Twitter Thread by Matt Chorley



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Mood among Tory MPs is seriously bad. Even those who think this is the right thing to do now are dismayed that it's come to this.

"Shambolic. Rudderless ramblings. constituents getting in touch furious or in tears."

"Grim grim grim"

"I think it could be his Suez"

All a bit late and cobbled too.

Cabinet ministers didn't know that furlough was being extended or that "Stay At Home" was back until they saw it on the TV.

■ Conservative minister: "The incompetence is another level. Is this a deliberate destruction of the Tory Party? People only vote for us because they think we don't care, but are competent. Lose the competence and we're fucked. We've lost the competence. And we are fucked."

Another minister says: "The science seems sound. The comms in the lead up to this was shocking. What's the point in having a tight, intimate decision making group when it leaks like a sieve?"

There is also scepticism among Tory MPs about the scary charts from Whitty and Vallance. Is the data driving the decisions or are the charts being rustled up to justify decisions?

On "this could be his Suez" a Tory gets in touch to point out that this is what Cummings used to say about May and Brexit.

He's now presiding over something much worse

Other thoughts:

At what point do Whitty and Vallance walk? They were clearly unhappy with Tier 3, which was only unveiled 19 days ago.

At what point does the PM accept he is f***ed politically, ignores the polls & backbench grumbling, and focuses solely on saving the country?

https://t.co/GxKKoe10a0



Several Tory MPs have independently claimed their local areas have low case numbers but county officials wanted to go into Tier 3, so rustled up some scary charts.

True or not, shows trust is broken down locally as well as nationally

Looming battle: Tory MPs think school and uni unions will now push to close, and fear this No10 is now prone to u-turn

Mar 19: Turn tide in 12 weeks

May 17: “Near normality” by end of July

July 17: “Significant normality” by Christmas

Sep 9: “back to normal by Christmas”

Oct 23: “some aspects of our lives... back to normal" by Christmas

TONIGHT: very different and better by spring

Apart from that it’s all going very well.

I hope if you’re reading this your next month isn’t too grim. And you have friends, family and income to get through it.

Anyway thanks for reading. Join me on @TimesRadio on Monday from 10am