

Britain shuts down as disorder CONTINUES: GP surgeries and shops close early across the country before violence erupts in Plymouth and hundreds of Muslims march through streets of Birmingham

Shops, banks and GP surgeries across the country shut early tonight amid fears of further rioting in the wake of the Southport stabbings.

Reports spread on social media suggesting a 'riot' was set to hit the West Yorkshire town of Huddersfield at 1pm today, while protesters gathered in Birmingham after rumours of a gathering spread online and thugs clashed with police in Plymouth.

Frightened by the despairing scenes of violence and looting in other UK cities in recent days, many businesses have chosen to pull down the shutters ahead of time - while police have been mobilised in the town centre.

Elsewhere, staff and students at Oxford University were warned to avoid the area around the Carfax Tower in the city centre ahead of a feared protest.

A GP surgery in Birmingham also closed as hundreds of Muslims turned out to counter a rumoured far-right gathering while in Plymouth, arrests were made as anti-immigration protesters clashed with anti-fascists.

In Southport, meanwhile, locals have turned out peacefully with balloons, teddies and flowers to remember the victims of the attack at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class last Monday.

It comes as some of the first rioting suspects were hauled before court after being arrested in connection with the outrageous scenes across the country in recent

days - some of whom wept in the dock as charges were read out.

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