

## Families flee from gas leak

Residents were evacuated from their homes in Edinburgh yesterday after a wall collapsed and locals reported smelling gas.

Police sealed off St Clair Place in Leith and later confirmed a gas pipe had been fractured.

They closed the street near Easter Road to all cars and pedestrians and urged the public: "Please avoid the area until further notice."

The fire service said they were called out at about 2pm to reports that the wall had collapsed.

They added: "Crews have evacuated flats and a cordon is in place. Damage to the structure is being assessed."

## £13bn hols bonanza

Britons spent more than £13 billion on holiday in Spain last year, new figures have revealed.

We spent 12.8 per cent more than in 2015, and more than visitors from any other nation. The Germans were second on £9 billion.



## DOCTOR'S WARNING ON HEALTH CRISIS

# We're too obese. And too late to do anything about it

### A leading academic has warned that Scotland might never win the war on obesity.

Professor Chris Oliver says the country's weight problem has now reached a "tipping point" and that attempts to reverse the worrying trend have been too slow.

The professor of physical activity at Edinburgh University has joined colleagues in a call for drastic action to be taken.

He said: "Obesity is the norm now. Two-thirds of the population are obese and that's sad."

"It may never be possible to turn this around. We may have got to a tipping point where we can't turn this back."

Fresh efforts are being made to

### Julie-Anne Barnes

get the country's waistline back into shape. An increase in parking charges – making it more difficult for motorists to travel into cities – and a sugar tax have been suggested as ways to curb the crisis.

**But Prof Oliver, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon who once lost 12st, says there is a lack of political will behind the initiatives.**

Prof Oliver and colleagues have written to Holyrood's health committee with a range of recommendations on how to combat obesity – including restricting the availability of high fat, salt and sugary food.

The Scottish Government are due

to respond this month and will begin consultation on a new strategy this year.

Lib Dem MSP Alex Cole Hamilton said obesity costs Scotland's NHS £600 million per year. He added: "It's time we took steps and were led by experts who have been calling for this for years."

Public Health Minister Aileen Campbell said: "We recognise we need a shift in emphasis from dealing with the consequences to tackling the underlying causes – such as ending poverty, fair wages, supporting families and improving our physical and social environments."



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Professor Oliver

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