend, carer or acquaintance who exploits their relationship with the victim for financial gain or some other criminal purpose"

19. The law has been designed in such a way that ensures that those with "protected characteristics" are not treated less favourably than others. We are genuinely concerned about Mr Morgan's inflammatory and derogatory name-calling of those with "protected characteristics" as "covid-denying, anti-vaxxers loonies" and his apparent welcoming of very clear discrimination of these people in society.

EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF THE VACCINE

20. Mr Morgan's Tweet implies that he requires all adults (and presumably children) to be forced to have the vaccine, and if they do not, he appears to be implying that they should be excluded from society.
21. Mr Morgan seems oblivious to concerns and unknowns regarding the efficacy and safety of Covid-19 vaccines. For this reason, it is imperative that we set out below a detailed summary of the current issues that we have raised previously in our Open Letter to Employers sent out on 30 January 2021^{viii}. As stated above, the issues remain unanswered.
22. Claims of up to 95% effectiveness of the vaccines were based on a definition of effectiveness as prevention of mild symptoms^{ix}. The concerns caused by this pandemic and the justification for all imposed measures and restrictions have never been mild symptoms. Outcomes of concern, such as severe disease, hospitalisation and death were not assessed in the trials^{x xi}. Therefore, we are unaware of any evidence that any vaccine against Covid-19 will benefit public health in terms of serious illness or deaths.
23. There is currently no long-term safety data available for Covid-19 vaccines as the existing trials have not been in existence for long enough. Indeed, only a few months of short-term safety data is available. It is therefore unknown whether there will be serious late-onset side effects resulting from the vaccines e.g., cancers, autoimmune diseases, infertility, neurological disease etc. These conditions can take months or years to become apparent and have not yet been ruled out in the trials.



24. For a disease that has an infection fatality rate of <0.1% for most of the population (aged <70 years), the usefulness of mass vaccination programmes is currently questionable, especially in the absence of robust safety data. Even in the elderly, aged >70 years, the recovery rate from Covid-19 is in the range of the claimed effectiveness of the currently approved vaccines^{xii xiii}.
25. There is currently no evidence that the vaccine prevents transmission of the virus, so the recipient is likely to still be able to spread the virus to others^{xiv}. Therefore, there is no wider public health benefit (beyond a hope of reduction of symptoms in the recipient) of having or indeed mandating a Covid-19 vaccine. The current guidance from the government is that vaccinated individuals will still need to socially distance and wear masks.^{xv} In these circumstances, and completely without prejudice to what is said in this letter, there is simply no rational or justification to mandate a vaccine for the safety of others.
26. Vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 are based on a completely new biotechnology^{xvi}. mRNA and DNA-vector vaccines have never previously received full regulatory approval for widespread use in humans and are more akin to genetic manipulation/modification than traditional vaccination. Current trials have only been in progress for a few months and therefore do not allow any conclusions regarding possible medium and long-term effects of this novel approach. Multiple concerns have been raised by scientists regarding possible adverse effects, which at this stage remain unrefuted owing to lack of data. It is important to be aware that all the Covid-19 vaccine trials are ongoing and not due to finish until the end of 2022/beginning of 2023.
27. mRNA and DNA vaccines are designed to induce an immune response against a protein that the body has been prompted to produce itself by incorporation of the synthetic viral gene present in the vaccine (in the form of mRNA or DNA) into the cell internal machinery or genome. It is currently hypothesised that this immune response will be limited to the target protein and not be directed to any innate human proteins, but there is no current data that can rule out the possibility that this technology may trigger autoimmune diseases^{xvii}, which could take several months or years to manifest.
28. Attempts to develop a vaccine against coronaviruses have been in progress for almost 20 years, since the emergence of SARS-CoV in 2002. These have been unsuccessful, mainly due to serious safety concerns in the animal trials^{xviii xix}. Specifically, an effect called antibody-dependent immune enhancement (ADE) was observed, which caused animals to develop more severe disease when exposed to the wild virus after immunisation^{xx}. Instead of being protected, animals got very sick, and some died. It is completely unknown at this stage, whether the currently administered vaccines will trigger this devastating effect, as animal trials were limited or skipped, and the reaction to subsequent exposure to SARS-CoV-2 in humans has not been specifically tested. The possibility of triggering ADE remains a substantial concern^{xxi xxii}.



29. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines contain polyethylene glycol (PEG) which is a known allergen, carrying a risk of serious, potentially fatal allergic reactions^{xxiii}. Even within the short space of time of the vaccine being rolled out, there have been several reports of serious allergic reactions and anaphylaxis, which appear to be occurring at a higher rate than normally expected for vaccines^{xxiv xxv}. In response to these reports, the US Centre for Disease Control (CDC) issued advice that anyone allergic to PEG or its close relative, Polysorbate, should not receive either of the currently available mRNA vaccines^{xxvi}.
30. A leaked CDC PowerPoint presentation showed a high level (1 in 36 doses) of reported significant adverse events (leaving people unable to perform normal daily activities or to work and requiring medical attention) over the first 5 days of the US Pfizer vaccine rollout^{xxvii}.
31. Neurological damage and complications have previously been reported following vaccinations. Worryingly, in the Covid-19 vaccine trials, cases of transverse myelitis, which affects the spinal cord, were reported^{xxviii xxix} as well as other neurological adverse events, such as Bell's palsy (paralysis of the facial nerve) reported in the Pfizer trial data^{xxx} and Moderna trial data^{xxxi}. There have also been reports of encephalomyelitis following Covid-19 vaccination^{xxxii}.
32. Potential concerns have also been raised regarding the effects of the vaccines on fertility and on the risk of HIV acquisition. Concerns about fertility are based on homology between the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein and Syncytin-1, which is essential for placental development^{xxxiii}. Due to this homology, it is plausible that antibodies produced by the Covid-19 vaccine could cross react with the placental proteins which could negatively impact fertility. It is possible that such concerns will be refuted by evidence in due course, but currently there are no data.
33. Concerns regarding increased vulnerability to HIV infection have been noted in relation to vaccines using an adenovirus vector (used in the Oxford/Astra-Zeneca vaccine)^{xxxiv}. More recent observations have led to renewed warnings regarding this potential effect with the Covid-19 vaccines^{xxxv}. In addition, a recently published paper raised the possibility that mRNA vaccines may increase the risk of prion diseases which cause chronic neurological degeneration^{xxxvi}.
34. Sadly, there have already been reports of deaths following administration of a vaccine against SARS-Cov-2 to healthy recipients^{xxxvii xxxviii}. Weekly reports are now released of adverse reactions to the vaccine, and this reveals high levels of adverse reactions and deaths in various age groups.^{xxxix}
35. This prior awareness of potential harms led the UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to update their software to be able to capture adequately the "expected high number of adverse events"^{xl}.

SUMMARY

36. We require an immediate retraction from Mr Morgan of the Tweet.
37. We also require a full apology by Mr Morgan to all those people who have been offended or upset by the inflammatory name calling and the implied requirement that they be ostracised from society.
38. We would also ask that Mr Morgan ceases with any further Tweets which encroach on highly emotive areas such as this and where the issues are complex and nuanced.
39. Finally, we would ask that other public figures be conscientious and respectful if they wish to make any public statements, on social media or otherwise, concerning the subject of “vaccine passports”.

UK Medical Freedom Alliance www.ukmedfreedom.org
Lawyers for Liberty [Democracy Declaration/Lawyers for Liberty](http://DemocracyDeclaration/LawyersforLiberty)

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- ⁱ [Business Insider Top Who Scientist cites lack of evidence for Covid-19 Vaccines](#)
- ⁱⁱ [Clinical Trials NIH U.S. National Library of Medicine](#)
- ⁱⁱⁱ [UKMFA Letter to MHRA JCVI](#)
- ^{iv} [NHS Constitution for England](#)
- ^v [NHS Consent to Treatment](#)
- ^{vi} [UNESCO - Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights](#)
- ^{vii} [CPS - Hate Crime](#)
- ^{viii} [UKMFA - Vaccination Mandates by Employers for Employees](#)
- ^{ix} [FDA Briefing Document December 10, 2020](#)
- ^x [BMJ - Will covid-19 vaccine save lives?](#)
- ^{xi} [Forbes - Covid-19 Vaccine Protocols Reveal that Trials are Designed to Succeed](#)
- ^{xii} [World Health Organization - Infection fatality rate of Covid-19](#)
- ^{xiii} [Wiley Online Library - Global perspective of Covid-19 - John P.A. Ioannidis](#)
- ^{xiv} [Business Insider - Top Who Scientist cites lack of evidence for Covid-19 Vaccines](#)
- ^{xv} [Daily Mail - People must keep social distancing and wearing masks AFTER getting Covid Vaccine](#)
- ^{xvi} [Yahoo UK News - UK approval of world's first mRNA Covid-19 vaccine sparks hope](#)
- ^{xvii} [BMJ - Could Covid-19 mRNA vaccines cause autoimmune diseases?](#)
- ^{xviii} [PNAS - Avoiding pitfalls in the pursuit of a Covid-19 vaccine](#)
- ^{xix} [Scientific American - The Risks of Rushing a Covid-19 Vaccine](#)
- ^{xx} [PLOS ONE - Immunization with SARS Coronavirus Vaccines Leads to Pulmonary Immunopathology](#)
- ^{xxi} [Nature.com - Antibody-dependent enhancement and SARS-CoV-2 vaccines and therapies](#)
- ^{xxii} [NIH - Informed consent disclosure to vaccine trial subjects of risk of COVID-19 vaccines worsening clinical disease](#)
- ^{xxiii} [AAAS - Science - Suspicions grow that nanoparticles in Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine trigger rare allergic reactions](#)
- ^{xxiv} [BBC News - Covid-19 vaccine: Allergy warning over new jab](#)
- ^{xxv} [CNN Health - 2 Alaska health care workers suffer reactions to Covid-19 vaccine](#)
- ^{xxvi} [CDC - COVID-19 Vaccines and Allergic Reactions](#)
- ^{xxvii} [CDC - Anaphylaxis Following m-RNA COVID-19](#)
- ^{xxviii} [SAGE Journals - Transverse myelitis and vaccines: a multi-analysis](#)
- ^{xxix} [RT News - Second AstraZeneca volunteer reportedly suffers rare neurological condition](#)



^{xxx} [Daily Mail - Four trial volunteers who got Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine developed Bell's palsy - but FDA denies that the temporary facial paralysis was caused by the shot](#)

^{xxxi} [International Business Times - Coronavirus Vaccine Side Effects: Some Suffer Bell's Palsy After Inoculation, FDA Reveals](#)

^{xxxii} [Reuters - Mexican doctor hospitalized after receiving COVID-19 vaccine](#)

^{xxxiii} [2020 News - Dr. Wodarg and Dr. Yeadon request a stop of all corona vaccination studies and call for co-signing the petition](#)

^{xxxiv} [The Lancet - Use of adenovirus type-5 vectored vaccines: a cautionary tale](#)

^{xxxv} [Forbes - Researchers Warn Some Covid-19 Vaccines Could Increase Risk Of HIV Infection](#)

^{xxxvi} [Scivision Pub - COVID-19 RNA Based Vaccines and the Risk of Prion Disease](#)

^{xxxvii} [International Business Times - Florida Doctor Dies Weeks After Receiving Pfizer Covid-19 Vaccine; Wife Blames Side Effects](#)

^{xxxviii} [International Business Times - Did Portuguese Woman Die a 'Sudden Death' Due to Side Effects from Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine?](#)

^{xxxix} [GOV.UK - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine adverse reactions](#)

^{xl} [Pharmaphorum - MHRA looks to AI to hunt for COVID-19 vaccine side effects](#)