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Open your eyes, Rishi

■ Chancellor Rishi Sunak claims that by increasing universal credit by 3.1 per cent he would be helping those reliant on benefits. What utter rubbish.

I found myself unemployed last October when the restaurant I was manager of closed down and I'm now in the situation where I have anxiety attacks when I have to put the electric

heater on for a bath. Once all the bills are paid, I'm left eating only one meal a day as I simply cannot afford shopping.

Sugar, bread and milk have become absolute luxuries for me and thousands of others in the same situation.

Come on, Rishi, open your eyes to the nationwide poverty!

LC, Walsall

A gentle reminder that ignorance is no defence in law

■ As the police hand out fines for Partygate and prime minister Boris Johnson refuses to acknowledge whether lockdown rules were broken at No.10, it's worth remembering that ignorance of the rules/law does not make you exempt from prosecution.

If you drive 40mph in a 30mph zone, there's no justification and you should receive a fine regardless of your intent or belief that you were doing the right thing.

Tony Howarth, London

■ The Met's finding that Covid laws were broken at No.10 during lockdown is vindication of the outrage felt by the British public.

The initial issuing of 20 fixed penalty notices to Partygate participants is to be welcomed. More will probably follow.

However, the denials by the PM and other ministers that any Covid rules were broken are clear-cut evidence of attempts to mislead Parliament and also the British public.

The hypocrisy of our country's leaders and their attempts to cover up the truth must now lead to resignations - they are clear breaches of the ministerial code.

Alan Jensen, West Hampstead

■ Did I read this right? The Met will not be releasing the names of those they fine for the No.10 lockdown-breaking parties. So, as an employee of government, I can breach a law on

my employer's premises and apart from the police, no one else will know?

I'd understand if the events were somewhere away from a government-owned property - then, yes, they are like any other private citizen. But can you imagine if this approach was adopted in the corporate world?

Dear shareholder, we had some money laundering going on - they were fined but no names, no pack drill, nudge, nudge, wink, wink, say no more!

Michael, Pimlico

■ The news about fixed penalties being issued to some of the Downing Street Partygate participants is to be welcomed.

The majority of British people followed the letter and the spirit of the law during the lockdown - unlike,

it would appear, our hypocritical prime minister and members of his staff.

Parliament was repeatedly misled when it was told that none of the pandemic rules had been broken at Downing Street and elsewhere in Whitehall.

We now know the truth about those events. Resignations should now follow. The ministerial code is quite clear about this and there should be no exceptions.

Al, Charlton



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A low blow but some good may come of this

■ Linda Simpson (MetroTalk, Wed) is completely wrong to say she is 'on Will's side' after the movie star slapped Oscars host Chris Rock for making a joke about his wife's alopecia.

Will Smith resorted to physical violence in front of a global audience, wrecking the Oscars. He compounded the crime by shouting out a string of expletives at an amazingly calm Chris Rock, who remarkably took it on the chin (no pun intended). It's a sad state of affairs when even an Oscars presenter ought to get danger money.

Robert Sandall, Clapham

■ While I do not condone violence, hopefully the slap will raise awareness



Violence: Will Smith strikes Chris Rock of the distress that can be caused by jokes about hair loss, such as endured by Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith.

Public jibes such as 'nice hair' and 'I knew them when they had hair' [to