Twitter Thread by Oliver Moody

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I don't understand what the UK is trying to achieve with this line of argument. Germany spent €375m funding BioNTech, ~20m doses of whose vaccine have gone to UK. UK spent £84m funding the Oxford vaccine, precisely 0 doses of which have gone to the EU.



'EU must acknowledge British taxpayer funding of Oxford jab'

By **James Crisp**
EUROPE EDITOR *in Brussels*

BRITAIN will tell the EU this week they must take into account the millions spent by British taxpayers on creating the AstraZeneca vaccine, as the threat of blocking its export remains.

Talks resume as early as tomorrow to break a stand-off over jabs manufactured at the company's Halix plant in Leiden, the Netherlands.

The European Commission has threatened to block shipment of vaccines from Halix to the UK because the British-Swedish pharmaceutical company had reportedly fallen short of its contracted deliveries to the bloc.

Ursula von der Leyen, the commission president, last week demanded "reciprocity" after she disclosed that factories in the EU had sent 21 million jabs to the UK since December but had received none in return.

UK-EU negotiations will focus on defining "reciprocity" and whether and how a deal could take into account investment in vaccine development.

British officials will argue the EU has benefited from £84 million in funding for the manufacture of the AstraZeneca jab, developed by scientists at Oxford University. Without this, the UK will say, there would be no vaccine at all.

The UK is pushing for its per capita investment to be part of the calculations as it is a single country rather than the 27-member states of the bloc. According to the Government's spending review, it paid £6 billion to develop and procure Covid-19 vaccines.

The UK also exports raw materials to the Pfizer vaccine plant in Belgium. It plans to spend almost £15 billion in 2021-22, to include funding for research on drugs, treatments and vaccines.

Maros Sefcovic, the European Commission vice-president, said investment would be taken into consideration. One diplomat said he was not surprised at the UK demand, saying it "seemed fair". But he warned the EU would also want German investment in the development of the Pfizer jab to be considered.

29,727,435
VACCINE FIRST DOSE
+411,305

3,293,517
VACCINE SECOND DOSE
+283,654

4,715
DAILY CORONAVIRUS CASES

+4%
CHANGE IN 7-DAY AVERAGE

126,573
DEATHS +58

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(Loose phrasing there: should say "precisely 0 doses of which have been exported from the UK to the EU", since exports are the issue at stake here)

You could argue I suppose that the EU has benefited from that £84m of the British taxpayer's money through the ~30m AstraZeneca doses it has received from factories in the EU, but that seems a bit circuitous