



# SECURITY INTELLIGENCE UPDATE AUGUST 2020





## CONTENT

## PAGE

About Us: Sentinel Group Security

2

Intelligence led security

2

Disclaimer

2

United Kingdom's National Security Threat

3

Introduction

3

United Kingdom's Threat Definitions

3

United Kingdom Current Threat Levels

6

Introduction

6

What the threat levels mean

6

Current national threat level

6

Open Source Security Incident News

7

Security Industry News

16

National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) Reports

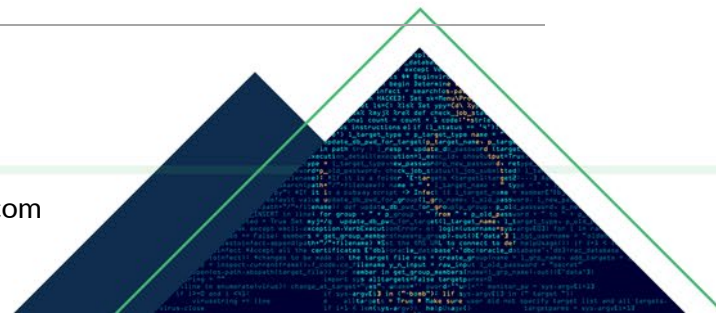
19

Demonstrations held / planned

20

Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News

22



## 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.



Cyberspace lies at the heart of modern society; it impacts our personal lives, our businesses and our essential services. A secure online environment is essential to HM Government, which is providing an ever-increasing number of online services to UK citizens and businesses as part of a major digital services transformation programme. The ability to conduct online transactions securely is central to the delivery of public and commercial services and communications. However, some individuals and groups use cyberspace for malicious purposes. We call these people 'hostile actors' and they exploit cyberspace to conduct espionage operations or launch damaging computer network attacks.

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 still continues and is potentially very damaging. A number of 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>

## 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 levels

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

### Shootings leave five injured during one night in London violence



Five people have been injured in separate shootings across London. Two men were shot in Brixton, while another two people were shot during a silent party in Hackney. A fifth person was injured in Croydon during a separate shooting. Two men, aged 30 and 31, were arrested in connection with the incident in Hackney and remain in police custody. The first shooting took place in Akerman Road, Brixton. Police were called a short time later to a south London hospital after two males self-presented with gunshot injuries. The second shooting took place in Mandeville Street, Hackney. Police were called to reports that a 30 and 31-year-old man had been taken to hospital with gunshot wounds.





## Driver arrested as part of Scottish drug supply investigation

A lorry driver from Scotland has been arrested following the seizure of around 150 kilos of cannabis at the UK-France border. The 43-year-old from the Motherwell area was detained at



the Channel Tunnel terminal in Coquelles, northern France, as part of an ongoing National Crime Agency investigation into drug supply. Border Force officers recovered the cannabis, which would have had an estimated street value of around £1.5 million, from the vehicle he was driving. £2,000 cash was also seized.

## Two jailed for West London cocaine handover

Two men have been jailed after being caught in a £700,000 drugs handover while under investigation by the joint NCA and Metropolitan Police Service Organised Crime Partnership (OCP). Michael Middleton, 41, and Ervis Hoxha, 31, were arrested by OCP officers on 12 March 2020 following the handover of 7kg of cocaine in Heston, West London. They were sentenced this month at Isleworth Crown Court. Hoxha was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison and Middleton to three years and five months.

## Bognor Regis man charged with Twitter hack



A man living in Bognor Regis - on the UK south coast - is one of three individuals charged over a major Twitter hack, according to the US Department of Justice. Californian authorities filed felony charges against Mason Sheppard, 19. The UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) confirmed it had searched a property in Bognor Regis with police. A teenager in Tampa and Nima Fazeli, 22, of Orlando, were also charged in Florida.

## Manchester stabbing: Teenage boy dies in knife attack

A 17-year-old boy has died after a horrifying knife attack - which left three other people with injuries. The attack took place in Henbury Street, Manchester. Greater Manchester Police said. The teenager was pronounced dead at the scene. Three other men were stabbed. They were taken to hospital, but their injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

## London shooting in Clapham in broad daylight



A man was found with multiple gunshot injuries in Abbeville Road, in Clapham, London. Police officers were called to Abbeville Road, in Clapham following reports of a shooting. Paramedics from the London Ambulance Service attended the incident with officers. A man in his 20s was found with shotgun injuries, which have been assessed as

non-life-threatening. He was treated at the scene before being taken to hospital.

## Two men killed in separate London knife attacks

Two men have been stabbed to death in separate knife attacks in London. A man in his mid-30s died in hospital after he was found injured in Kilburn. Another man died soon after he arrived at North Middlesex Hospital following reports of a fight in Lytton Avenue, Enfield. More than 67 murder investigations have been launched this year across London, with seven of those starting over the past eight days. Police had been called to the area of Victoria Road in Kilburn after reports of a man being stabbed. He was taken to a central London hospital where he was confirmed dead.



## 7/7 London bombings: Mayor pays tribute to victims

Wreaths have been laid in memory of the victims of the 7/7 terror attacks on the 15th anniversary of the bombings. The Mayor of London and the head of the Metropolitan police laid wreaths at a memorial to the attacks, in Hyde Park. Fifty-two people died and 700 were injured when four bombs went off across the capital city on 7 July 2005. The heads of the Transport for London, British Transport Police, and City of London Police also joined the service.



## Operation Venetic: Liverpool man charged in connection with acid attack



A man from Liverpool, arrested as part of National Crime Agency-led Operation Venetic, has been charged with a possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and three counts of conspiring to cause grievous bodily harm. Jonathan Gordon, (born 18/07/1987) of no fixed address was arrested on 23 July. He was remanded to custody and appeared before Liverpool Magistrates' Court

today, Saturday 25 July. He was further remanded and is due to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on 24 August.

## Two convicted in France as part of people smuggling



Two people, one of whom is British, have been convicted and jailed in France as a result of close working between the UK-French authorities in people smuggling investigation involving the National Crime Agency. The pair were arrested in the early hours of 27 June as they prepared to leave the French port of Cherbourg in a small vessel, as part of an operation which was led by the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit (SEROUC) working with the NCA, Border Force and the French authorities.



## NCA publishes Annual report



The NCA has published its latest Annual Report and Accounts, which detail the agency's work to tackling serious and organised crime in 2019/20. NCA Director General Lynne Owens said:

"The threat to the UK from serious and organised crime remains chronic and corrosive. Criminals work across international boundaries and are using new technologies to find different ways to identify victims, exploit the vulnerable and hide both their identities and the proceeds of their crime. The report can be found using the link:

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications/467-national-crime-agency-annual-report-and-accounts-2019-20/file>

## Russia threat to UK national security report

Russian influence in the UK is 'the new normal', says the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament's report on Russia. The committee of MPs and lords heard from witnesses including ministers and security services officials; and Lynne Owens, Director-General of the National Crime Agency (NCA). The report, released at the same time as the Committee's annual report, covers cyber; disinformation and influence; and Russian expatriates; and the UK's response. Read the report here: <http://isc.independent.gov.uk/>

## UK Custom Officials seize 380kg of cocaine at London Gateway Port

Border Force announced the seizure of 380 kg of cocaine at London Gateway port during a search of a vessel from Costa Rica carrying a shipment of bananas. The drugs, which were in transit to Germany, were stashed in a hidden compartment in the vessel.

## Ryanair flight destined for Dublin forced to make emergency landing at UK Airport after security alert



Ryanair plane was forced to make an emergency landing in the UK after a note claimed there were explosives on board. The plane began descending over the UK after declaring an emergency over the North Sea. After putting out a distress call, the flight was rerouted and picked up by two Royal Air Force fighter jets, a pair of Eurofighter Typhoons, as it came in flight FR1902 was headed to Dublin from Krakow in Poland. The flight destined for Dublin Airport was forced to land at Stansted Airport.

## Wanted Birmingham man arrested in Amsterdam after nearly eight years on the run

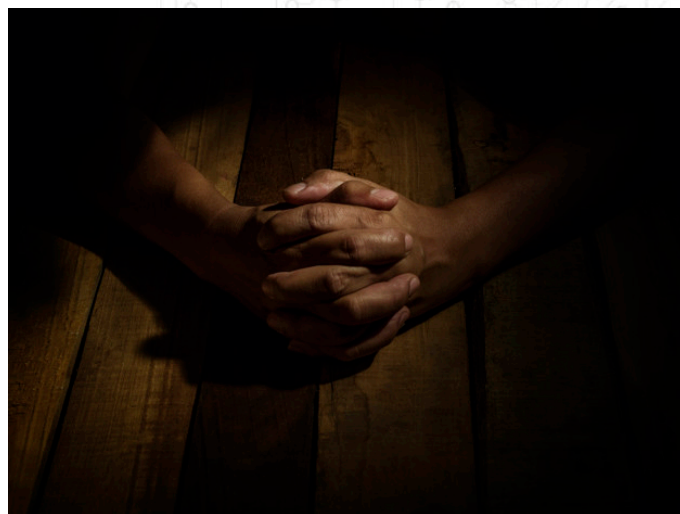
Mark Liscott, (59) from Great Barr, was jailed in 2005 for the large-scale supply of cannabis resin in the Midlands but fled after being released on license in 2012. Liscott was apprehended following an Amsterdam Police operation. Officers, acting on intelligence that drugs were being traded, raided a house in the centre of the city. Liscott attempted to evade capture by jumping across neighbouring balconies whilst carrying around 18,000 Euros in cash. However, he was successfully apprehended.

## Operation Venetic: Suspect charged with drugs and firearm supply

A 24-year-old man who was arrested as part of a National Crime Agency led investigation under Operation Venetic has been charged. Alsí Vata, of Deptford, South East London, was charged with conspiring to supply firearms and ammunition, as well as class A and B drugs. The NCA announced that it had been working with international law enforcement since 2016 to target EncroChat – the supplier of encrypted devices used by criminals worldwide to coordinate illicit activity. Two months ago, the platform was infiltrated, allowing the NCA and police to monitor the users' every move under Operation Venetic.



## Irish trio plead guilty to drug importation offences following four-year NCA investigation



Three men have pleaded guilty to a series of drug and firearms offences, following a major investigation by the National Crime Agency. At a hearing at Ipswich Crown Court today (6 July) Irish nationals Thomas Kavanagh, 52, and Gary Vickery, 37, both from Tamworth, and Daniel Canning, 41, from Walkinstown, Dublin, all admitted conspiring to import class A and B

drugs, and money laundering. Canning also admitted possessing a firearm and ammunition.

## Operation Venetic: Merseyside man arrested for firearms offences

A man from Merseyside has been arrested as part of a National Crime Agency investigation into the supply of firearms. The 32-year-old man was arrested by NCA officers with support from Merseyside Police – on suspicion of possession of an illegal firearm and handling stolen goods, at an address in Kirkby.





## Man jailed for cocaine fruit and veg conspiracy



A man who tried to use a fake fruit and veg business as a cover for drug trafficking has been jailed for trying to smuggle cocaine worth over a million pounds into the UK. Narcis-Bogdan Stoica, 29, from Neamt County, Romania, was sentenced to six years in prison after pleading guilty to attempting to import 15 kilos of Class A drugs – which had a potential street value of an estimated £1.2 million.

The National Crime Agency began investigating Stoica after Border Force officials stopped him passing through the Channel Tunnel terminal at Coquelles on 17 April. A search of the van he was driving revealed two purpose-built concealments for the drugs behind the doorstep cover material on both the passenger and drivers' side.

## Operation Venetic: Birmingham trio charged with drugs and firearms supply



A trio from Birmingham arrested as part of National Crime Agency led Operation Venetic have been charged with drugs and firearms offences, after officers seized a sub-machine gun, drugs, and cash. Michael Earp, 29, of Pear Tree Road, Shard End, Danyal Aziz, 26, of Pelham Road, Stechford,

and Nicole Rhone, 26, of Yardley Green Road, Bordesley, have all been charged.

Earp was detained by NCA officers at an address in Kings Norton and was charged with conspiring to possess drugs, an automatic firearm and ammunition. Aziz was arrested at his home address and was remanded to custody after being charged with conspiring to possess drugs, an automatic firearm and ammunition. Rhone was arrested at her home address and

charged with possession of an automatic firearm and ammunition. She was released on bail and is due to appear at Birmingham Crown Court. Officers seized a Skorpion sub-machine gun from the address, as well as ammunition.

## Ballykelly man escapes attempted shooting after gun jams

A man in his 20s has escaped being shot after a gun appeared to jam when he was attacked by a gang in County Londonderry. The man was approached by three men in Kings Lane, Ballykelly. One of them was armed and officers believe he pointed the weapon at the victim and pulled the trigger, but it did not fire. The suspects made off towards Drummond Park.

## Drug dealing gangs and school holidays



Drug dealing gangs will use the school holidays to recruit children to work for them, say police detectives. Parents are being warned about what to watch for, as organised crime groups target vulnerable people to become part of 'county lines' gangs. County lines is the name of drug dealing where groups use

phone lines to move and supply drugs, often from cities to smaller towns and rural areas. Cleveland Police reports cases of children as young as 13, groomed and exploited by gangs for county lines. There are several signs that may indicate someone is involved in county lines, say police:

- A child or young person regularly going missing from school or home and being found in other areas.
- Unexplained money, new clothes or electronic devices that cannot be accounted for
- high numbers of texts or phone calls, and being secretive about who they are speaking to
- Relationships with controlling or older individuals or associations with gangs
- Significant changes in emotional or physical wellbeing
- Suspicion of self-harm, physical assault, or unexplained injuries





## Security Industry News

### Government backs Safer Streets Fund in determined bid to tackle burglary and theft

The Government has announced that 35 Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are to receive funding from a £25 million scheme energised to crack down on burglary and theft in crime hotspots. The Safer Streets Fund aims to stop offences that blight communities and cause misery to victims from happening in the first place. Following a bidding process, grants of up to £550,000 will be provided to PCCs in England and Wales for projects to improve security in areas particularly affected by acquisitive crimes such as burglary, vehicle theft and robbery.

The money will go towards measures proven to cut crime. These include simple changes to the design of streets such as locked gates around alleyways, increased street lighting and the installation of CCTV.

### New compensation scheme for victims of terrorism outlined by Government

The proposals aim to better address the particular needs of victims and their families following a terrorist incident and ensure applications are processed as rapidly as possible. The changes follow a commitment to improve the compensation process following the Manchester Arena terror attack, and underpin the Government's wider review of the support available to terror victims (including families and loved ones) in order to ensure more victims receive the support and advice they need on a faster basis. The plans form part of a package of reforms Government ministers are pursuing through a consultation launched on 16 July which seeks to



improve the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, making the scheme simpler and more transparent, while also ensuring it keeps pace with the changing nature of crime.

## Government's Countering Drones Phase 2 competition gains extra funding



An additional £1.5 million of funding courtesy of the Home Office and the Department for Transport is being allocated to the Defence and Security Accelerator's (DASA) Countering Drones competition. The Home Office Counter-Drones Unit owns domestic counter-drones policy for the Government, working closely across the Government and operational partners to understand risk and operational requirements. The Government's priority is to help industry and academia to deliver world-leading counter-drone solutions to support the safe and responsible use of drones in the UK.

## HUAWEI to be removed from UK 5G Networks by 2027 due to security fears

HUAWEI will be completely removed from the UK's 5G networks by the end of 2027, the Government has announced, following new advice produced by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) on the impact of US sanctions against the telecommunications vendor. Ahead of this there will be a total ban on the purchase of any new 5G kit after 31 December 2020.

## Snapchat account takeover warning

Police warned that criminals are targeting Snapchat users, taking over accounts and trying to extort money sometimes threatening to reveal private photos. The criminals start by contacting you over Snapchat, often from an account that has already been hacked so it can appear to be someone you know.



The stories that fraudsters tell vary; they may claim to be a friend who is locked out of, or needs help with their account, or that there has been an incident and that they need money to help. They may claim they want to add you to a friend's list or "circle" and need your details to add you. For more information follow the link: <https://www.met.police.uk/fraud>

## Retailers Against Crime (RAC) reports rise in violence during lockdown

Abuse and violence against retailers dramatically increased during lockdown, much of it as a result of shops enforcing social distancing measures. RAC will provide crime prevention briefings online to allow members to 'catch up' with crime trends while their stores have been closed. For more information follow the link. <http://www.retailersagainstcrime.org/>

## Surveillance Camera Commissioner publishes sixth annual report



Tony Porter QPM LLB, the Surveillance Camera Commissioner, has just published his sixth Annual Report to the Home Secretary outlining progress realised over the past 18 months and future plans. The Commissioner's report covers the period from 1 April 2018 to 31 December 2019. In the 66-page document, Porter highlights his intervention into the High Court case regarding automatic facial recognition technology and the fact that his role and, indeed, that of the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice itself, are key when it comes to the legal framework. For more information and to download the 66-page report click on the link below.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/895179/Surveillance\\_Camera\\_Commissioner\\_-\\_annual\\_report\\_2018\\_to\\_2019\\_\\_web\\_accessible\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/895179/Surveillance_Camera_Commissioner_-_annual_report_2018_to_2019__web_accessible_.pdf)





## 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-3rd-july-2020>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-10th-july-2020>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-17th-july-2020>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-24th-july-2020>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-31st-july-2020>





## Demonstrations held / planned

### Steep rise in confrontational protests in UK since 2000

The number of protests involving confrontational tactics have increased nearly 20-fold in the past two decades, signalling heightened social tensions, an independent policing review has said. Led by Sir Michael Barber, a former adviser to Tony Blair, the first phase of the review found the number of protests involving confrontational tactics – such as blockades or occupations – rose from seven in 2000 to 126 in 2019. This, coupled with statistics that show hate crime reported to the police has risen 144% in six years, suggested rising social tensions, according to the research. The report comes after a wave of protests highlighting racial inequality, sparked by the death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man who died in the US after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for more than eight minutes.

### London clashes leave several police officers injured

Police clashed with attendees at an unlicensed music event in Havelock Close, in London's White City area, leaving seven officers injured. Those at the event threw bricks at police when



they attempted to stop the event. Police made no arrests at the event. There have been repeated clashes between police and those attending music events recent weeks amid a lockdown to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

## Brighton Protest: Black Lives Matter event held



Thousands of protesters have marched through Brighton in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. Demonstrators held placards and shouted, "black lives matter every day" and "UK is not innocent". It follows an outcry over a video showing a man shouting "I can't breathe" while being restrained on the ground by three Sussex Police officers. In another BLM protest, attended by hundreds in Hull, the police custody death of a man was remembered. The Sussex force said the man was arrested and became aggressive towards officers before being placed on the ground.

## North Belfast: First Minister condemns petrol bomb attack on police

Petrol bombs and stones were thrown at police around the North Queen Street area in a second night of trouble. The trouble involved nationalist youths and marked a continuation of violence. The police said officers from Tactical Support Group were deployed to the area.

## Protesters take to the streets in London's Parliament Square

More than a thousand people gathered in London's Parliament Square to protest against the government's alleged abandonment of reforms to the Gender Recognition Act. The British government is reportedly planning to scrap reforms to the Act and will instead introduce a series of policies to "protect" single-sex spaces, the Sunday Times reported last month. Protesters took to Parliament Square to voice their opposition to the reported plans, where people waved trans flags and held up signs that said: "Trans rights now" and, "Our Rights are not up for debate".



# COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS NEWS

## Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News

### Coronavirus, Brexit, and climate change threaten food security for millions in the UK

A Minister for Food Security is urgently needed to deal with the threat posed by COVID-19, Brexit, and climate change, according to a cross-party group of MPs. Millions of people have struggled to access food as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, with the number of food bank users doubling during lockdown. The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee warns that food insecurity is "likely to get worse before it gets better" because of risks including a second wave of coronavirus cases, as well as potential disruption and delays to the food supply system as a result of a "disorderly Brexit".

### UK authorities and allies expose Russian cyber-attacks on Coronavirus vaccine

Russian cyber actors are strongly believed to be targeting organisations involved in Coronavirus vaccine development, UK security officials have revealed. The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has published an advisory detailing the activities of the threat group known as APT29, which has exploited organisations globally. The NCSC assesses that APT29, also named 'The Dukes' or 'Cozy Bear', has "almost certainly" operated as part of Russian intelligence services. To be precise, the NCSC is more than 95% certain this is the case. That assessment is also supported by partners at the Canadian Communication Security Establishment, the US Department for Homeland Security Cyber



Security Infrastructure Security Agency, and the National Security Agency. Read the NCSC's advisory in full:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/advisory-apt29-targets-covid-19-vaccine-development>

## Supply chains adversely impacted by COVID-19



The latest Business Continuity Institute (BCI) report, entitled 'COVID19: The Future of Supply Chains', shows the devastating impact the pandemic has had on supply chains, with 73% of organisations encountering 'some' or 'significant' detrimental effect on the supply side. At least in part, this was caused by the fact that less than half (49.5%) of businesses had plans in place that sufficiently covered them for the supply chain issues that arose during the first few months of the Coronavirus outbreak. Download the report at:

<https://www.thebci.org/resource/covid19--the-future-of-supply-chain.html>

## Fraud cost of COVID-19

Fraud and error during the COVID-19 crisis will cost the UK Government in the region of £4.6 billion, a think-tank estimate. The UK Government response to COVID-19 is particularly vulnerable to fraud, owing to the novelty of new measures, the size of the relief packages, and the speed they have been brought in. Use of digital channels and third parties raises the opportunities for fraudsters to infiltrate the system. As for who is doing the fraud, it ranges, from the public to public sector workers, corporations, and organised crime, says Policy Exchange. The lower bound for the cost of fraud in this crisis is £1.3 billion and the upper bound is £7.9 billion, in light of total projected expenditure of £154.3 billion by the Government. For more information and to download the 78-page document click on the link below.

<https://policyexchange.org.uk/publication/daylight-robbery/>

