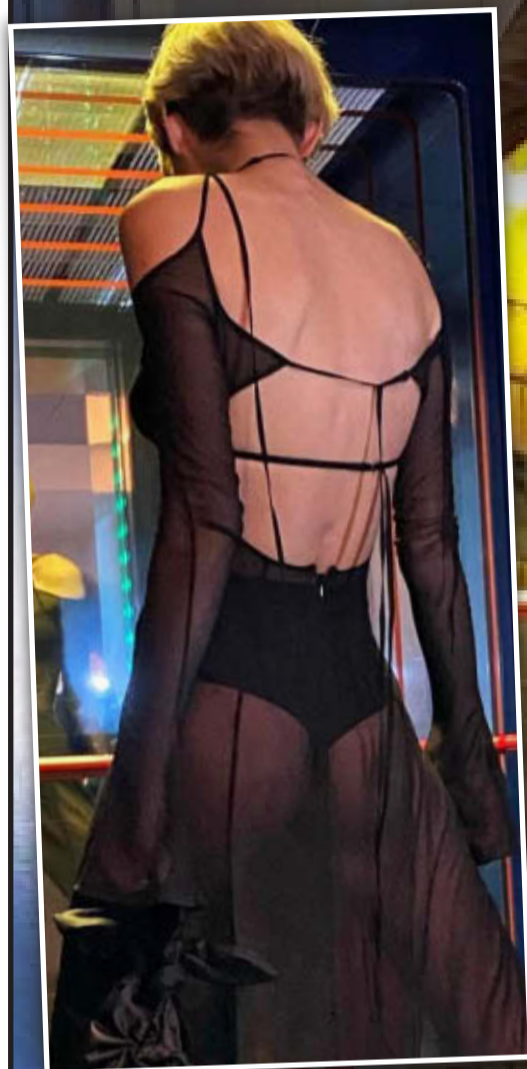


# Emma and a jaw-dropping dinner outfit



Bold outfit: Emma Corrin poses in a lift in her sheer black dress

By **Emma Powell**  
Showbusiness Correspondent

WHEN Princess Diana stepped out in a new dress the eyes of the world were on her. And now it seems that Emma Corrin, who played the princess in *The Crown*, has the same gift.

But given the 25-year-old was wearing a far more daring frock than Diana could ever have been seen in, it's hardly a surprise. Miss Corrin modelled the sheer black number, by designer Charlotte Knowles, in a hotel lift in London before dining out for a friend's birthday.

Her stylist and friend Harry Lambert wrote on Instagram: 'Another red carpet look lost to Covid.'



# DIY SOS as shops run out of roof tiles, timber and cement

DIY enthusiasts and builders are having to put projects on hold due to major shortages of basic supplies such as cement, timber and roof tiles amid a boom in pandemic home improvements.

Major DIY chains and builders' merchants have placed strict limits on the quantity of items each customer can buy – if they are even in stock.

Many families stuck at home have diverted lockdown savings towards extensions, new office spaces and freshly landscaped gardens.

But the rush to carry out work has met with supply problems that have led to frustrating shortages.

One DIY builder described how he was forced to pause work for three weeks because 'there's no cement anywhere' in the South of England.

## 'Impossible to get hold of'

B&Q, Travis Perkins and Wickes have all reported supply difficulties and are either out of stock, or have restricted how many bags of cement customers can buy.

Reports suggest the wait for roof tiles has soared from a fortnight in normal times to as long as 20 weeks now. Orders of concrete fence posts can now take 16 weeks to be filled.

The supply problems started during the lockdown, with companies struggling to catch up with demand.

The building boom has been fuelled by the housing market, which recorded its strongest April sales for 14 years last month.

Last month industry groups reported that demand for builders was rising at its fastest rate for a decade, placing incredible pressure on supplies. B&Q is restricting sales of cement products to a maximum of five bags per customer. Its website states: 'With the ongoing demand for

By **Tom Witherow**  
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building materials, there are now supply restrictions across the industry on certain products.'

Travis Perkins has warned that 'due to high demand' orders should be limited to no more than ten bags of cement, adding that deliveries are likely to be delayed.

A standard 25kg bag of general purpose cement was out of stock online on Wickes last night.

Andy Ellis, who is completing his own house build in Horsham, West Sussex, said: 'I haven't been able to get hold of cement for three weeks – you won't find it anywhere in the South. It doesn't matter if you're an individual or a small builder, it is nigh-on impossible to get hold of cement. The bigger housebuilders are getting allocated it, but in any outlet that supplies small builders or individuals there is nothing.'

Other materials, such as tiles, insulation and timber are also in short supply because of the pandemic and transport issues. The price of timber has gone up 80 per cent in the past six months, while copper and steel prices have jumped by 40 per cent.

The National Federation of Roofing Contractors said its members are facing the biggest squeeze in 'living memory', leading them to issue guidance to roofers to 'start talking to your clients about price rises'.

Figures from the Business Department show the price of all building materials increased by close to eight per cent in March, compared with a year earlier. Industry leaders have estimated a shortage of skilled labourers, exacerbated by the pandemic and Brexit, has also led labour prices to rise by around a fifth.

Jessica Levy, of the Federation of Master Builders, said: 'Prices are rising and there is going to be a wait.' Rico Wojtulewicz, of the National Federation of Builders, added: 'Labour prices and material prices are up considerably.'

# Four in five health apps 'so bad they could put patients at risk'

FOUR out of five health apps fail to meet basic quality standards and may even harm patients, an NHS-backed review has found.

Only around 20 per cent of smartphone health and medical apps followed clinical guidelines, kept patient data secure, were safe from hackers and were easy to use.

But the vast majority which promised to help people with conditions like cancer, obesity or mental health problems fell far below basic standards.

The tests, on around 5,000 apps, were carried out by the Organisation for the Review of Care and Health Apps, an independent assessor which evaluates app quality

By **Rosie Taylor**

for the NHS. Researchers tested them against more than 350 quality criteria, including the security of patients' data and whether medical advice followed NHS treatment guidelines.

Of 3,600 apps claiming to support cancer patients, around three quarters did not meet basic standards. Similar tests on 379 diet and weight management apps found just 80 were of good quality.

And only a third of mental health apps were considered good enough – with seven in ten designed to prevent suicide failing to meet basic scores.

# Easy peasy lemon squeezy: At last, those pesky pips are gone

SOME have called it the biggest time-saver since sliced bread.

In a boost for cooks, bakers and cocktail makers – seedless lemons have hit supermarket shelves for the first time.

Lemon lovers will be able to save precious seconds as they no longer have to deal with the citrus fruit's pesky pips.

The seedless variety became available at Tesco yesterday. It was not cross-bred or genetically modified by scientists to remove the seeds. Instead it is the result

By **Amelia Clarke**

of a natural mutation and was discovered by chance.

Tesco citrus buyer Emily Ridge said: 'At last, customers will no longer have to spend extra time picking out the pips after squeezing lemon on a wonderful meal or drink.'

The variety of lemon was found in Australia and is now being successfully grown in South Africa and Spain – meaning there should be year-round supplies for the UK.

