

Quarantine measures in the highlight

So despite all the speculation in the UK media, Portugal has not been removed from the travel corridor provided you are travelling to England or Northern Ireland. Scotland and Wales however have set their own rules as we know.

Much of the media hysteria was focused on Portugal's removal, based solely on the fact that the number of confirmed cases has increased here exceeding the magic 20 per 100,000 limit. As Safe Communities has repeatedly said, there is far more to this than just a single measure. If it was just a 7 day rolling average, the same the countries would be removed or added to the travel corridor every few days. As we said there are other factors such as testing levels, rates of increase, deaths etc. which are taken into account.

In respect of the decision by the Welsh and Scottish governments, however, we are not aware of the criteria they used to make their own decisions. Although each country has the right to make its own decisions under a devolved government system, the fact that the announcements came at different times obviously led to some confusion.

Clearly this affects some people who were planning to book holidays in Portugal, and off course has made it more complicated for families and friends where one person say lives in Wales (quarantine) and the other in England (no quarantine).

It appears certain however that the UK will be reviewing this situation regularly and has emphasized that people planning or going on holiday should take account of frequent changes being made.

David Thomas

President

Safe Communities Portugal

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