

# Summary of Today's News

## Rape victims must hand over mobile phones to police or risk cases being dropped

*Rape victims are being told they must hand over their mobile phones to police or risk prosecutions against their attackers being dropped.*

"If you refuse permission for the police to investigate, or for the prosecution to disclose material which would enable the defendant to have a fair trial then it may not be possible for the investigation or prosecution to continue." Director of Public Prosecutions Max Hill said digital devices will only be looked at when it forms a "reasonable line of enquiry" and only "relevant" material will go before a court if it meets "hard and fast" rules. In rape and sexual assault cases, prosecutors also now use disclosure protocols previously used in terror trials. The Centre for Women's Justice (CWJ) said a legal challenge is expected from at least two individual women who have been told by police their cases are likely to collapse if they do not cooperate with requests for their personal data.

## Socialists win Spain election as far-right party enters parliament for the first time

*Spain's ruling Socialists have secured the most votes in the country's general election but failed to win a majority amid historic gains by the far-right.*

In one of the country's most hotly contested elections in decades, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's party took 123 seats in the 350-seat parliament with nearly 29% of the vote. Voters in Spain have become disillusioned as the country struggled with a recession, austerity cuts, corruption scandals, the divisive Catalan independence demands and a rise in far-right Spanish nationalism.

## British man denies murdering mother and toddler in Canada

*A British man says he has been left "traumatised" after becoming the prime suspect in the alleged murder of a mother and her daughter in Canada.*

Calgary Police said Ms Lovett and Aliyah were last seen in Cranston on the evening of Tuesday 16 April, while activity on her bank accounts stopped two days later. "We are currently working with multiple other agencies to search Cranston and the area around Bragg Creek for evidence." Leeming said he was being treated as the prime suspect because he was "the last person to see them". "The Calgary Police Service continues to search for evidence in the suspected homicides of Jasmine Lovett and Aliyah Sanderson," the force said.

## Severe obesity increases risk of early death by 50%, study finds

*Severely obese people are 50% more likely to die early than those who are a healthy weight, a study of 2.8 million adults suggests.*

The study also found that compared with normal weight individuals, a BMI of 25 to 30 more than doubled the risk of type 2 diabetes and sleep apnoea - pauses in breathing or shallow breathing during sleep. People with severe obesity (BMI of 40 to 45) were 12 times more likely to develop type 2 diabetes and had a risk of sleep apnoea that was 22 times greater. For example, having high blood pressure at the start of the study was strongly associated with developing dyslipidaemia, chronic kidney disease and type 2 diabetes.

## 'Do you know this man?' First images of double rape and abduction suspect

*Police have released two images of the man they are seeking over the abduction and rape of two women.*

Image issued of suspect sought following the abduction and rape of two women in #Chingford #Edgware - do you know this man?

## **Over-50s could see National Insurance hike to fund 'fairer' social care system**

*Over-50s could be forced to pay more than £300 a year extra National Insurance to help fund a "fairer" social care system under plans by the Conservatives.*

On top of the £6bn already provided by the government this would cover the cost of the "universal care entitlement" under Mr Green's model. He said: "We want to hear today a clear statement from the government that they will reject this call, protect the triple lock, and follow Labour's call to fund social care properly.

## **More Britons choosing non-EU holiday destinations, says Thomas Cook**

*More UK holidaymakers have chosen destinations outside the European Union for their holidays this summer, according to new figures from Thomas Cook.*

The travel operator said 48% of its package holiday bookings for the season were for countries outside the EU, 10 percentage points higher than the same time last year.

## **Fewer female immigrants in US are reporting abuse for fear of being deported**

*Police in a number of US cities say women are not reporting sexual assault and domestic violence since Donald Trump became president because they fear attracting the attention of immigration authorities.*

Deportations of people in the country illegally have jumped sharply since President Trump took office and police and campaigners say women would rather suffer in silence than risk themselves or their children being detained and thrown out of the country. In Los Angeles, the former chief of police said fear of the federal government had led to a drop in domestic violence reports of 10% and of sexual assault by 25% in a year.

I want them to know there is a better way to live, a better and healthier life, a lot of people that are living in this situation think they have to learn to live like this but no they can live better with not being hit and not being hurt." Campaigners say victims have increasingly joined together to offer support to others coming forward.

## **Tories in trouble as 'Brexit betrayal' sentiment overshadows elections**

*These days there's no safe ground for a Conservative campaigner.*

The Conservatives didn't quite win that council, but it did take it out of Labour's hands and into no overall control, picking up six seats on the back of UKIP's collapse. One gentleman tells me he thinks people won't bother to vote in the upcoming local elections because they are so fed up about Brexit and "being lied to". Nigel Farage's new Brexit Party is already topping polls ahead of next month's EU elections with 27% of the vote. "If we have those European elections, we have selected our candidates and we will be prepared and we will fight them." Having to contest these elections will be disastrous for Mrs May's Conservatives who have been scrambling around to try to avoid the poll on 23 May. But many of her advisers and ministers are quietly resigned to holding these elections as hopes fade of getting a Brexit deal through parliament. Two sources told us that the government is planning to add reassurances on workers' rights into the domestic legislation in order to try to win support from Labour MPs representing leave seats such as Rosie Cooper, Lisa Nandy and Gareth Snell.

One Conservative source said that there were 22 Labour MPs in this grouping who might vote for the WAB if the reassurances were baked into the bill.