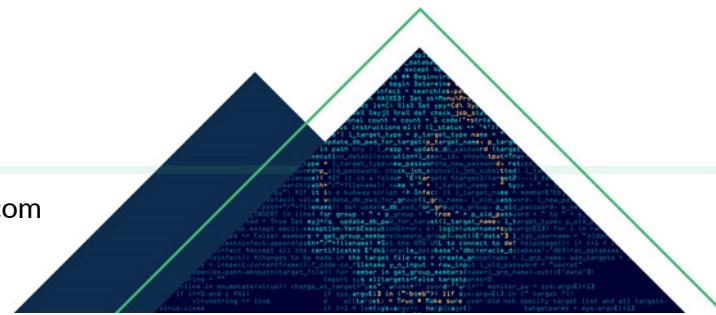




**SECURITY  
INTELLIGENCE  
UPDATE**  
June 2020



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## About Us

Sentinel Group Security (SGS) was formed in July 2005 and became a fast-growing security services provider within United Kingdom and Ireland. We first partnered with our customers to provide specialised and effective security solutions including open source intelligence reporting, security vulnerability assessments and training. Our capability is defined by our employees and the high level of skills and experience they possess and the procedures they adopt.

### Intelligence led security

With a 360° approach to threat detection and intelligence service provision. Outside of dealing with major incidents, the SGS National Operations Centre proactively assesses the various security threats that your business, people, assets and brand might face by monitoring social and conventional media to identify:

- On-going threats
- Specific industry threats
- Future trends
- Best practice



### Disclaimer

In compiling this report SGS has relied on the veracity of public information available at the time of publication. SGS accepts no legal, equitable or other liability whatsoever for any actual or consequent loss incurred by the client in relation to this report or for the accuracy of any statement herein.



## United Kingdom's National Security Threat

### Introduction

The main threats to national security are terrorism, espionage, cyber threats and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, many of which impact on the UK's national infrastructure.

National infrastructure sectors represent core strategic interests for foreign intelligence services, whose targeting against the sectors is likely to include espionage for economic, political, military or commercial gain.

While the threat from terrorism to the UK as a whole is high, and historically both international and Northern Ireland terrorist groups have targeted UK infrastructure, the current terrorist threat to the national infrastructure can be characterised as generally limited and often aspirational.

The exception is transport which continues to face enduringly high levels of threat from international terrorism. In addition, the emergency services and defence sectors, specifically police and military personnel, also face a high level of threat from both international terrorism and dissident republican groups in Northern Ireland, for whom they are a priority target for attack.

Generally higher levels of effective and visible protective security at national infrastructure sites are likely to act as a deterrent to terrorists, who increasingly favour 'soft' targets which allow them to achieve their aims with greater chance of success. Nevertheless, with the continual diversification of the threat, the ambition and capability of terrorist groups to target UK infrastructure is likely to continue to evolve. <https://www.cpni.gov.uk/national-security-threats>

## United Kingdom's Threat Definitions

### International terrorism

International terrorism from groups such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al Qaida present a threat from many others. They hold territory in places without functioning governments, making it easier for them to train recruits and plan complex, sophisticated attacks. Drawing on extreme interpretations of Islam to justify their actions, these groups often have the desire and capability to direct terrorist attacks against the West, and to inspire those already living there to carry out attacks of their own.



## Northern Ireland-related terrorism

Northern Ireland-related terrorism continues to pose a serious threat to British interests. Although the Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA) has ceased its terrorist campaign and is now committed to the political process, some dissident republican groups continue to mount terrorist attacks, primarily against the security forces.

## Domestic extremism

Domestic extremism mainly refers to individuals or groups that carry out criminal acts in pursuit of a larger agenda, such as "right-wing extremists". They may seek to change legislation or influence domestic policy and try to achieve this outside of the normal democratic process.  
<https://www.mi5.gov.uk/counter-terrorism>

## Cyber

"Cyberspace" is the term used to describe the electronic medium of digital networks used to store, modify and communicate information. It includes the Internet but also other information systems that support businesses, infrastructure and services.



Cyber security affects both the public and the private sector and spans a broad range of issues related to national security, whether through terrorism, crime or state and industrial espionage.  
<https://www.cpni.gov.uk/cyber>

## Espionage

The potential impact of successful State-sponsored espionage against the UK is both wide reaching and significant. The threat of espionage (spying) did not end with the collapse of Soviet communism in the early 1990s. Espionage against UK interests continues and is potentially very damaging. Several foreign intelligence services (FIS) seek to gather intelligence on a broad range of subjects, including foreign policy, defence, financial, technological, industrial and commercial interests. <https://www.cpni.gov.uk/espionage>

## Serious and Organised Crime

Serious and organised crime is defined in the 2018 Serious and Organised Crime Strategy as individuals planning, coordinating and committing serious offences, whether individually, in groups and/or as part of transnational networks.

The main categories of serious offences covered by the term are:

- child sexual abuse
- modern slavery and human trafficking
- organised immigration crime
- illegal drugs
- illegal firearms
- organised acquisitive crime
- cybercrime
- fraud
- money laundering, bribery, corruption and sanctions evasion.

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/>



# United Kingdom Current Threat Levels

## Introduction

Members of the public should always remain alert to the danger of terrorism and report any suspicious activity to the police on **999** or the anti-terrorist hotline: **0800 789 321**. If your information does not relate to an imminent threat, you can also contact them at <https://www.mi5.gov.uk/contact-us>

**To report an imminent threat call 999 or ring,  
the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321**

## What the threat levels mean

Threat levels are designed to give a broad indication of the likelihood of a terrorist attack.

### LOW

- Means an attack is unlikely

### MODERATE

- Means an attack is possible, but not likely

### SUBSTANTIAL

- Means an attack is likely

### SEVERE

- Means an attack is highly likely

### CRITICAL

- Means an attack is highly likely in the near future



## Current national terrorism threat level

The threat to the UK (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) from terrorism is:

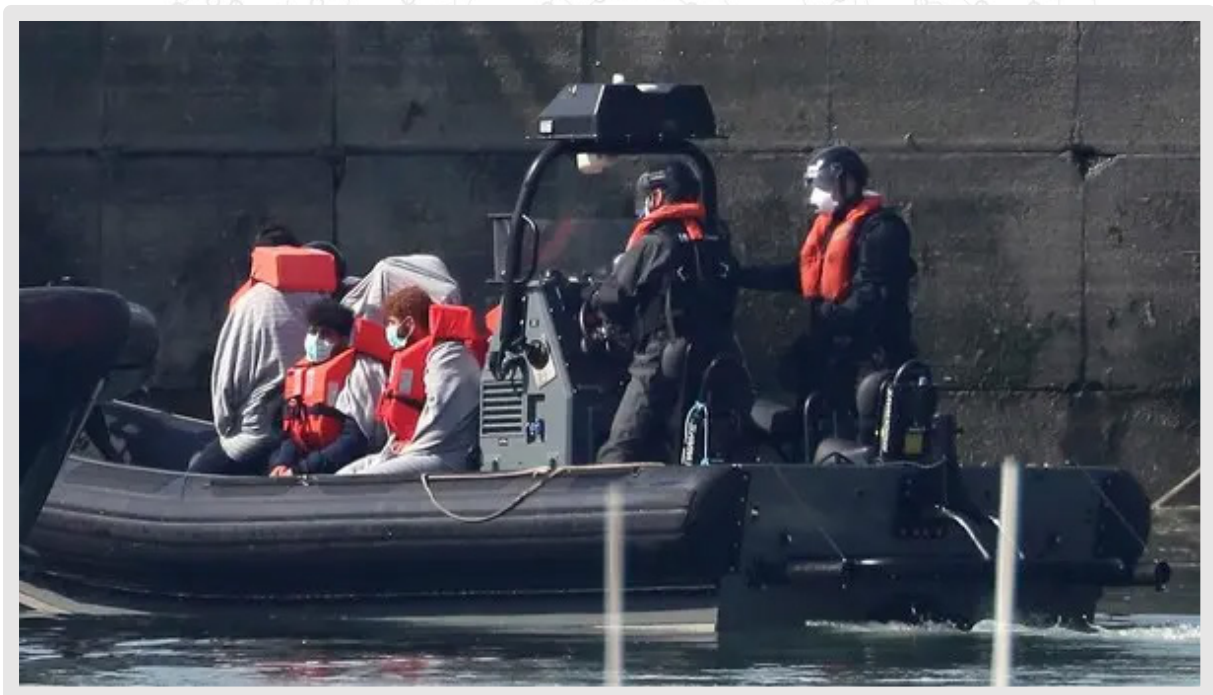
# SUBSTANTIAL

The threat to Northern Ireland from Northern Ireland-related terrorism is:

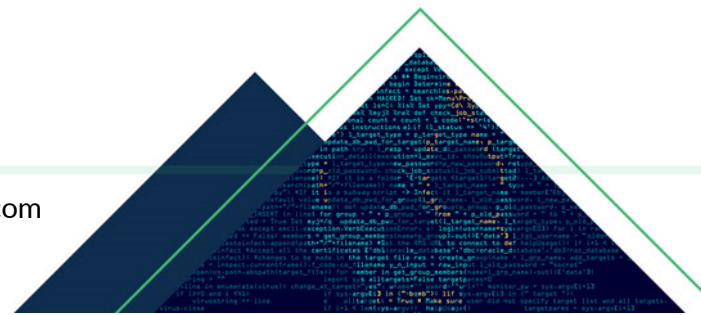
# SEVERE

## Open Source Security Incident News

### Coast guard rescue more than 120 migrants in Channel



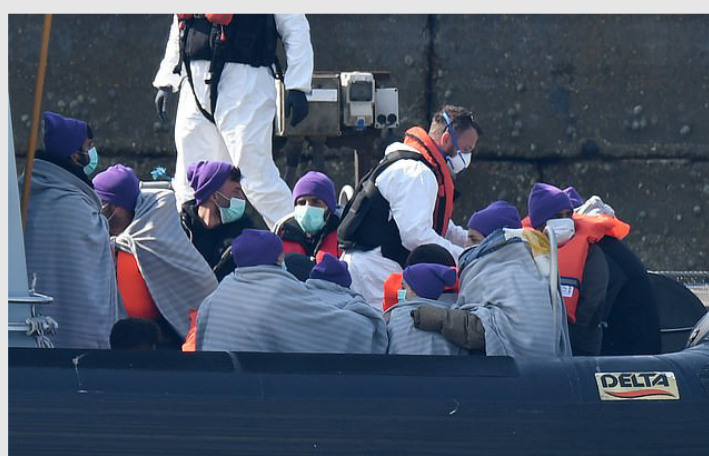
Coastguard patrols rescued more than 120 migrants in seven small boats trying to cross the English Channel, Reuters cited French maritime authorities as saying. The precise location of the rescue and the nationalities of the rescued migrants were unclear. There has been an uptick in migrants attempting to cross the English Channel in small vessels in recent months.





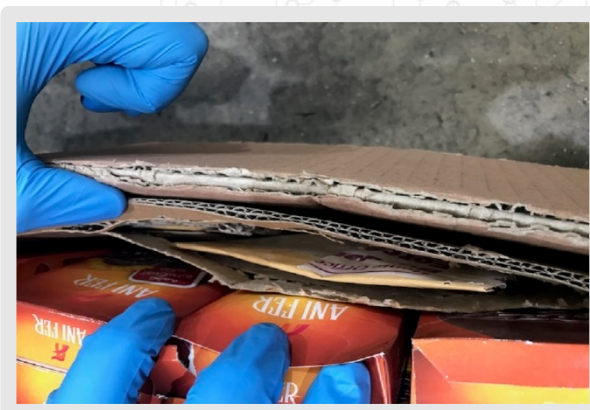
## Border Force intercepts 60 migrants off Dover

Border Force discovered 60 migrants in four small vessels in the English Channel, the Home Office said. The interceptions of the vessels occurred between 0145 hrs. local time and 0845 hrs. There has been an uptick in migrants crossing the channel during the UK's coronavirus



(COVID-19) lockdown. At least 600 individuals have attempted to cross to the UK in May. Improved weather during the summer months tends to coincide with higher numbers of vessels carrying migrants attempting to reach the UK.

## Customs officials seize 170kg of Heroin at Heathrow airport

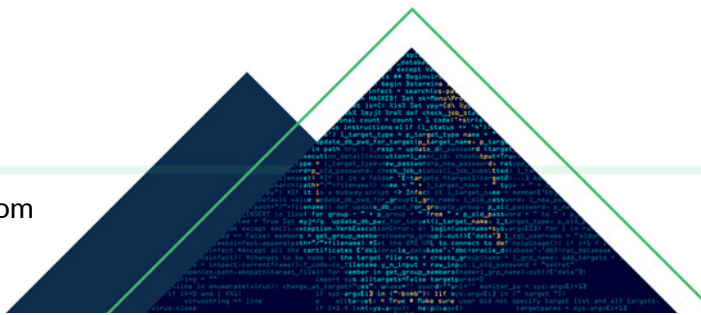


Border force officers discovered more than 170 kg of heroin at Heathrow Airport, in a freight consignment of fruit and nuts. It is unclear where the narcotics originated from. The seizure prompted three arrests. The government announced the seizure on 27 May; however, customs officials discovered the haul on 21 May. The seizure is the largest

discovery of class A drugs at Heathrow so far in 2020.

## Security guard spat at during coronavirus crisis asks for public to show respect

A security guard, Gavin Walker, 40, who works as a security guard at a secure housing scheme for vulnerable young people aged 16 to 24 in Suffolk was spat at while working through the Covid-19 crisis. During coronavirus, the centre has been operating a complete lockdown of visitors to the site.



## NPCC issues revised 2020 Security Systems Policy for installers and ARCs

THE NATIONAL Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) has recently published a revised version of the organisation's Security Systems Policy - as it's commonly known and referred to - retitled: 'The



National Police Chiefs' Council Police Operational Advice and Security Industry Requirements for Response to Security Systems'. The 2020 revision replaces the 2018 edition, entitled the 'National Police Chiefs' Council Police Requirements and Response to Security Systems'. The NPCC

document is applicable to all installers and Alarm Receiving Centres in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and is available to view via the Police Security Systems website: [www.policesecuritysystems.com](http://www.policesecuritysystems.com) and on the Secured by Design website: [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com) under 'Group Initiatives'.

## Personal details of nine million customers accessed in easyJet cyber attack

THE BOARD of budget airline easyJet has announced that the business recently suffered from a highly sophisticated cyber-attack in which the e-mail addresses and travel details of approximately nine million customers were accessed. Credit card details belonging to 2,208 of those customers were also compromised during the episode.



## Minimum 14-year jail terms for most dangerous terror offenders outlined by Government

THE COUNTER-Terrorism and Sentencing Bill marks the largest overhaul of terrorist sentencing and monitoring in decades. Terrorists now face a minimum of 14 years behind bars for serious offences and tougher monitoring as a new Bill enters the Houses of Parliament.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-and-sentencing-bill>



## National Crime Agency recovers £6.4 million linked to international organised crime



MILLIONS OF pounds of laundered criminal money have been recovered by the National Crime Agency (NCA) after an investigation into a corrupt Liberian business account. The NCA issued a Notice of Forfeiture on the account's balance of approximately £6.4 million, which investigators argued was part of a fund operated for the purpose of tax evasion, money laundering, bribery and corruption.

### Security report warns of dissidents' 'growing sophistication'

The Army's bomb disposal squad has remarked upon the "growing sophistication" of dissident republican devices, according to a security report for the government. The team was involved in 229 callouts in Northern Ireland in the 12 months up to July 2019. That is an increase from 198 on the previous year. The majority of incidents (144) involved dealing with finds of munitions. During the period covered by the report, the New IRA and Continuity IRA were involved in attacks across Northern Ireland.

## Two British Airways planes were 'sabotaged' after being covered in foam by 'disgruntled employee'

Sabotage was suspected when two BA planes were crippled by foam. Five tons of fire retardant covered the jets in a hangar at Heathrow. The finger of blame was originally pointed at disgruntled BA staff facing either redundancy or signing up to a cheaper contract. But British Airways has insisted a technical issue was to blame.



## Chinese threat prompts call for UK to toughen company takeover laws



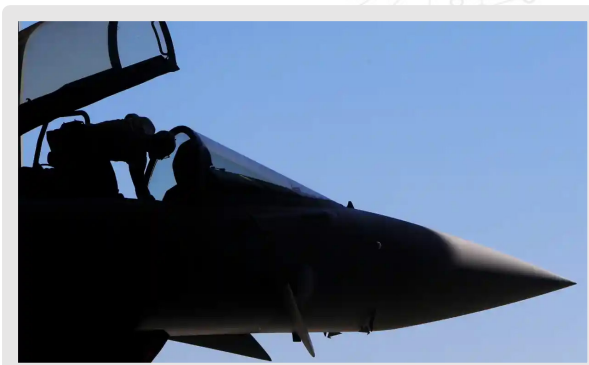
An aborted Chinese-led boardroom coup at a British technology firm is set to force the UK government to adopt stronger intervention powers to prevent hostile countries taking major stakes in strategic UK businesses. The coup, involving putting four Chinese government-backed members on to the board of Imagination Technologies, has led Tory backbenchers to demand ministers toughen pre-existing plans to add a stronger national security element to UK takeover laws. It was abandoned after MPs called on ministers to intervene.



## Senior counter-terror official put in charge of new UK biosecurity centre

A senior Home Office counter-terrorism official who was at Eton and Oxford with Boris Johnson has been parachuted in to take temporary charge of the newly established joint biosecurity centre, responsible for coronavirus threat levels. Tom Hurd has switched jobs on an acting basis to get the new centre up and running “within days”, officials said, though he remains a candidate to take over as the next director general of MI6 later this year.

## UK national security council has not met since January



Britain’s national security council – a meeting of senior ministers with military and spy chiefs has not met since late January and there are no plans for it to come together this week, prompting growing concern in some quarters of Whitehall.

The high-level body used to meet weekly under David Cameron and Theresa May but has only done so sporadically since the election, and some fear it is being made deliberately redundant during the coronavirus crisis.

## George Fowle: 'Far-right' teen downloaded explosive-making guide

A teenager with an "extreme right-wing and racist mindset" downloaded instructions for making explosives, a court heard. George Fowle, of Snodland, Kent, was 17 when he accessed "correct and viable" guides online, the Old Bailey was told. He pleaded guilty to terrorism offences and was given a 20-month sentence, suspended for two years.

## Cardiff man jailed in Spain for terror offences

A web designer from Cardiff has been jailed for seven years in Spain for financing and supporting terrorism. Spain's national court in Madrid heard Ataul Haque and his brother Siful Sujun transferred funds and hi-tech equipment to the so-called Islamic State (IS) group in Iraq and Syria. Haque fled to Spain in 2015 after Sujun was killed in a drone strike in Syria. Haque was found



guilty of financing and supporting terrorism but cleared of being a member of a terrorist group

## Two charged after £1m cocaine recovered from port



Two men have been charged with allegedly breaking into the London Container Terminal in Tilbury to retrieve packages of drugs. National Crime Agency investigators were called in on Tuesday 5 May after port workers spotted suspicious activity and reported it to port police. Two other men were later arrested by Border Force officers, who

recovered around 16 kilos of cocaine from a refrigerated container which had arrived from Belize on 1 May.

## Two charged after gun and cocaine seized in London flat

Two men have been charged after Organised Crime Partnership (OCP) officers raided the flat on Hornsey High Street on Thursday 7 May where they discovered approximately £25,000 in cash, two kilos of cocaine and 24 rounds of ammunition stashed in various kitchen cupboards.



Officers also recovered a notebook which they suspect is a ledger for drug dealing. The firearm, a .32 calibre pistol, was found in the wardrobe of one of the bedrooms. Another kilo of cocaine was hidden behind the toilet panel in the en suite bathroom.

## Father and son charged as part of investigation into importation of psychoactive drugs

A father and son have been charged as part of a joint National Crime Agency and Police Scotland investigation into the large-scale importation of the new psychoactive substance kratom. The pair, aged 60 and 38, were arrested as officers from the Organised Crime Partnership executed two warrants in the Bathgate area of West Lothian on Tuesday 12 May.



The arrests followed two seizures of kratom made by Border Force, one of 52 kilos at Edinburgh Airport on 15 April, and another of 102 kilos at East Midlands Airport on 6 May.

Kratom is a controlled substance under the New Psychoactive Substances Act 2016, traditionally grown in south-east Asia and used as a stimulant with opioid-like properties.

## Two men charged in cash find at the border



Two men have been charged with money laundering offences after £90,000 was found in a vehicle attempting to cross the UK border. Adrian Hij, 31, and Gheorghe Ionesi, 48, both Romanian nationals of no fixed abode, were arrested and charged by National Crime Agency investigators under the Proceeds of Crime Act after their vehicle was

stopped at the Eastern Docks, Dover. The money was hidden in a section of the centre console that had been specifically removed to conceal cash, with separate stashes found in a suitcase and overhead lockers.

## Fowl play: four jailed for importing hundreds of kilos of cocaine in frozen chicken

Four members of a criminal network have been jailed for a total of over 50 years for transporting hundreds of kilos of cocaine through Kent, stashed in frozen chicken and marrow bones. Thomas Lordan, 38, of Hurst Road, Sidcup; Mehmet Ali, 62, of Ministry Way, Eltham; and Francis Sullivan, 22, of Clayhill Crescent, Mottingham, who all admitted conspiracy to supply class A drugs, were sentenced yesterday to 18, 15.5, and 10 years at Lewes Crown Court.

## Terrorism and mass media

Mass media can provide the publicity which terrorists seek. Does the traditional mass media in the UK, then, inadvertently advance terrorist objectives? That was among the questions posed by research by the London-based defence and security think-tank RUSI.

The paper found that the media can amplify the negative impacts of terrorism and collective public fear; as journalists are 'not neutral', how they frame their reports can have an impact. And mass media reporting can contribute to imitation of terrorism, by 'copycats', such as, may encourage use of a particular method of attack (for example, aircraft hijackings, much publicised and in vogue in the 1970s). You can download the document free at the RUSI website <https://rusi.org/publication/occasional-papers/terrorism-and-mass-media>

## Continuity IRA 'patrol' roads in rural Fermanagh



MASKED and armed men have been pictured 'patrolling' roads in rural Fermanagh and firing shots in a cemetery. Members of the Continuity IRA are thought to have been taken some time in May. They show two masked men, armed with handguns, walking along a rural stretch of road near Wattle Bridge, close to the border with Monaghan and Cavan. The images are thought to have been taken close to where a bomb exploded last August, almost killing members of the PSNI who were searching the area at the time.

## Man charged with possession of a firearm and cocaine

A man has been charged with drugs and firearms offences following an investigation by the Organised Crime Partnership (OCP) – a joint National Crime Agency and Metropolitan Police Service unit. Rafal Jancz, 34, of North London, was arrested yesterday (27 May) in Exeter by Devon & Cornwall Police officers following information supplied by the OCP. Officers seized



cocaine from his car. As he was arrested, OCP officers searched his home on Clarence Road in North London and seized a firearm – a Bruni model 92 pistol – with a magazine and 20 rounds of ammunition. A holster and gun oil were also recovered.

## Man charged over drugs and money laundering after cocaine and £200,000 find

A man has been charged after an investigation by the Organised Crime Partnership – the joint National Crime Agency and Metropolitan Police fight against serious organised crime. Amir Shkrela, 27, of London E17, was arrested last night and allegedly found in possession of three kilos of cocaine, £200,000 and a false identity document.

## Security Industry News

### New SIA licence-linked qualifications postponed to April 2021



The Security Industry Authority (SIA) has decided to postpone the introduction of new licence-linked qualifications until April 2021. The SIA has spoken to industry, awarding organisations, and training providers who have outlined the difficulties they face during the current pandemic. In view of these challenges

the September 2020 launch date for the new qualifications is unachievable. The SIA has therefore set a revised target date of April 2021 for the introduction of the new licence linked qualifications.

### Security Industry Authority (SIA) Covid-19

A message from our Chief Executive: The challenge presented by Coronavirus has been an unprecedented one. One with tragic consequences for many individuals and their families. Read the full message by clicking on the link.

<https://www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

You can find SIA Covid-19 and the Private Security Industry - Frequently Asked Questions using the following link. <https://www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk/Documents/sia-covid-19-faq.pdf>

## NSI audits resume from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

The National Security Inspectorate (NSI) reports the resumption of all audits and assessments from Monday, June 1, following the UK Government “go to work if you are unable to work from home” guidance. <http://www.nsi.org.uk/>

## NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY CENTRE (NCSC)

The NCSC supports the most critical organisations in the UK, the wider public sector, industry, SMEs as well as the general public. When incidents do occur, they provide effective incident response to minimise harm to the UK, help with recovery, and learn lessons for the future. Please see the links to this month’s NCSC weekly threat reports.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-1st-may-2020>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-8th-may-2020>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-15th-may-2020>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-22nd-may-2020>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-29th-may-2020>

## Demonstrations held / planned

### Thousands protest in London against US Police violence

Thousands of protesters gathered in London to denounce the killing of an unarmed black man by police in the US. Protesters gathered at Trafalgar Square and outside the US Embassy in Battersea. The protests remained largely peaceful, though police arrested five people outside the US embassy. Further protests are planned.

### Protesters block rail project site in London

Tens of demonstrators blocked the entrance to a construction site for a high-speed rail line (HS2) at London Euston station. Activists claim it is part of a day of action against the HS2 project. Protesters held up banners at the entrance demanding that money be diverted from HS2 to the National Health Service. The activists said they have blocked 11 other entrances to sites connected to the project in Warwickshire.



## Police arrest 19 at anti-government protest in Hyde Park, London



Police arrested 19 people at an anti-government protest in Hyde Park, London, for refusing to adhere to social distancing measures. Protesters had gathered to denounce the government's handling of the COVID-19 crisis. Police detained the individuals following repeated requests to disperse. Ten other individuals

received fines. Large gatherings are prohibited under current government regulations. A further 10 people were issued with on-the-spot fines after a "relatively small group" of people gathered in the central London park.

The arrests include the brother of former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, Piers Corbyn, who was taken away in handcuffs after he joined protesters with a megaphone, proclaiming that 5G and the coronavirus pandemic were linked.

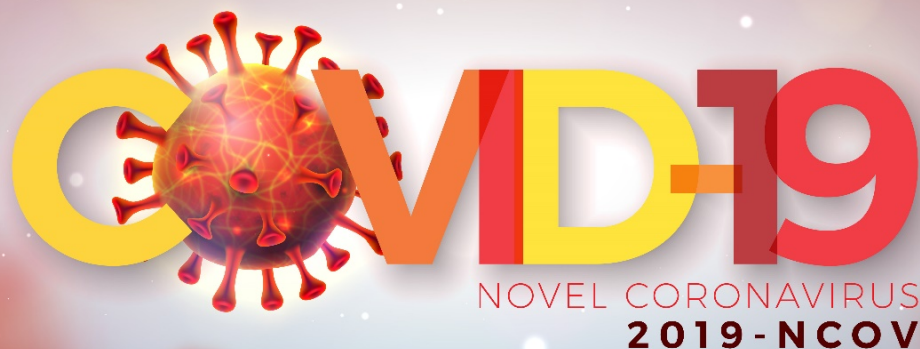
## Anti-lockdown protest broken up by police in London

Around 40 people gathered with banners opposing coronavirus rules, with some repeating baseless 5G conspiracy theories. Police made a number of arrests and issued fines as they broke up a small anti-lockdown protest. Officers were pictured dispersing a group of between 40 and 50 people near the capital's Westminster Bridge.



Witnesses said those present brandished banners with messages including "no consent" and "we will not be tricked, tracked and trapped". Others referred to 5G, which conspiracy theorists have repeatedly linked to coronavirus despite there being no evidence supporting.

## Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News



### Eurostar makes face masks compulsory for all travelers



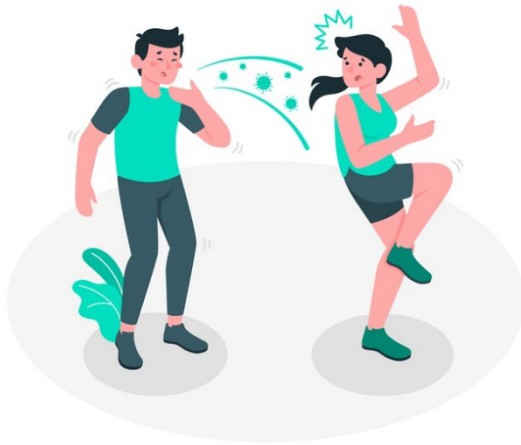
Eurostar announced all passengers must wear face masks on its services or face being refused travel, in efforts to halt the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). It said any mask which covers the nose and mouth is suitable. The company claimed it was introducing the measures to bring it in line with the French and Belgian government's guidelines. Eurostar has been operating a significantly reduced timetable during the outbreak.

### Interpol launches awareness campaign focused on COVID-19 cyber threats

In response to the rapidly changing cybercrime landscape during the COVID-19 pandemic, the global law enforcement and cyber security communities have formed an alliance to protect the public. Harnessing the expertise of this alliance, Interpol has launched a global awareness campaign to keep communities safe from the cyber criminals. <https://www.interpol.int/>



## Offenders jailed for coughing and spitting at Emergency Services workers



Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) prosecutors in the North West continue to bring criminal charges against those people who deliberately cough or spit at Emergency Services workers and other essential workers (among them private sector security officers) while claiming to have Coronavirus.

## Update on investigation work during COVID-19 issued by Serious Fraud Office

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has issued a statement outlining that, despite the constraints imposed by COVID-19, the organisation continues to investigate suspected fraud, bribery and corruption, adapting ways of working where necessary in order to adhere to Government guidance.



## Public targeted by COVID-19 tracing and video conferencing scams



CIFAS, THE UK's leading fraud prevention service, has highlighted the latest Coronavirus scams from the past week, while at the same time warning members of the public to remain vigilant of the ever-changing tactics that scammers are using in a bid to extract money and information.

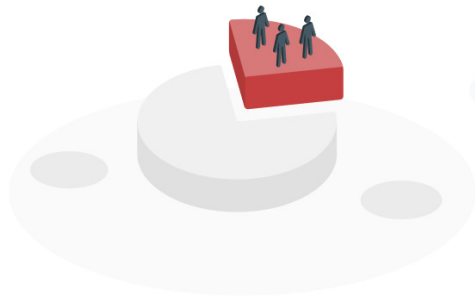
## 300-plus prosecutions for assaults on emergency workers completed in first month of lockdown

More than 300 prosecutions for assaults on emergency workers were completed in the first month of lockdown, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) data reveals. The 313 attacks followed



a typical pattern of police officers and other emergency workers being coughed at and spat on by members of the public claiming to have the Coronavirus.

## Sustained falls in recorded crime reported throughout Coronavirus lockdown period



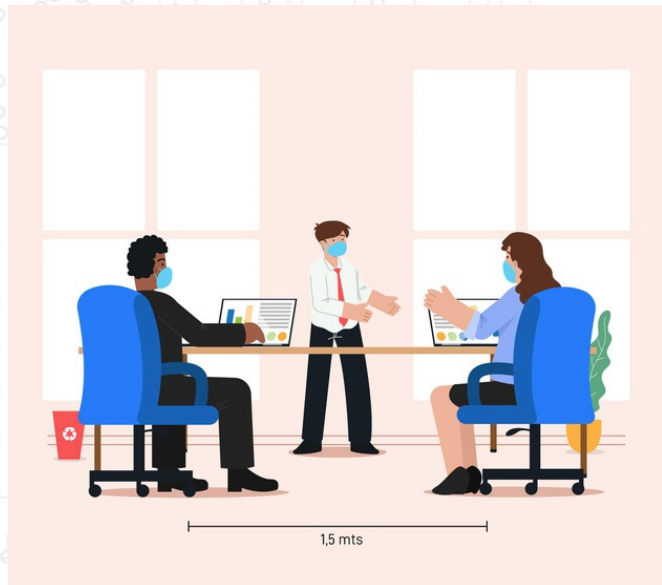
Provisional data from police forces across England and Wales shows a continued reduction in recorded crime of 25% throughout the Coronavirus lockdown period. The 25% fall in recorded crime compared to the same period in 2019, and as measured across the last four weeks to 10 May, excludes fraud (which is recorded centrally by Action Fraud). Falls were recorded for

residential burglary, vehicle crime (including the theft of and from vehicles), assaults (including both Grievous Bodily Harm and Actual Bodily Harm) and robbery committed against individuals, rape and shoplifting.

<https://news.npcc.police.uk/resources/data-pack-crime-snapshot-to-10-may-2020>

## CPNI COVID-19 Workplace Actions campaign

The official UK CPNI (Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure) has brought out a 'COVID-19 Workplace Actions campaign'. CPNI stress that it is a "living" campaign that will be updated, based around 'behaviour change'. CPNI developed it for use themselves. Their aim; to help encourage the right behaviours on their own premises, keeping employees as safe as possible. Offered are downloadable, editable print and digital posters, advertising the 2m social



distancing rule, washing of hands and clean desks, virtual rather than in-person meetings; and 'say if it's not ok'. <https://www.cpni.gov.uk/covid-19-workplace-actions-0>

## Coronavirus: Cyber-spies hunt Covid-19 research, US and UK warn



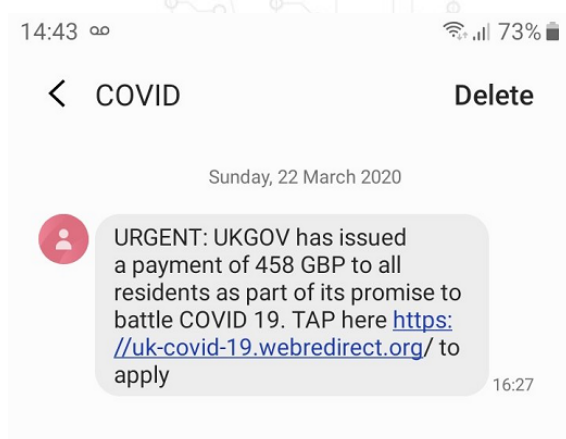
The UK and US have issued a joint warning cyber-spies are targeting the health sector. Hackers linked to foreign states have been hunting for information, including Covid-19 data and vaccine research, they say. UK sources say they have seen extensive activity but do not believe there has been any data theft so far. In a locked-down world, cyber-espionage is more

practical than traditional human espionage, making it another field where an existing trend towards online working may be accelerated.

### Advisory: APT groups target healthcare and essential services

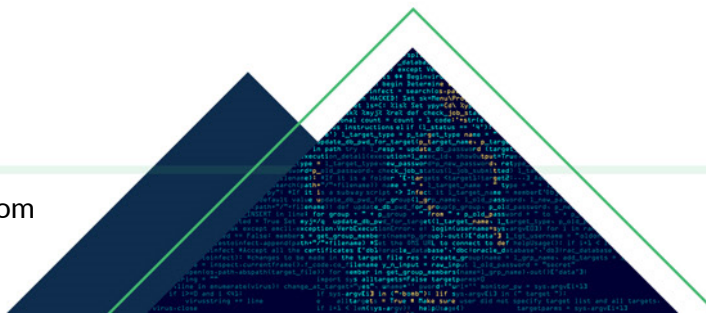
The NCSC and CISA continue to see indications that Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) groups are exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic as part of their cyber operations. This advisory highlights ongoing activity by APT groups against organisations involved in both national and international COVID-19 responses. [Please find attached](#)

### COVID-19 Cyber Threat Exploitation



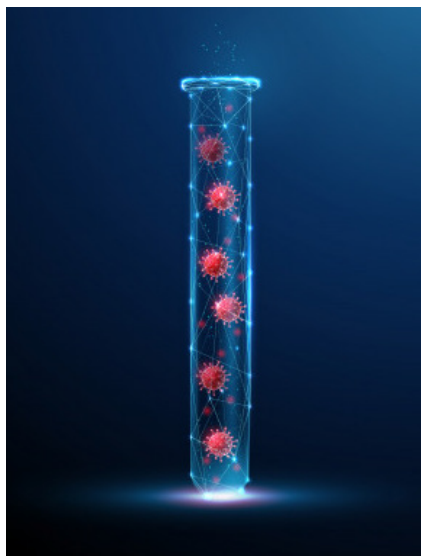
The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and United Kingdom’s National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) have seen an increase in malicious activity with themes related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Malicious cyber actors are targeting individuals, small and medium enterprises, and large organizations worldwide with COVID-19-related scams and phishing campaigns at the

same time, the surge in teleworking has increased the use of potentially vulnerable services. [attached is a useful 2-page infographic](#)





## Hostile states trying to steal coronavirus research, says UK agency

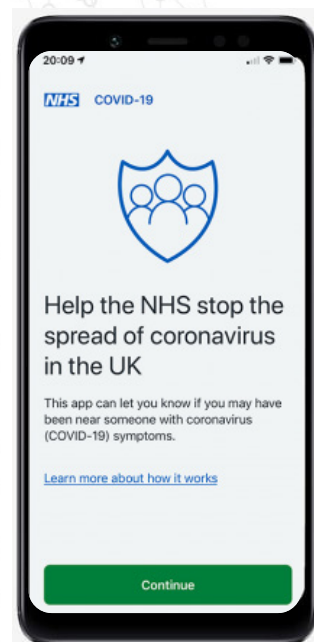


Hostile states are attempting to hack British universities and scientific facilities to steal research related to Covid-19, including vaccine development, cybersecurity experts have warned. The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) said the proportion of such targeted cyber-attacks had increased, branding the criminal activity “reprehensible”. There are thought to be dozens of universities and institutions with biomedical capacity working on Covid-19 research, ranging from new diagnostic and antibody tests to experimental treatment.

## Contact tracing app scam warning

The Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) reports evidence of a phishing scam themed around the NHS COVID-19 coronavirus contact tracing app, even before the real app has been released nationally, as it is being tested on the Isle of Wight.

Scamming texts inform people that they have come into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The message contains a link to a bogus website which asks for the personal details of the user. As Trading Standards says, scammers may use the information to gain access to bank accounts and commit other forms of identity fraud.



## Pandemic and impact on terrorism

The pandemic is likely to have a mixed impact on terrorism trends in the short term, according to a report by Andrew Silke, the reinsurer Pool Re and Cranfield University’s Professor of Terrorism, Risk and Resilience. He said: “While lockdown measures may represent obstacles to terrorists to carry out real-world attacks, many terrorist groups have also flagged that the pandemic has left government and security resources being severely stretched. You can read the full report on the Pool Re website. <https://www.poolre.co.uk/solutions/risk-awareness/covid-19-and-terrorism-report/>