

## **Wetherspoon Press Release – 27 December 2020**

Pub company Wetherspoon has asked politicians and the public to reconsider the evidence regarding lockdowns. Sweden, which did not impose a lockdown, has had less Covid-19 fatalities per capita in recent weeks than the UK.

In the week ending 21 December, according to the respected Worldometer website, there were 215 fatalities in Sweden, compared with 3,214 in the UK. Adjusting the Swedish fatality rate for population (the UK population is about 6.8 times larger), the UK fatality rate per capita is over double Sweden's.

From 1 November, just before the second UK lockdown, until the 21 December, Worldometer records 2,244 fatalities in Sweden, compared with 21,061 in the UK. Adjusting the Swedish fatality rate for population, it is approximately 27% less than the UK's.

As Worldometer also reports, Sweden has had 806 fatalities per million, compared to 979 for the UK since the start of the pandemic.

Sweden's "all-cause" fatality rate\* for 2020 is approximately the same as four out of the last five years (Appendix 1). The UK's "all-cause" fatality rate in 2020 is slightly higher than recent years.

There does not appear to be a relationship between population density and Covid-19 outcomes. Singapore and Taiwan have densely populated countries with low mortality, whereas France and the US are much less densely populated than the UK, but have similar Covid-19 outcomes.

Wetherspoon Chairman Tim Martin said:

“The statistical comparison between the UK and Sweden is freely available on Worldometer, but often seems to be ignored or misrepresented.

“A particular worry is that the UK is relying on a lockdown strategy, championed by Neil Ferguson, Imperial College and SAGE, yet the Imperial College model forecast around 88,000 fatalities for Sweden, if they did not lock down, but the outcome has been less than 10% of this number.

“Given the huge scale of job losses in the UK, especially in the hospitality industry, and the widely reported "collateral damage" to health, there should be a proper debate on this subject, rather than reliance on politicised government propaganda and statistics.”

\*Source: Statista / ONS

## Appendix 1

### Worldometer: UK and Sweden Covid-19 fatalities, 7 days to 21 December

	UK	Sweden
Fatalities	3,214	215
Fatalities - Daily Ave	459	31
Fatalities adj for Population	459	209

### Worldometer: Covid-19 fatalities from 1 November to 21 December

	UK	Sweden
Fatalities	21,061	2,244
Fatalities - Daily Ave	413	44
Fatalities adj for Population	413	300

### Worldometer: Total Covid-19 fatalities in 2020 to 21 December

	UK	Sweden
Fatalities	67,616	8,167
Fatalities adj for Population	67,616	55,680
Fatalities per million	979	806

### Statista/ONS: all-cause mortality 2015-2020

	UK			Sweden		
	Fatalities	Population	Rate	Fatalities	Population	Rate
2015	601,634	65,860,146	0.91%	90,907	9,764,950	0.93%
2016	596,015	66,297,944	0.90%	90,982	9,836,007	0.92%
2017	606,049	66,727,461	0.91%	91,972	9,904,896	0.93%
2018	614,690	67,141,684	0.92%	92,185	9,971,638	0.92%
2019	603,419	67,530,172	0.89%	88,766	10,036,379	0.88%
2020	682,437	69,045,834	0.99%	94,664	10,127,530	0.93%

UK - 2020 figures annualised on YTD to 30 November.

Sweden - 2020 figures annualised on YTD to 11 December.