

18 Apr
2021,
19:59

to CabSecHS,
me

cc Jeanne Freemant
Jason Leitch

Dear Nicola Sturgeon

We are writing to you on behalf of the Zero Covid Scotland campaign, to convey our deep concern over the possibility of new Covid-19 variants reaching Scotland.

You will already be aware of the emergence of the South African variant in London.

This variant is thought to be, to some extent, resistant to the vaccines currently available. Further variants are also likely to emerge, with the easing of restrictions in England, which may be even more resistant.

We are therefore asking the Scottish Government to:

1. Reverse its policy to lift, on 26th April, its existing advice against travel between Scotland and England, except for strong reasons.
2. Request people in London to not visit Scotland at this point, and extend that request to people in other parts of England or Wales should the South African variant or other variants posing concerns over vaccine resistance be identified outside London.
3. Consider its commitment to allow 12,000 spectators into Hampden Park for UEFA matches this summer.

Ms Sturgeon, in March you referred to Scotland adopting a virus elimination strategy for Covid-19. This is surely the time to make the most of the low rates of infection in Scotland and adopt such a Zero Covid strategy, a central element of which is to prevent the importing of infections from England and elsewhere.

A Zero Covid strategy has been successful in many other countries, including Iceland, the Atlantic provinces of Canada, the Isle of Man, Australia, New Zealand, and Taiwan. It has saved lives and protected economic prosperity. Surely it is time for Scotland to follow that path.

Yours sincerely

On behalf of Zero Covid Scotland