The Isolation Economy

A nation in isolation is coming together – Britain’s community spirit has doubled down as 10 million people have volunteered during the national lockdown. This renewed spirit also includes extending financial support to local businesses - Britons have spent up to £1bn on services they have been unable to use since 23rd March, to support low wage workers and help small businesses survive.

May 2020

One in five UK adults (19%) has volunteered their time since the start of the lockdown

More than two-thirds (67%) are helping with grocery shopping for others

16% have volunteered to make calls that help combat loneliness

Britons have spent £170 million on prepaid vouchers and coupons to support local businesses

60% plan to buy more goods from local stores in a bid to help bring the local economy back to life following the lockdown

78% plan to continue volunteering when lockdown restrictions end

£1bn

Two months into lockdown, £1bn has been spent on services that they have been unable to use

10m

10 million people across the UK are volunteering in their communities during the COVID-19 crisis

£357m

Each week, the work volunteers are doing has the equivalent economic value of more than £357 million