

## ***Coronavirus announcements and impact on retail & logistics***

This is very much about what the public knew when and how that affected what they did and how that went on to affect retail and logistics, as opposed to a Sunday Times-type investigation. So where possible it is about when announcements were made with concurrent reporting.

Apologies if you don't have the subscriptions necessary to access some of the articles, but these are provided mainly as corroboration of the dates, with the key point of interest in my intro words. I've used a light-coloured font for the links, so the story stands out, but the links are live.

My objective in putting this together, is to help understand client data going forward – what happened when. It won't cover all points of interest as it is just my one person take on it, so if you think I've left out something key, do let me know and I'll do an update.

And lastly, before you get started, if you'd like to discuss a logistics or non-logistics project, I am an independent consultant, currently available and would love to talk with you! My details are at the bottom of this piece.

30 Jan

- WHO declared a global public emergency: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jan/30/who-declares-coronavirus-a-global-health-emergency>
- UK raised threat level to moderate: <https://metro.co.uk/2020/01/31/uk-raises-coronavirus-threat-level-death-toll-rises-213-12157366/>

31 Jan

- First confirmed UK case: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020\\_coronavirus\\_pandemic\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_coronavirus_pandemic_in_the_United_Kingdom)

2 Feb

- Washing your hands becomes the medical advice: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/feb/02/uk-coronavirus-public-advice-adverts-tissues-hands>

5 Feb

- Impact on China ports and shipping being reported: [https://www.joc.com/maritime-news/coronavirus-cost-china-ports-6-million-teu-first-quarter-analyst\\_20200205.html](https://www.joc.com/maritime-news/coronavirus-cost-china-ports-6-million-teu-first-quarter-analyst_20200205.html)

11 Feb

- Covid-19 coined as official name for Coronavirus: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-51466362>

12 Feb

- Impact of delays on UK supply chains for eg clothing being reported: <https://www.retail-week.com/supply-chain/coronavirus-delays-to-uk-retail-supply-chains-but-no-panic-yet/7034135.article>

17 Feb

- Industry focus still on Brexit: <https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/brexit/brexit-stockpiling-for-1-january-will-be-impossible-says-brc/602057.article>

21 & 22Feb

- First clustering and death in Lombardy announced: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020\\_coronavirus\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Italy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_coronavirus_pandemic_in_Italy)

24 Feb

- Primark warn re potential product shortages: <https://www.retail-week.com/fashion/primark-reports-sales-rise-but-warns-coronavirus-may-hit-supply/7034199.article>

26 Feb

- By here we were aware that there might not be enough intensive care to go round: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus-uk-deaths-nhs-intensive-care-flu-wise-men-protocol-a9361916.html>

27 Feb

- Industry already saying it wasn't getting enough guidance on preparations, some companies were already reported as closing offices although PHE said that was unnecessary: <https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/health/new-coronavirus-advice-for-businesses-doesnt-go-far-enough-warns-industry/602365.article>

28 Feb

- Italian producers had already started stockpiling in the UK: <https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/supply-chain/italian-food-producers-stockpile-in-uk-over-coronavirus-fears/602423.article>

Feb

- Kantar: sales of hand sanitiser increased 255% in February, liquid soaps increased 7% and household cleaning product sales soared 10%: <https://www.retail-week.com/grocery/data-grocery-growth-accelerates-as-shoppers-stock-up-amid-coronavirus-fears/7034274.article>

2 Mar

- Panic buying was being talked about because of a surge of online orders and a spike in sales of durable products and disinfectants: <https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/service-and-availability/supermarkets-face-panic-buying-and-stockpiling-as-coronavirus-fears-escalate/602472.article>
- But industry still worrying about other things at this point: <https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/supply-chain/red-diesel-ban-could-have-devastating-impact-warn-hauliers/602471.article>

3 Mar overleaf

### 3 Mar

- Ocado warned customers of “exceptionally high demand” this week and said shoppers were placing “particularly large orders”, saw its sales go up 10.4% during the period: <https://www.retail-week.com/grocery/data-grocery-growth-accelerates-as-shoppers-stock-up-amid-coronavirus-fears/7034274.article>
- British government launches Contain stage of Coronavirus plan: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-action-plan-launched>
- Johnson joked that he was still shaking hands with everyone: <https://www.theneweuropean.co.uk/top-stories/boris-johnson-and-coronavirus-victims-1-6542714>
- But also encouraged people to sing happy birthday while washing their hands: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-at-coronavirus-press-conference-3-march-2020>

### 4 Mar

- Supermarkets sell out of hand sanitiser: <https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/service-and-availability/supermarkets-sell-out-of-hand-sanitiser-amid-coronavirus-panic-buying/602551.article>
- Tesco reported as having stopped face to face meetings with suppliers: <https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/tesco/tesco-halts-face-to-face-supplier-meetings-amid-coronavirus-fears/602563.article>
- Pork exports in difficulty as China demand has fallen: <https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/buying-and-supplying/coronavirus-threatens-british-pork-production-as-china-exports-collapse/602539.article>

### 5 Mar

- First UK death as originally reported – so more significant as a date with respect to impact: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/05/more-than-a-hundred-people-in-uk-infected-with-coronavirus>
- (First UK death was actually week earlier = 28 Feb): <https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-first-uk-death-was-a-week-earlier-than-thought-nhs-data-reveals-11967999>

### 9 Mar

- Supermarkets had started rationing toilet roll and hand gel: <https://www.retail-week.com/grocery/supermarkets-ration-products-to-quell-coronavirus-stockpiling/7034321.article>
- The need for flexibility for store deliveries was being discussed: <https://www.retail-week.com/grocery/coronavirus-government-to-grant-supermarkets-more-flexible-delivery-times/7034335.article>

### 10-13 Mar

- Cheltenham festival went ahead: <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2020/apr/08/cheltenham-cited-boris-johnson-twickenham-trip-to-support-festival-go-ahead-horse-racing>

### 10 Mar

- Dorries is confirmed as having Coronavirus – see 10:37pm and 10:48pm in timeline: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/science-and-disease/coronavirus-uk-news-latest-cases-italy-update-covid-19/>

11 Mar

- Pandemic announced by WHO:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-51839944>
- UK government allows Atletico-Madrid and Liverpool match to go ahead with Spanish fans attending (the alternative discussed being playing in an empty stadium, with fans watching from home) – see 8:08pm in timeline: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/science-and-disease/coronavirus-uk-news-latest-cases-italy-update-covid-19/> NB Atletico weren't allowed to their own ground at the time
- The Bank of England cut the interest rate:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/mar/11/bank-of-england-rate-cut-just-before-budget-is-perfectly-timed-covid-19>
- The budget included some (initial) measures to support those affected by Coronavirus:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/budget-2020>

12 Mar

- British government announced move from Contain to Delay phase:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-government-announces-moving-out-of-contain-phase-and-into-delay>
- Johnson said Britain facing “worst public health crisis for a generation” and “many more” people would die: <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/live/2020/mar/12/trumps-travel-ban-wont-have-much-impact-on-spread-of-coronavirus-says-rishi-sunak-live-news>

13 Mar

- Denmark announced that it was closing its borders from the following day:  
<https://metro.co.uk/2020/03/13/denmark-closes-borders-coronavirus-pandemic-worsens-12395632/>

13 Mar

- A number of sporting events were cancelled:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/live/2020/mar/13/premier-league-and-british-football-set-for-shutdown-due-to-coronavirus-live>
- By here Ocado drivers had been told not to go in any customer homes:  
<https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/online/coronavirus-ocado-delivering-no-further-than-doorstep/602843.article>
- Morrisons offering smaller suppliers immediate payment to avoid cashflow problems:  
<https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/morrisons/morrisons-looks-to-ease-small-supplier-cashflow-problems-with-faster-payments/602872.article>
- Sales of freezers up 200% last week: <https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/frozen/stockpiling-could-lead-to-a-much-needed-revival-for-frozen-food/602841.article>

14 Mar

- Stereophonics criticised for going ahead with concert in Cardiff:  
<https://www.itv.com/news/wales/2020-03-16/stereophonics-criticised-for-not-cancelling-their-cardiff-gig-amid-coronavirus-pandemic/>

14&15 Mar

- Weekend panic buying led to biggest volume sales in history – like Christmas over two days:  
<https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/the-grocer-blog-daily-bread/coronavirus-will-change-our-lives-retailers-are-already-adapting-to-a-new-normal/602903.article>

15 Mar

- Flour shortage was being reported on by here: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/03/15/people-panic-buying-flour-think-know-answer/>
- First of the emails from Sainsbury to quell the panic and explain what they were doing about shortages: <https://westbridgfordwire.com/supermarket-chiefs-reassure-shoppers-theres-no-need-for-panic-buying/>
- By now cancelled events were a thing: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-uk-cancelled-sport-music-festivals-events-latest-postponed-a9402811.html>

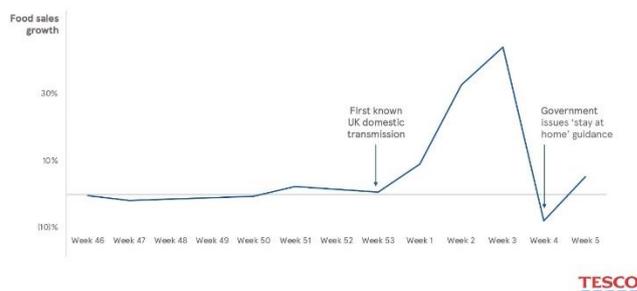
16 Mar

- By now nine EU countries had closed borders: <https://euobserver.com/coronavirus/147742>
- WHO “Test, test, test” message was made: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-51916707/who-head-our-key-message-is-test-test-test>
- By this point, drivers being denied access to toilets was already an issue: <https://unitetheunion.org/news-events/news/2020/march/coronavirus-delivery-drivers-being-denied-toilet-and-hand-washing-is-a-public-health-issue/>

16-19 Mar

- UK consumers made 42 million additional trips to the supermarket: <https://www.retail-week.com/grocery/coronavirus-stockpiling-sees-grocery-sales-rocket-beyond-christmas-spend/7034513.article>
- See graph below for Tesco sales – NB Week1 = w/c 1 March, so peak in week 3 is w/c 15 March: <https://twitter.com/dresserman/status/1247791533576704002>
- See second graph below for stats on mix - in its peak week, Tesco sold almost 6 million cans of baked beans (up 119% compared with a normal week in March), 3.3 million cans of chopped tomatoes (115% more than usual) and 3.1 million bottles of liquid soap (compared with around 670,000 usually): <https://www.retail-week.com/grocery/analysis-how-coronavirus-is-really-impacting-tesco/7034589.article>

### Initial impact – sales shape



### Initial impact – stockpiling



#### 17-19 Mar

- First FTA survey carried out, showing 10% of drivers in self-isolation:  
<https://fta.co.uk/coronavirus/fta-coronavirus-business-continuity-survey/submit-your-details-to-access-the-results-of-fta-s> NB More stats in link

#### 17 Mar

- Sunak first announcement re £350Bn package: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-51935467>
- Drivers hours regs relaxed specifically for delivery of essential items to retailers:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-relaxation-of-the-enforcement-of-eu-drivers-hours-rules/temporary-relaxation-of-the-enforcement-of-the-drivers-hours-rules-delivery-of-essential-items-to-retailers>
- Publication of government's intention to propose emergency powers to parliament:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emergency-bill-to-strengthen-coronavirus-covid-19-response-plans>
- It is too early to list retailers, restaurants etc that will have permanently closed as a result of Coronavirus, but some were already affected before lockdown:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/mar/17/high-street-brands-in-fight-for-survival-amid-coronavirus-fallout>

#### 18 Mar

- Announced that schools would close from Friday: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51952314>
- L'Oreal reported as about to start making hand sanitiser:  
<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/loreal-hand-sanitizer-coronavirus>
- Queues of trucks at EU borders being reported: <https://www.businessinsider.com/coronavirus-europe-borders-shut-trucks-traffic-jam-2020-3?r=US&IR=T>
- Supermarkets started rationing certain food products:  
<https://www.businessinsider.com/coronavirus-sainsburys-rations-food-as-brits-panic-buy-2020-3?r=US&IR=T>
- Iceland encouraged its stores to put aside first two hours for elderly customers:  
<https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/supermarkets/supermarkets-introduce-wave-of-new-measures-to-deal-with-coronavirus-panic-buying/602985.article>
- By here, major clothing retailers were cancelling orders from eg Bangladesh:  
<https://theloadstar.com/global-retailers-cancelling-orders-threatens-bangladesh-garment-industry/>

#### 19 Mar

- Sainsbury and Tesco stop opening cafes and food counters to release staff to fill shelves:  
<https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/supermarkets/supermarkets-introduce-wave-of-new-measures-to-deal-with-coronavirus-panic-buying/602985.article>
- Entire food supply chain confirmed as key workers, meaning their children can continue attending school: <https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/people/food-supply-chain-workers-included-in-list-of-key-workers/603116.article>

#### 20 Mar overleaf

20 Mar

- Macron threatened to close the border unless more restrictive measures put in place in UK: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/uk-europe/news/macron-threatened-uk-entry-ban-without-more-stringent-measures/>
- Johnson announced pubs, cafes, restaurants and gyms to shut tonight and Sunak announced about covering 80% of workers' wages: <https://www.cityam.com/coronavirus-wage-bailout-government-to-cover-80-per-cent-of-workers-salaries-up-to-2500/>
- Last day of UK schools being open: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51952314>
- By here the supermarkets were all recruiting extra staff, with Aldi, Asda and Lidl reported as being on hunt for 16K new staff: <https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/hiring-and-firing/aldi-asda-and-lidl-on-hunt-for-16000-workers-to-help-keep-shelves-stocked/603131.article>
- Government announced extension of HGV MOTs: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-mots-for-lorries-buses-and-trailers>

w/e 21 Mar

- See graph below - grocery sales 43.1% higher than the same period last year, reaching a total of £3.2bn – just shy of the amount spent during the peak week of Christmas 2019: <https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/consumer-trends/stockpiling-reaches-32bn-high-in-third-week-of-march/603504.article>

### Grocery spend grows: % increase on last year



Source: Nielsen Homescan • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

21 Mar

- £1Bn food stockpiled by here: <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/11224293/coronavirus-panic-buying/>
- 12 weeks of Shielding the vulnerable started: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

23 Mar

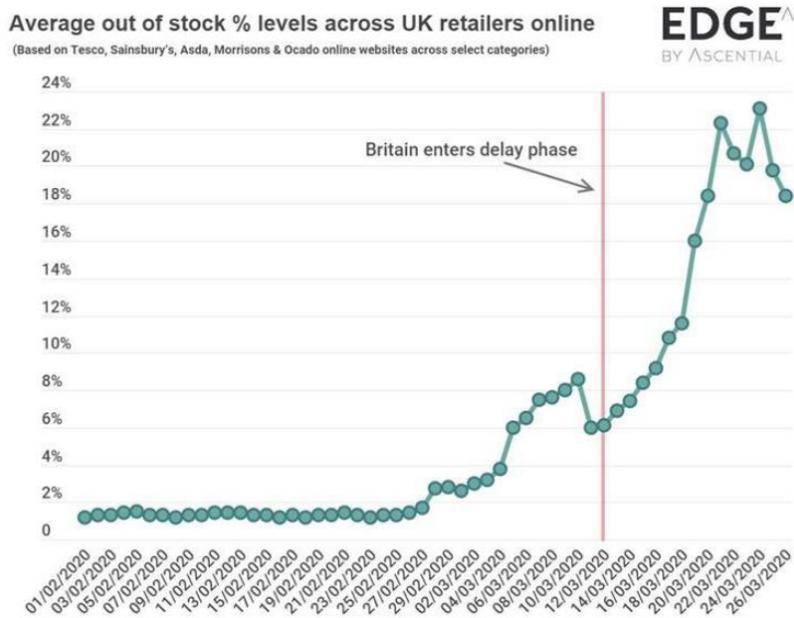
- Supermarkets started giving the elderly and those with disability to online slots: <https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/supermarkets/supermarkets-introduce-wave-of-new-measures-to-deal-with-coronavirus-panic-buying/602985.article>
- First lockdown announced in evening: <https://metro.co.uk/2020/03/23/boris-orders-everyone-stay-home-protect-nhs-save-lives-12445434/> NB This announcement included encouraging people to use food delivery services
- Dorries announces she's going back to work: <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/health/nadine-dorries-coronavirus-covid19-westminster-health-minister-a4394631.html>

24-26 Mar

- Second FTA survey carried out, showing 34.3% had drivers refused access to toilet facilities: <https://fta.co.uk/coronavirus/fta-coronavirus-business-continuity-survey/submit-your-details-to-access-the-results-of-fta-s>

24 Mar

- Announcement of first NHS Nightingale Hospital at ExCel: <https://metro.co.uk/2020/03/24/new-nhs-hospital-open-excel-centre-12450548/>
- Waitrose started limiting number of people in store: <https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/waitrose/waitrose-sets-limit-on-number-of-people-allowed-in-stores/603220.article>
- See graph below - peak out of stocks in supermarkets: <https://www.retail-week.com/grocery/data-supply-chain-challenges-start-to-ease-as-grocers-step-up-to-feed-the-nation/7034506.article>



25 Mar

- Emergency powers become law: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/coronavirus-uk-draconian-emergency-legislation-police-power-a9426131.html>
- Parliament closed a week early: <https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-parliament-to-shut-down-tonight-over-covid-19-spread-fears-11963334>
- 2 Sisters, among other companies, looks to recruit hundreds of additional workers to cover increased demand: <https://www.foodmanufacture.co.uk/Article/2020/03/25/Coronavirus-prompts-recruitment-at-2-Sisters>
- By this date, pollution had already dropped in many UK cities: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/mar/27/coronavirus-uk-lockdown-big-drop-air-pollution>
- Off licences were declared essential: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-52033260>

26 Mar

- Many other ferries affected, this just one example – P&O stands down 1,100 workers, suspending passenger services and focusing on freight: <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/dover/news/p-o-ferries-stands-down-1-100-staff-due-to-pandemic-224707/>
- Next closes warehouses, for staff safety: <https://edelivery.net/2020/04/next-warehouses-reopen-new-coronavirus-safety-measures/>

27 Mar

- HSE issued guidance including about driver access to toilet facilities during Coronavirus: <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/hse-adds-to-national-coronavirus-guidance/>
- Johnson tested positive: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020\\_coronavirus\\_pandemic\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_coronavirus_pandemic_in_the_United_Kingdom)

w/c 30 Mar

- First HGV driver CPC courses delivered entirely online: <https://www.jaupt.org.uk/centre/jsm-driver-training/ac01164>

30 Mar

- Reported that Ocado experiencing 10x higher than normal demand: <https://www.retail-week.com/grocery/ocado-struggles-to-deal-with-10-times-higher-than-normal-level-of-demand/7034507.article>
- Letter from DfT to FTA & RHA confirms logistics sector as essential workers and travel therefore essential: <https://twitter.com/RHADuncanB/status/1245622322590932993?s=20>

31 Mar

- Grocery sales grew by 20.6% year on year in March, more than £10.8bn, which was more than is spent at Christmas: <https://www.retail-week.com/grocery/coronavirus-stockpiling-sees-grocery-sales-rocket-beyond-christmas-spend/7034513.article> - lots of sales stats in this article
- Temporary relaxation for those HGV drivers who's CPC has expired after 1 March 2020: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-temporary-changes-to-driver-cpc-requirements>
- By here, Tesco had announced it could take 120K additional online orders per week: <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/mar/31/uk-supermarkets-ease-coronavirus-shopping-restrictions>

Last week Mar

- Footfall in retail locations down 81.4%: <https://www.retail-week.com/stores/uk-retail-footfall-plummets-to-all-time-low-due-to-coronavirus-lockdown/7034620.article>

All Mar

- ONS figures released 24 April showed that monthly retail sales volume fell sharply by 5.1% as many stores ceased trading from 23 March. Clothing store sales -34.8%. Food stores and non-store retailing were the only sectors to show growth in volume, with food stores seeing the strongest growth on record, at 10.4%. Online sales as a proportion of all retailing reached a record high of 22.3%: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/retailindustry/bulletins/retailsales/march2020>
- 8% uplift in logistics roles advertised per week compared to the average week in January and February and 6% up on the average week in March 2019. But, also 30% increase in job searches: <https://edelivery.net/2020/04/coronavirus-leads-logistics-jobs-boom-roles-rise-6-year/>

31 Mar-2 Apr

- Third FTA survey carried out, showing c20% HGV drivers self-isolating, the peak for this stat. Also less than 20% companies had normal volumes of freight (tonnes) and nearly 23% had 75%+ less business: <https://fta.co.uk/coronavirus/fta-coronavirus-business-continuity-survey/submit-your-details-to-access-the-results-of-fta-s>

2 Apr

- By here, 46% of truck fleet parked up:  
<https://twitter.com/RHARodMcKenzie/status/1245799250396622849?s=20> = c240K trucks:  
<https://motortransport.co.uk/blog/2020/04/06/hauliers-need-urgent-government-help-as-almost-half-of-trucks-parked-up-with-no-work/>
- Petrol usage down by 75%, and forecourt diesel by 71%: <https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/service-and-availability/motor-fuel-group-insists-forecourts-will-remain-open-despite-fuel-sales-collapse/603607.article>

3 Apr

- By here, threat of demurrage when containers started arriving from China was being reported:  
<https://theloadstar.com/uk-hauliers-get-together-to-offer-storage-for-uncollected-imports-to-save-dd/>

5 Apr

- Johnson admitted to hospital:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020\\_coronavirus\\_pandemic\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_coronavirus_pandemic_in_the_United_Kingdom)

6 Apr

- First reports of farmers having to dump milk: <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/coronavirus-milk-farmers-wales-freshways-18048204>

7-9 Apr

- Fourth FTA survey carried out, showing less than 15% had normal volumes of freight:  
<https://fta.co.uk/coronavirus/fta-coronavirus-business-continuity-survey/submit-your-details-to-access-the-results-of-fta-s>

8 Apr

- Reports that container fleets to set new record for inactivity – 13% of entire global fleet will be out of work: <https://splash247.com/inactive-boxship-fleet-to-surpass-3m-teu-for-the-first-time/>

10-13 Apr – Easter

- Footfall in retail locations down 83.1% over Easter weekend: <https://www.retail-week.com/stores/uk-retail-footfall-plummets-to-all-time-low-due-to-coronavirus-lockdown/7034620.article>

12 Apr

- Johnson discharged from hospital: <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/apr/12/boris-johnson-leaves-hospital-as-he-continues-recovery-from-coronavirus>

14-16 Apr

- Fifth FTA survey carried out, showing more than 24% are still having drivers refused access to toilet facilities: <https://fta.co.uk/coronavirus/fta-coronavirus-business-continuity-survey/submit-your-details-to-access-the-results-of-fta-s> NB Lots of other stats via link

14 Apr overleaf

14 Apr

- Next re-opens warehouses after putting social distancing in place and reaches self-imposed order limit within two hours: <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/fashion/next-website-not-working-closed-buy-online-warehouses-a9464716.html>
- Next sells warehouses to Aviva to raise cash to cover Coronavirus lockdown (earliest reference is 14 April, this article is 15 April): <https://www.shdlogistics.com/property/next-sells-3-warehouses-aviva-raise-cash>

15 Apr

- Bottle closures in short supply as main sources were China and Italy: <https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/supply-chain/manufacturers-need-bottle-closures-for-sanitiser-its-imperative-we-start-recycling-them/603969.article>

16 Apr

- Lockdown extended for at least three more weeks following first review: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52313715>
- UKWA survey reports that 90% warehouses full, with an estimate that leaves only 2-3 weeks capacity for imports arriving: <https://twitter.com/UKWarehouse/status/1250813128142655488?s=20>

17 Apr

- Joint letter from six logistics / transport organisations to Johnson asking for more support for SMEs in the sector: <https://ciltuk.org.uk/Portals/0/1/Joint-Industry-Letter-17-April.pdf>
- Cold Chain Federation predicts chilled and frozen storage could be full in a couple of weeks' time due to product continuing to arrive but lack of demand from food service, schools...: <https://www.shdlogistics.com/cold-chain-federation/cold-chain-federation-update-impact-covid-19>

20 Apr

- Government allows temporary relaxation of HGV driver medicals: <https://www.igd.com/articles/article-viewer/t/hgv-drivers-further-measures-to-maintain-capacity/i/25248>
- The main US benchmark for oil went negative for the very first time: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/20/business/oil-prices.html>

22 Apr

- Boohoo announces sales of smart tops for Zoom, as well as homewear such as joggers, selling well: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-52380948>

22 Apr

- Boots report recruiting 500 additional delivery drivers as prescriptions delivered go from 90K a month ago to 150K per week: <https://www.retail-week.com/health-and-beauty/boots-recruits-new-drivers-as-demand-for-online-delivery-soars/7034689.article>

23 Apr

- Reports of grounded freighters being relicensed: <https://theloadstar.com/atlas-and-cargologicair-lead-the-race-to-get-grounded-freighters-back-in-the-air/>
- Measures introduced to protect high streets from aggressive rent collection: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-protect-uk-high-street-from-aggressive-rent-collection-and-closure>

24 Apr

- Government provides support package for ferries:  
<https://www.logisticsmanager.com/government-stumps-up-17-million-to-protect-freight-routes/>

As I said at the beginning of this piece, I'm very open to republishing this listing, so if you think I've left out any key dates, announcements or responses, or they were earlier than the first instance I managed to track down, please do send me a link to include in a future version.

And I'm currently actively seeking logistics projects to work on!

24 April 2020

Kirsten Tisdale

01295 758875

Email: [kirsten@aricia.ltd.uk](mailto:kirsten@aricia.ltd.uk)

Aricia Limited: [www.aricia.ltd.uk](http://www.aricia.ltd.uk)

Kirsten Tisdale: [www.linkedin.com/in/kirstentisdale](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kirstentisdale)

Pic from 7 March: <https://www.watfordobserver.co.uk/news/18289348.supermarket-shelves-empty-across-hertfordshire-coronavirus-fears/>

