

Anti-wrinkle cream raises eyebrows as treatment for burns

Dermatologists hope No 7 cream's cosmetic advance 'triggers self-repair'

By Sarah Knapton
SCIENCE EDITOR

A COSMETIC breakthrough by scientists developing a new Boots No 7 skin cream is so powerful that dermatologists hope it could be used to heal scars and burns.

Researchers found they were able to send signals to the skin to trigger regeneration and No 7 says it is the biggest development since the company produced its "Protect & Perfect Serum", which was so advanced in anti-ageing technology it was featured on the BBC's *Horizon* programme in 2007.

Last month, scientists at the Boots brand presented their findings at the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) annual meeting after discovering two protein fragments that boost skin repair.

The fragments, or peptides, are produced naturally in the body when important skin proteins, such as collagen, break down.

However, the repair signals they emit are often lost amid the noise of other "fix-me" alarms that the body sends out with age.

The new peptide duo, which is 15 years in the making, boosts the production of more than 50 proteins, taking skin back to a more youthful state beneath the surface.

The peptides have been included in a new range of creams and serums called Future Renew released by No 7, but the breakthrough has also led to interest in the medical field for potentially healing scar tissue and burns.

Dr Mike Bell, head of science research for No 7, said the researchers had been approached by dermatolo-

gists at the AAD. "The new peptide blend effectively tricks the skin into thinking that it has been damaged to signal renewal of key proteins such as collagen and fibrillin to boost skin's natural self-repair mechanisms, targeting signs of cumulative damage both on and under the surface," he said.

"Certainly they will help skin revert to a younger state. Collagen is in lots of tissue around the body, so it's not inconceivable to think that these peptides could exist elsewhere in the body, and have repair damage reversal type effects (in scarring or burns). We don't know, we haven't tested them and we won't be doing that for No 7. But yeah, there's interest from elsewhere."

Mark Winter, managing director at No 7, added: "At

'We were inundated by dermatologists trying to find out more about blend'

the American Academy of Dermatology we were inundated by dermatologists trying to find out more. We're going to start investigating.

"We're not going to create medical products ourselves, but the technology is so unbelievable, you can imagine it would have a whole host of possibilities."

The company joined forces with the University of Manchester to evaluate thousands of possible peptide combinations, eventually settling on a blend of two novel synthetic peptides, pal-GPKG and pal-LSVD, one derived from elastic fibre proteins, the other from collagen proteins.

The No 7 Future Renew range will launch on April 12 as part of a four-piece collection comprising a day cream, night cream, serum and eye serum priced from £24.95.

Flight delays from UK triple in a year

By Blathnaid Corless

AIRLINE delays nearly tripled last year, a study has revealed.

The average delays for all flights was 23 minutes, the investigation by Which? shows, compared with 8.5 minutes the previous year.

Wizz Air was the worst major airline for flight delays from UK airports for the second year in a row, with the Hungarian carrier's departures an average of 46 minutes and six seconds behind schedule. That was more than three times longer than the previous year, when it was also ranked last for punctuality. Wizz Air operates short-haul flights from eight UK airports including Birmingham, Edinburgh, Gatwick and Luton.

Tui recorded the second worst punctuality last year, with an average delay of 40 minutes and 18 seconds. This was followed by Qatar Airways (31 minutes and 48 seconds), Turkish Airlines (29 minutes and 30 seconds) and Pegasus Airlines (27 minutes and 18 seconds). Norwegian Air Shuttle recorded the best

performance with an average delay of 13 minutes and 42 seconds.

May and June were the worst months for punctuality as the aviation sector failed to recruit and train enough staff to cope with a surge in demand for holidays following the end of Britain's Covid travel restrictions.

Consumer group Which? described the figures as

46 mins

Average time behind schedule of Hungarian carrier and worst offender Wizz Air

"worrying" and claimed they demonstrate the need for the CAA to be given tougher powers. Rory Boland, editor of *Which? Travel* magazine, said the figures will be "no surprise to passengers who've had to endure shoddy treatment for years".

He added: "It is difficult to escape the conclusion that some carriers are simply getting away with leaving passengers high and dry."

Labour to toughen law on foreign scam callers

By Charles Hymas
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

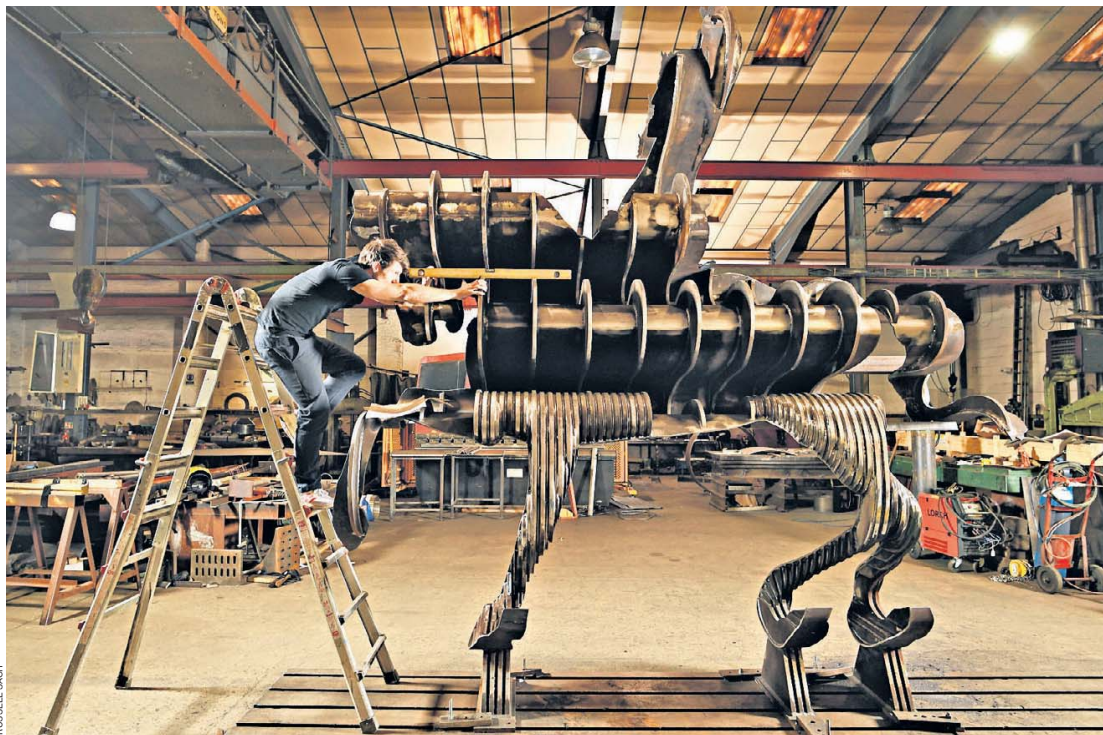
FOREIGN scam callers may be banned from pretending to be in the UK under Labour, the shadow attorney general has said.

Emily Thornberry has written to the Home Secretary urging her to introduce tougher measures to prevent fraudsters operating from abroad. The party claims measures being introduced by Ofcom, the telecoms watchdog, leave loopholes.

Ms Thornberry has proposed two "straightforward" rules to help protect the 45 million people who the watchdog found were targeted by scam calls and texts in just a three-month period.

First, no phone call made from overseas using a UK telephone number would have that number displayed when it appeared.

Second, mobile calls from overseas will not display a UK number unless the owner was a UK user on a roaming service abroad.



Artistic mettle
Nick Hornby inspects his latest work, constructed using 165 specially designed and cut pieces of Corten steel crafted into an illusionary sculpture weighing six tons. It aims to replicate the equestrian look of Richard the Lionheart and will go on display at St James's Tube station next month.

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