

## Former Supreme Court judge Lord Sumption calls coronavirus curbs tyrannical and a 'breathtaking' infringement of democratic rights

- Lord Sumption to say Covid curbs contain all the ingredients of totalitarianism
- He will accuse ministers of using police to suppress opposition to their policies
- He will warn that the effects of coronavirus coercion are corrosive of democracy

By [STEVE DOUGHTY SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT FOR THE DAILY MAIL](#)  
PUBLISHED: 23:20, 26 October 2020 | UPDATED: 18:42, 27 October 2020

**2.7k** shares **1.1k** View comments

Lockdowns and other Government-imposed Covid curbs contain all the ingredients of totalitarianism, a former Supreme Court judge warns.

Orders to remain at home and rafts of new laws to restrict what people can do amount to a 'breathtaking' infringement of democratic rights, Lord Sumption will say in a speech tonight.

He has repeatedly warned that ministers have been exceeding their rightful powers but these criticisms are his strongest yet.

He will tell the Cambridge Law Faculty that the use of coercion to try to quell the pandemic is unprecedented in British history, even in wartime, and that it runs against basic freedoms.

Lord Sumption will accuse ministers of using the police to suppress opposition to their policies, of creating new criminal offences without the legal right to do so, and of grabbing unconstitutional powers by issuing misleading guidance.

Site  Web Enter your search

Like Daily Mail

Follow Daily Mail

Follow @DailyMail

Follow Daily Mail

Follow @dailymailuk

Follow Daily Mail

### DON'T MISS

▶ Kanye West presents wife Kim Kardashian with a hologram of her late father Robert for star's 40th birthday: 'It is so lifelike!'



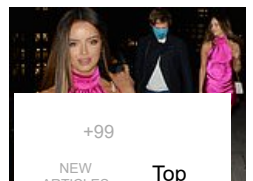
EXCLUSIVE Emma Corrin's Diana is dynamite: BAZ BAMIGBOYE gets a first look at 'breathtaking' season four of The Crown



▶ Shameless Kim Kardashian shares even MORE birthday instas of her party going for a midnight swim and enjoying a Sunday Service



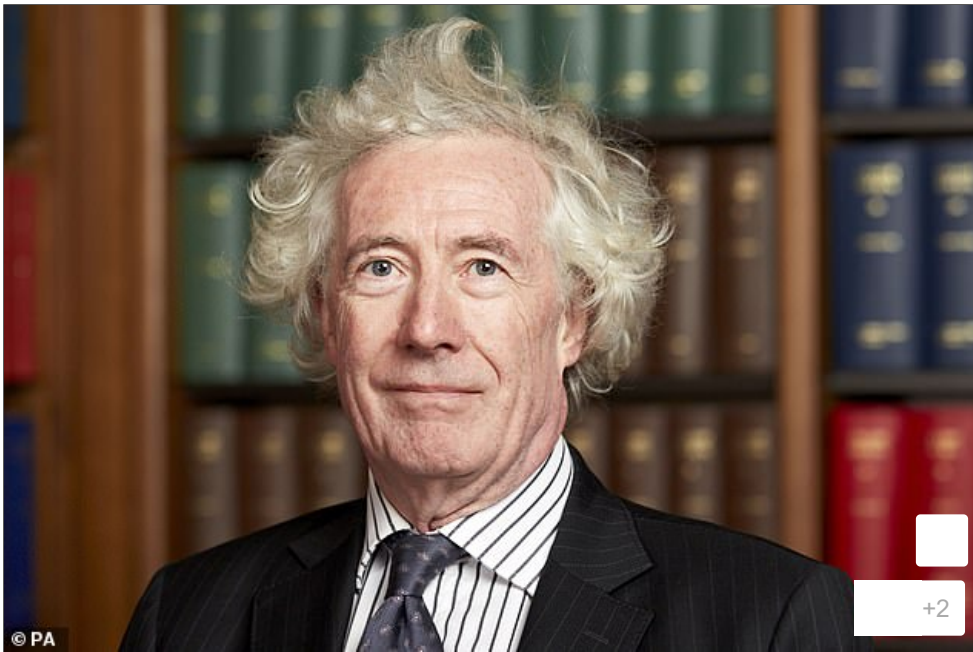
▶ Maura Higgins looks sensational as she puts on a VERY leggy display in a pink satin mini-dress and heels while enjoying a date with a mystery man



David and Victoria Beckham 'land £16million deal with Netflix for fly-on-the-wall series which will

+99 NEW ARTICLES Top

Share



Orders to remain at home and rafts of new laws to restrict what people can do amount to a 'breathtaking' infringement of democratic rights, Lord Sumption will say in a speech tonight

He is to say the methods used by ministers will undo the unity of society and will lead to long-term authoritarian government.

Lord Sumption will say that ministers avoided Parliament through the Public Health Act which let them introduce lockdowns and other measures without the same level of scrutiny by the House of Commons or Lords.

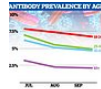
Giving the Cambridge Freshfields annual law lecture, he will accuse the Government of 'tendentiously' presenting guidance as if it was law - such as the two-metre social distancing rule.

### SHARE THIS ARTICLE

### RELATED ARTICLES



'This wouldn't have happened with Roger Ailes': Trump rages...



Covid-19 vaccine could still offer long-lasting protection,...

He will also say the Government gave police 'unprecedented discretionary' enforcement powers, some of which were used to suppress opposition to its policies, The Telegraph reports.

Lord Sumption will speak of new criminal offences brought into being on the 'mere say-so of ministers', with the fines of up to £10,000 'truly breathtaking' constitutionally.

This has been achieved through the 'language of impending doom', 'alarmist' projections and statistical manipulation, he will say.

▶ show unseen footage of their lives'



▶ Stylish knits, cosy coats and dresses to die for! How THIS online store has got your new season looks sorted! AD FEATURE

▶ Good morning campers! I'm A Celeb production crew 'will be staying at a caravan park in North Wales' as hit show films in the UK for first time



▶ Kylie Jenner channels her inner superhero in clinging red costume as she and pals transform into the Power Rangers for a night out on the town



EXCLUSIVE 'The sex appeal is frightening!' Jamie Laing jokes Sophie Habbou is 'one lucky lady' after his Strictly training improves his skills in the bedroom



▶ 'I die every time we dance!' Little Mix star Perrie Edwards reveals she's in AGONY after she slipped her disc and tore the base of her spine



▶ Ocean trails, cascading waterfalls and sun-soaked beaches: Why you should head to Madeira in 2021 for an adventure-filled winter sun holiday AD FEATURE



▶ Tiger queen! Kim Kardashian and BFF Jonathan Cheban dress up as Carole Baskin and Joe Exotic... and her kids get in on the act too



▶ Fans ruthlessly react to the 'creepy' hologram of Kim Kardashian's late father Robert that was gifted to her by husband Kanye West for her 40th birthday



Phil Collins, 69, looks frail as he prepares for Genesis rehearsals... amid ongoing property row with ex-wife Orianne Cevey, 46

NEW ARTICLES Top

Share



© AFP via Getty Images

He will tell the Cambridge Law Faculty that the use of coercion to try to quell the pandemic is unprecedented in British history, even in wartime, and that it runs against basic freedoms. A family is seen sitting down to watch Prime Minister Boris Johnson address the nation in March

He will also give a chilling warning that the Government's actions pose a severe threat to reshape the relationship between the state and the public in a shift to a more authoritarian style of politics, which will survive past the current crisis.

The intervention comes amid growing tension over rules meant to reduce infections, such as the Tier Three restrictions in northern England.

Lord Sumption, who stepped down from the Supreme Court in 2018, will warn that the effects of coronavirus coercion are corrosive of democracy and will lead to resentment among those worst affected, including the poor and the young.

He will warn that the methods used by ministers will undo the unity of society and will lead to long-term authoritarian government.

The attempt by the First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford, to stop shops selling goods said to be non-essential as part of a 'firebreak' policy has led to both public anger and widespread ridicule.

Share or comment on this article: Former top judge brands coronavirus curbs tyrannical

2.7k shares

MOST WATCHED NEWS VIDEOS

Embed this </>

Thai MP slashes his wrist in anti-government

Jewish men get shoved by BLM after trying to

Shocking moment two young children are

'Doesn't exist': Durham councillor claims Covid



Are hot flushes, restless sleep and brittle hair a thing of the past? How these three women won the war against menopause's most frustrating symptoms...

AD FEATURE

'Teeth bucked and discolored and rocking a perm': Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson ridicules his younger self with amazing throwback snap



I'm a Celebrity... get me my thermals! As the hit TV show swaps Australia for a freezing Welsh castle, ALISON BOSHOFF reveals what horrors await stars



This cancer is making me appreciate my thermals! Jeff Bridges, 70, poses hooked up to an IV and says love from fans feels like a 'positive virus' after lymphoma diagnosis



'Hang in there just for a little bit longer': Married Nicole Poturalski, 27, breaks her silence after 'split' from Brad Pitt, 56



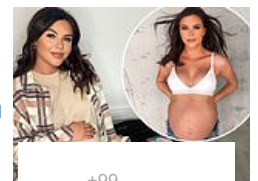
Chrissy Teigen gets into the Halloween spirit as she bakes spider cookies with her two-year-old son Miles Family time



Keeping Up With The Kardashians: Kim copes with Kanye West AND Khloe being sick with coronavirus as family self-records pandemic onset



TOWIE's Shelby Tribble cradles her baby bump as she reveals her hospital bag is packed and ready ahead of her imminent labour



+99

NEW ARTICLES

Top

Share

How Bobby Ball's talent took him from tractor welder to £200,000 a month: DAVID LEAFE looks back at the funnyman's life

