



SECURITY INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

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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 republic 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 continues and is

potentially very damaging. Several foreign intelligence services (FIS) seek to gather intelligence on a broad range of subjects, including foreign policy, defense, 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**.

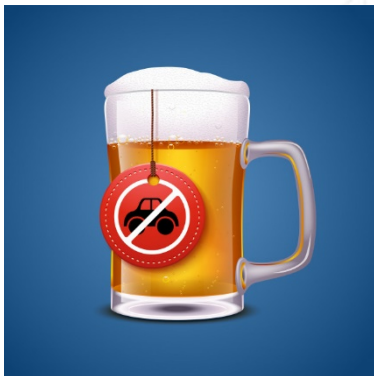
The threat to Northern Ireland from Northern Ireland-related terrorism is **SEVERE**.

Open Source Security Incident News

Stansted Airport: Two held over 'suspicious device' on plane released

Two men arrested after reports of a "suspicious device" in a passenger plane's toilet have been released without charge. RAF jets were scrambled to intercept the Ryanair plane and escorted it to Stansted on Sunday 30th August. Counter-terror officers detained two men, but after investigating they discovered the object in the toilet was a mobile phone. The men are not considered to have committed any offences, police said.

Man charged after operation against Lithuanian gangs



A 40-year-old man has appeared in court after being arrested as part of an operation targeting Lithuanian organised crime groups. Nerijus Jankauskas, of no fixed abode, appeared via video link at Belfast Magistrates' Court on six charges including being concerned in the supply of heroin. Mr. Jankauskas has been charged with driving with excess alcohol in the vicinity of the Ormeau Road in Belfast on 26 August 2020, and of driving without insurance and a licence. He also faces charges on the same date of possessing criminal property, conspiring with others to supply heroin, and of being concerned in the supply of the Class A drug.

Arrests after armed men seen on Southampton city centre rooftops

A second man has been arrested after two armed men were seen on rooftops in Southampton city centre. Shoppers reported two people with what looked like long barrelled firearms on store roofs. Police said a 21-year-old man later reported minor injuries from being shot in the leg with what was thought to be an air weapon. Two men aged 21 and 18 have been detained on suspicion of possessing an imitation firearm and assault. Armed police and a helicopter were involved in searching an area between West Quay shopping centre and Above Bar Street.

Eight-year NCA investigation denies organised crime group £17 million property portfolio

Fifty-nine properties worth an estimated £17 million have been recovered following National Crime Agency investigations into a prolific organised crime group carried out over almost a decade. In addition to a successful criminal investigation, the NCA conducted four linked civil recovery investigations over an eight-and-a-half-year period into dozens of individuals who were suspected of financial links to drug dealers in East Birmingham. NCA officers established that the properties were acquired using the proceeds of crime including heroin importation and distribution, fraud, and money laundering.

Alam and Ameran Zeb Khan have both been convicted of drug trafficking offences, the former on three occasions. The civil recovery investigations found that they would use family members and wider associates to hold properties on their behalf, which was designed to conceal and launder the proceeds of their unlawful conduct.

Sussex man charged with explosives and terror offences

A man from West Sussex has been charged with explosives and terror offences. Scott Porter is accused of making or possessing an explosive substance in suspicious circumstances. The 43-year-old, of St Joseph's Way in Haywards Heath, also faces three counts of possessing terrorist-related material. Mr. Porter was arrested in Burgess Hill and is due to appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court.

Cannabis smuggling crime group jailed for 14 years

Four Manchester men involved in an £800,000 cannabis trafficking operation have been sentenced to a combined 13 years and nine months in prison following a National Crime Agency investigation. Daniel Gore, 41, Javid Ahmed, 49, John Arnold, 56, and Scott Hoolighan, 36, were arrested in February 2018 when 110kg of cannabis was intercepted in a flatbed van by NCA officers as it was transported



from Northolt, London to Manchester.

The group attempted to evade detection by swapping between flatbed vans midway through their journey and stopping and starting at various points. They communicated throughout using encrypted mobile telephone devices. The drugs had been concealed within industrial sized tins labelled 'Panko Breadcrumbs', and had been transported from Alicante, Spain by a legitimate haulier before being collected in London by the group. The plot was aided by an Albanian crime group based in Alicante.

UK PM Boris Johnson forced to cut short Scottish holiday amid security fears



UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been forced to cut short his holiday after the location of their cottage in the Scottish Highlands was leaked, triggering security concerns. Johnson, 56, had taken time off for a so-called "staycation" within the UK during the peak summer holiday month of August when ministers often take a few weeks off from work. The UK prime minister had chosen a remote cottage in Scotland but after photographs of the location emerged, he was forced to cut short the break and fly back to Downing Street.

Man quizzed over offences under terror laws

A man has been arrested in Somerset under the Terrorism Act. Police are searching a property in Paulton after he was held on suspicion of making or possessing an explosive substance. He was re-arrested under a section of the anti-terror laws that allows detention if a person is suspected of being concerned in terrorism. Officers wearing protective clothing are carrying out the search. The Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team had been called as a precaution. The suspect, who is 33 and from Somerset, is in police custody.

Catalytic converter thefts in England and Wales rise sixfold



Thefts of catalytic converters from cars in England and Wales rose sixfold in 2019. Last year, there were almost 13,000 recorded thefts of the devices, with Londoners particularly badly hit. In 2018, there were just over 2,000 thefts.

Assistant Chief Constable Jenny Sims, car crime lead for the National Police Chiefs' Council, said police were committed to tackling the thefts and the organised gangs behind them. "Police forces across the country are involved in planning and undertaking intelligence-led operations, at both the regional and national level, to stop converters from being stolen, as we recognise the devastating impact these crimes can have upon the lives of victims," she said.

Tea at the Ritz soured by credit card scammers

Diners at the luxury Ritz hotel in London have been targeted by "extremely convincing" scammers who posed as hotel staff to steal payment card details. The scammers phoned people with exact details of their restaurant bookings, asking them to "confirm" card details. They then tried to spend thousands of pounds at the catalogue retailer Argos.

Update: New IRA investigation, six terror suspects appear in court

Six people are due to appear in court later today charged with a range of offences under the Terrorism Act. They were arrested as part of a major Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) investigation into



dissident republican group the New IRA. In total, 10 people have been arrested as part of Operation

Arbacia and eight of them have been charged. Two men, one from Londonderry and the other from Lurgan, County Armagh, have already appeared in court. Police said five of the six people face charges including membership of a proscribed organisation, directing terrorism and two separate charges of preparatory acts of terrorism. These are a 32-year-old man from Londonderry; a 45-year-old woman from Dungannon, County Tyrone; a 49-year-old woman from Lurgan, County Armagh; a 49-year-old man from the Dungannon area; and another man aged 48. A 43-year-old man from the Dungannon area has also been charged with offences including membership of a proscribed organisation, directing terrorism and conspiracy to possess explosives with intent to endanger life.

Operation Arbacia is targeting the New IRA, which is considered to be the largest dissident republican group and has been behind numerous attempted attacks on police officers.

New IRA, Heathrow arrest part of anti-dissident republican operation

A man arrested at Heathrow Airport has become the 10th person detained as part of a major operation against dissident republicans in Northern Ireland. Detectives from the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) arrested the man on Saturday as part of an investigation into the New IRA. The 62-year-old, who lives in Scotland, was brought to Belfast for questioning. A property in the Blackhall area of Edinburgh was also searched by officers from Police Scotland.

Navy, NATO escort Russian warships from sea near United Kingdom

The navy announced that it, along with NATO-allied vessels, escorted nine Russian navy warships out of waters near the UK, across the North and Baltic seas. It did not provide further details about the incident. This is at least the third time this year that the navy has escorted Russian vessels approaching British waters.

Arrests made in cross-border New IRA operation



Police on both sides of the border have been involved in a major operation against the New IRA. Several arrests have been made by the PSNI who say the individuals are being held for questioning under the Terrorism Act. In the Republic, searches were carried out in Dublin, Cork, Laois, and Kerry. The New IRA is considered the largest dissident republican group and has been behind numerous attempted attacks on police officers. Journalist Lyra McKee was shot dead by a New IRA gunman while observing a

riot in Londonderry on 18 April 2019.

Gatwick Airport, man arrested over terror offence

A man has been arrested at Gatwick Airport on suspicion of committing terrorism offences. The Met Police's Counter Terrorism Command arrested a 25-year-old man after he arrived on a flight from Turkey. He was arrested on suspicion of possessing material likely to be useful to a terrorist. The Met said the man remained in custody and a search was also under way at an address in north London.

UK Armed forces to help Channel border forces

The interior ministry has asked the armed forces to assist border forces with its operations in the Dover Straits. The request comes amid an influx in the number of boats carrying migrants from France across the Channel in the past few days. At least 330 people illegally crossed the Channel between 6-8 August. French authorities have intercepted five times as many migrant boats between January and July compared to the same period last year.



Migrants: Record number of Channel crossings in August

A More than 1,200 migrants have made the crossing across the English Channel in small boats already in August, a record for a single month. Eight vessels carrying 112 people were intercepted by Border Force patrols, 65 people in five boats were intercepted and brought to shore. More than 4,400 people have made the journey successfully this year, with a record number on one day during the hot weather.

Record 235 migrants intercepted in English Channel in one day



A record 235 migrants were intercepted trying to cross the English Channel. Border Force officials were scrambled to 17 separate incidents off the Kent coast involving a total of 235 people. UK authorities intend to return as many of the migrants as possible, with several flights organised in the "coming days", immigration minister Chris Philp added. "The crossings are totally unacceptable and unnecessary as France is a safe country. We have to make the route completely unviable. Then migrants will have no incentive to come to northern France or attempt the crossing in the first place."

Redcar cyber-attack 'cost council £10.4m

A cyber-attack on a council's computer systems is estimated to have cost more than £10m. About 135,000 people were without online public services after Redcar and Cleveland's website and computers were targeted in February. The local authority has been in discussions with the government over covering the cost of the attack. The council, which has been under pressure to reveal the cost of the incident, gave the figure in a budget update report.

Rural crime: Cost in Northern Ireland 'rises by a fifth'



The cost of rural crime in Northern Ireland has risen by 18% in the past year, according to an annual survey by specialist insurers. Rural theft cost £3.3m in 2019 as organised gangs targeted farmers' high-value tractors, quads, and livestock. However, the overall number of rural crimes reported has fallen, according to the PSNI. NI saw 357 agricultural crimes recorded from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, a reduction of 30 from the previous year.

Rural crime across the whole of the UK cost £54m in 2019, according to the survey.

Police shut down illegal London house party attended by more than 150 people

Police broke up an illegal house party attended by more than 150 people in north London. More than 50 officers helped shut down the event, which reportedly took place at a property rented over Airbnb property in Archway after neighbours complained. Footage posted by a neighbour on YouTube shows scores of people in the garden, not wearing masks or social distancing.

Terrorists 'view prison as an opportunity', report warns



Jailed terrorists may see their time in prison “as an opportunity” to become more extreme and prepare for attacks, a report has warned as the government pushes to increase sentences. Research by the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR) found that at least five terror attacks have been plotted or carried out by serving and released prisoners in Britain since 2016.

They include the stabbings at Fishmongers’ Hall and Streatham, as well as a plot by a cell who met inside prison. The report, which covers 10 European countries including the UK, warned that jihadists were “increasingly turning prisons into a theatre of conflict and confrontation”. See link to view the report:

<https://icsr.info/publications/reports/>



Security Industry News

Remote Working: Addressing New Data Security Challenges

With the majority of employees in many businesses forced to work from home since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mark Harper investigates whether or not today's companies are fully prepared for a new set of data security challenges. On Monday 23 March when the Government issued COVID-19 guidelines instructing most businesses to arrange for their workforces to operate remotely in a bid to halt the spread of the Coronavirus. Nearly five months and countless video calls later, a great many employees remain at home and wonder to themselves whether we will ever make an official return to what we might term a 'normal' world. See link for further advice on remote working:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/working-from-home/how-do-i-work-from-home-securely/>

BSIA urges alarm installers to act ahead of IP voice-based telephony service



The British Security Industry Association (BSIA) is urging security installers to take swift action on their alarm signaling estates in advance of the transition to an all-IP (Internet Protocol) fibre-based voice service, with migration in some areas taking place as early as this coming autumn. For their part, security system installers need to be aware of several key points. By

way of example, Openreach is upgrading the existing analogue telephone network to an all IP service with the plan to migrate to a full Voice-over-Internet Protocol (VoIP) digital platform by the end of 2025. These changes are happening because the PSTN system is dated and difficult to maintain and also due to the fact that there is a global drive towards digital technology. Further detailed information supporting this statement from the BSIA:

<https://www.bsia.co.uk/digital-voice/>

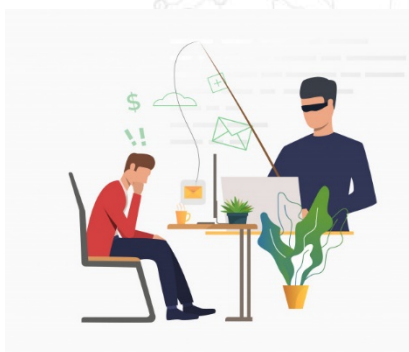


Crime returning to pre-lockdown



Crime trends are returning towards pre-lockdown levels, according to the fifth crime trends update since the beginning of lockdown restrictions across England and Wales. Previous reporting showed a 28 per cent reduction for the four weeks to 12 April, a 25 per cent fall for the four weeks to 10 May, an 18 per cent fall in the four weeks to 7 June, and a 12 per cent fall in recorded crime for the four weeks to 5 July. Reductions were again recorded for residential burglary, vehicle crime (including theft of and from a vehicle), assaults (including GBH and ABH, grievous bodily harm and actual bodily harm) and robbery and shoplifting. Forces have continued to see decreases, albeit at lower rates than previously reported, in 999 and 101 call volumes, by 10 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively.

Finance teams deliberately targeted as 'e-mail hijack attacks' rise by 22%



Two out of every three UK companies (i.e. 66%) have suffered brute force attacks against Microsoft 365 accounts during the past three months. That is up from 48% in the first quarter of 2021, according to a survey conducted by bluedog Security Monitoring. The company reports that around 8% of all businesses surveyed suffered breaches in the second quarter as a result of the attacks. bluedog Security Monitoring has also seen a 22% rise in phishing attacks targeting the creation of apps within Azure. The business believes every company is now being

targeted at least once a week by this type of attack and, in some cases, five or six times a day.

Police service afforded new powers by Government to tackle hostile state activity

Powers coming into effect will allow specially trained police officers to stop, question and, when deemed necessary, detain and search individuals travelling through UK ports in a bid to determine whether they are involved in hostile state activity. The new Schedule 3 powers were introduced in the Counterterrorism and Border Security Act 2019 and created in response to the 2018 Salisbury nerve agent attack. Home Secretary Priti Patel said: "The threat posed to the UK from hostile state activity

is growing and ever-changing. These new powers send a very clear message to those involved in it that this Government has zero tolerance for those acting against British interests.”

Celebrity scam alert as criminals use rich and famous to lure online victims



Scammers attempts to lure individuals into making bogus investments with fake news articles promoting manufactured investment advice from celebrities have been foiled by experts at the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC).

The NCSC has taken down over 300,000 malicious URLs linking to fake celebrity-endorsed investment schemes featuring famous names such as Sir Richard Branson and Martin Lewis. An increasing number of these investment scams, which come in the form of mocked-up online news articles featuring the rich and famous, has prompted the warning. For more information on how to report Phishing see link:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/information/report-suspicious-emails>

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-7th-august-2020>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-14th-august-2020>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-21st-august-2020>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-28th-august-2020>



Demonstrations held / planned

Police clash with attendees at illegal party in Norfolk

Police clashed with people attending an illegal party in Thetford Forest in Norfolk. There were no reports of arrests. The incident comes days after the government introduced a USD 13,000 fine for those organising gatherings of more than 30 people. There have been repeated clashes between police and those attending illegal parties in recent weeks amid continued coronavirus restrictions on private gatherings.

Environmental activists to protest in major cities



The Extinction Rebellion environmental activist group has announced a campaign of civil disobedience in several cities across the UK between 28 August and 4 September, to demand greater government action against climate change. While demonstrations are expected throughout the week, the main event is scheduled in London on 1 September where activists intend to block roads outside the Palace of Westminster. Other demonstrations are due in Bristol, Cardiff, and Manchester, although organisers did not immediately announce exact dates or timings. Transportation disruptions and clashes with police are expected.

County Armagh NI: Petrol bombs thrown at police officers in Lurgan

A number of petrol bombs have been thrown at officers during disorder in County Armagh. The attack happened on Levin Road, in the Kilwilke area of Lurgan. Supt Wendy Middleton, the district commander for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, asked drivers to avoid the area. Later a van was hijacked and set on fire on the railway line at Lake Street. Police were also called to the Levin Road area after a suspicious device was found. The device, left in Tarry Drive, was examined by Army technical officers, and declared an elaborate hoax.

Hundreds join protest outside Tottenham Police Station

Hundreds of people gathered outside a north London police station calling for an end to what they say is an "over policing" of black communities. Protesters held up banners and listened to speeches during the peaceful demonstration in Tottenham. Those among the crowds included rapper Wretch 32 who previously posted footage online of his father falling downstairs after he was Tasered in April.

PSNI officers injured in west Belfast during bonfire clearance

Twenty-six police officers have been injured while protecting contractors removing bonfire material in west Belfast. Large groups of youths threw petrol bombs, masonry, and other missiles at officers in Distillery Street, a PSNI spokesperson said. Police were there in support of contractors tasked by the landowner to remove bonfire material.

Met Police arrest of boy sparks protest at Colindale station



Protesters have gathered outside a police station in north-west London following the arrest of teenage boy. About 40 people assembled outside of Colindale Police Station in Barnet. It comes after a 14-year-old was arrested on suspicion of possession of cannabis earlier. Police said they had been obstructed from making the arrest. A dispersal order was issued, and a cordon was placed around the station. The boy has since been released under investigation with his mother present. A 19-year-old was also arrested for

allegedly assaulting an officer. A number of officers suffered minor injuries but did not require treatment and more officers arrived to support the dispersal of the group, the Met Police said.

Hundreds of demonstrators gather at Brixton to commemorate Afrikan Emancipation Day



Hundreds of people have gathered at Windrush Square in Brixton, south London, for Afrikan Emancipation Day. A number of demonstrators temporarily blocked Brixton Road at the junction with Acre Lane, forcing cars and buses to stop and turn around. Protesters, including some from Extinction Rebellion, occupied the middle of the junction until they were told to get back on to the curb by police officers.



Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News

Police Scotland had 62,000 'interactions' over Covid-19 laws



Police officers in Scotland spoke to people about coronavirus rules more than 62,000 times up to early August, although the vast majority of cases did not require enforcement action to be taken. Police Scotland Chief Constable Iain Livingstone said no further action was taken in 94 per cent of those “interactions” with members of the public. The force’s response to Covid-19 is known as Operation Talla. A separate report to the SPA board noted that in the first quarter of 2020, Covid-19 had led to a £4.7 million cost increase for Police Scotland, with no compensating funding from the Scottish government.

Met police assaults: Attacks on officers up 40% during lockdown

Attacks on police in London have risen sharply during the coronavirus lockdown, exclusive figures have shown. Met Police figures showed 2,027 assaults on officers were recorded between May and July, a 38% increase compared with the same period in 2019. Scotland Yard said the rise was partly driven by

a series of high-profile protests and unlicensed music events marred by confrontations with police. In the 12 months to the end of July 2020, there were 6,668 victims of assaults on police, a 16% increase compared with the previous year.

Coronavirus testing machines give result in 90 minutes



Two on-the-spot tests that can detect coronavirus and flu within 90 minutes are to be rolled out across Britain this autumn in a development hailed as a “game changer” by ministers. In a significant boost to the effort to control the virus as winter approaches, the government has approved the nationwide use of testing devices that are faster and more accurate than those presently being used.

For the first time, the tests are able to identify coronavirus as well as winter infections such as flu and other respiratory viruses, potentially reducing the number of people asked to self-isolate