



SECURITY INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

OCTOBER 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 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

New IRA 'still dangerous' after MI5 and PSNI's Operation Arbacia

It is "pre-emptive" to talk of the end of the New IRA after its alleged leadership was targeted by MI5 and the PSNI, high-level security sources say. Eight men and two women are currently in custody accused of a total of 39 offences, including directing terrorism and trying to obtain Semtex explosives. They were arrested in August after MI5 bugged two alleged meetings of the New IRA executive in February and July. A top Security Service priority is to see how the group now re-organises.

Police arrest two men over major cocaine seizure at Dover port



Police have arrested a man in Glasgow and a man in Essex in connection with the seizure of approximately one tonne of cocaine at the port of Dover on 22 September. Officers discovered the narcotics hidden in pallets of fruit on a vessel originating from South America. Police in the UK have made several high-quantity narcotics

seizures in the past few months, as part of a growing trend of criminals in South America trafficking large quantities of narcotics via sea due to a reduction in air traffic caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Detainee shoots police officer in Croydon



A man in detention at a custody centre shot dead a police officer at Croydon Police Station, south London. Police officers had reportedly searched the suspect without discovering his gun, which he later fired at the police officer before firing it at himself. The suspect is in critical condition at a nearby hospital. An investigation into the

incident is ongoing. Fatal shootings of police officers are rare in England.

NCA investigation keeps £120m Class A drugs haul off UK streets



A massive haul of potentially deadly Class A drugs has been stopped from hitting UK streets after an international operation led by the National Crime Agency. More than a tonne of Class A drugs – 1,196kg of heroin and morphine derivatives – were recovered from container ship the 'Sembawang' after it docked at the port of Felixstowe. The haul would be worth around £21 million to organised criminals at wholesale, and in excess of £120 million at street level. Heroin is typically supplied via County Lines dealing, which relies on the exploitation of children and vulnerable people to transport the drugs.

Police charge man in Cambridge with terrorism offences

Police said that they have charged a man they arrested in Cambridge on 12 September with attempting to cause an explosion. The individual reportedly sent a suspicious package to an address in north London, which police assessed to be a small IED. Police have not announced whether he is affiliated to any group.

Lisa Smith: Trial of IS accused former soldier set for 2022

A former Irish soldier charged with membership of terrorist group Islamic State and funding terrorism, will go on trial in 2022. Lisa Smith, 38, from Dundalk, County Louth, appeared at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin, she denies being a member of terrorist group Islamic State

(ISIS) between 28 October 2015 and 1 December 2019. She also denies financing terrorism by sending 800 euros in assistance to a named man on 6 May 2015. If convicted she could face up to 10 years in prison. The trial is expected to last 12 weeks. A trial date has been set for 11 January 2022.

Teenagers convicted of murder could face whole-life terms

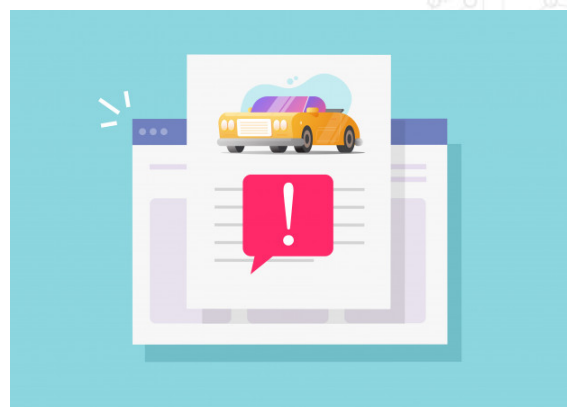


Teenagers convicted of murder in England and Wales could receive whole-life terms under sentencing reforms described by the government as the most radical in almost 20 years. Currently, a whole-life tariff can only be given to someone aged over 21 but ministers plan to reduce this to 18 for exceptional cases, such as terrorism. And there would be new powers to prevent the automatic release of offenders who have become radicalised behind bars while serving non-terror related sentences. The planned reforms come after Hashem Abedi, who helped his brother Salman plan the Manchester Arena bombing, was jailed in August for life and ordered to serve at least 55 years in prison.

Coastguard dealing with 'multiple' migrant boats off Kent coast

Dozens of people wrapped in blankets and wearing lifejackets have been seen being brought into the port of Dover as migrants take advantage of calm seas. 319 people were picked up as they crossed the English Channel. Clandestine Channel Threat Commander Dan O'Mahoney said the UK was working with French authorities to "make the route completely unviable".

Fake driving licenses offered online for £600



Scammers on social media who claim to work for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency are selling "full driving licenses" for £600, a BBC News investigation has found. They claim to have inside access to driving test centres which allows them to book and pass practical driving tests without clients being present. The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency - which has responsibility for driving tests - said that was

not possible. They also send clients an image of what appears to be their updated driving license status as shown on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's (DVLA) "view your license" webpage.

Manchester Arena Inquiry: Terror attack investigation opens



The public inquiry into the Manchester Arena terror attack begins this month. The hearing comes more than three years after Salman Abedi set off a bomb as people left a concert on 22 May 2017, killing himself and 22 others. It was due to start in June but was delayed by the trial of Abedi's brother Hashem, who was jailed for at least 55 years for 22 murders on 20 August. The inquiry is being held at Manchester Magistrates' Court, less than a mile away from where the bombing happened. The Manchester Arena Inquiry was established on 22 October 2019 by Home Secretary Priti Patel with the aim of investigating the victims' deaths.

Birmingham stabbings: Man arrested over city attacks



A man has been arrested on suspicion of murder after one person died and seven others were injured in stabbings across Birmingham. A 27-year-old man was arrested at an address in the Selly Oak area of the city. Police said he was also being held over seven counts of attempted murder. The attacks happened at four different locations across the city centre over 90 minutes early on Sunday

6th September 2020. Police were first called to the attacks at Constitution Hill, where a man sustained a superficial injury. Later they were called to Livery Street, near to Snow Hill railway station, where a 19-year-old man was critically injured, and a woman was also hurt. Police were then sent to Irving Street, where a 23-year-old man suffered fatal injuries, and another was seriously injured, they were called to Hurst Street, in the city's Gay Village, where a 32-year-old woman was critically injured and two men suffered lesser injuries.

More than £1m recovered from two trucks leaving the UK

Two Turkish nationals charged with money laundering. More than £1m has been recovered from two lorries trying to leave the UK. The money was concealed in the refrigerated motor housing of both vehicles at Dover's Eastern Docks. Border Force officers stopped the first lorry. A search revealed it was carrying approximately £830,000. Later Border Force officers stopped a second lorry and discovered around £330,000. The drivers of both vehicles were Turkish nationals and working for the same company in Belgium. Both men have been charged with money laundering.



Operation Venetic: Heroin lorry driver jailed after NCA EncroChat intelligence work



A Polish lorry driver has been jailed for 12 years after National Crime Agency officers used intelligence from the infiltration of an encrypted comms platform to catch him. The NCA worked through millions of pieces of information to develop cases and was able to use the intelligence to catch Dariusz Urban, 49, as he drove his lorry into Harwich

International Port on 15 April this year.

Because of what the Agency knew from the encrypted messages, it was able to tip off Border Force officers who were waiting for him and found 25kg of heroin concealed in Urban's cover

load of crisps. The 50 packets of drugs were hidden inside two steel vehicle ramps inside the truck.

Bexleyheath stabbing: Five injured, five arrested



Five men have been injured, one seriously, in a stabbing attack in south-east London. The group were found after police were called to The Broadway, Bexley, one had suffered potentially life-threatening injuries. Five suspects were arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm, the force said.

Woman arrested in property rental network money laundering probe



A woman has been arrested on suspicion of laundering money for a man who ran a network of over 400 properties used by organised crime groups involved in prostitution, cannabis cultivation and illegal immigration. The 43-year-old was detained by National Crime Agency officers at her home address in Bull Road, Ipswich and was later questioned before being released under investigation. She is alleged to have laundered money for Birmingham-based Chinese national Feng Xu, who operated a network of rental properties across the UK used by criminal groups as brothels, cannabis farms or to house people in the country illegally.

Security Industry News

Government legislation protects national security capability to fight serious crime



New Legislation which underpins the work of MI5, the police service and other public authorities tackling serious crimes has been introduced to Parliament. The Covert Human Intelligence Sources Bill provides a clear and consistent statutory basis for a

limited number of public authorities to continue to authorise participation in criminality in carefully managed circumstances. Undercover operatives and agents play a crucial role in preventing and safeguarding victims from the most serious crimes, including terrorism. In order to gain the trust of those under investigation, there are occasions where they need to participate in criminality themselves. This is a long-standing capability which remains critical for national security.

The Covert Human Intelligence Sources Bill provides certainty to public authorities already using this critical capability and confirms a common set of safeguards by which they are bound, including compliance with Human Rights.

Food crime assessment



While the UK has some of the world's safest and most authentic food, the threat posed by criminals remains. That is according to an 'strategic assessment 2020' document published by the National Food Crime Unit (NFCU, a law enforcement function of the Food Standards Agency (FSA). Darren Davies, the retired policeman now Head of the National Food Crime Unit (NFCU), said that vulnerability can exist at any

place along the route 'from farm to fork', in the UK or overseas (given the complex supply chains, a reason for the horsemeat scandal of 2013, which brought the unit into being in 2015).

The assessment can be found using the following link:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/safety-hygiene/food-crime#food-crime-strategic-assessment-2020>

New Scottish police centre to tackle cyber crime



Additional police officers trained in combating cybercrime are to be deployed in Scotland. Police Scotland has also announced plans to establish a "centre of excellence" for cybercrimes, with at least 150 specialist staff. Its focus will be on offences such as child sexual abuse, fraud, and the sharing of indecent images. The force has said online sexual crimes against children have increased

during the Covid-19 pandemic. June was the busiest month ever for reported child sexual abuse. Police Scotland recorded 226 crimes, an increase of 21% on the same month the previous year.

Live streaming body-worn cameras increase CVIT driver safety for Post Office Ltd

State-of-the-art live streaming body-worn cameras have assisted the Post Office in bolstering security for Cash-and-Valuables-in-Transit (CVIT) crew drivers working for the Post Office. Drivers were being targeted by criminals due to the high value of the assets they were carrying.



This put members of staff at risk, with the CVIT crew members facing, in some cases, violence and abuse during perpetrator attempts to steal money. These attack episodes also resulted in financial loss to the business, with little evidence produced that could help to secure a prosecution and deter further attacks.

Therefore, a solution was needed to eliminate these issues, while also being user friendly in nature and easily deployed in a manner that complied with privacy and data protection laws.

Cyber threat to disrupt start of university term

Universities and colleges are being warned by the UK's cyber-security agency that rising numbers of cyber-attacks are threatening to disrupt the start of term. The National Cyber Security Centre has issued an alert after a recent spike in attacks on educational institutions. These have been "ransomware" incidents which block access to computer systems. The return to school, college and university, already facing problems with Covid-19, now faces an

increased risk from cyber-attacks, which the security agency says could "de-rail their preparations for the new term".

SIA details outcomes from license-linked qualifications review process



The Security Industry Authority (SIA) has announced the results of its review of licence-linked qualifications. The regulator reviews the license-linked qualifications every five years to ensure that they are fit-for-purpose and relevant for the security industry in the years ahead. The overriding aim of this process is to improve the basic skills, knowledge and understanding of

security operatives such that they can transact their roles more effectively, improve community safety and better protect the public. On 1 April 2021, the SIA is introducing new license-linked qualifications that will better equip operatives to work in the private security industry. The new qualifications will give a more robust foundation of skills and knowledge and reflect what has been learned from extensive industry consultation and engagement.

The review itself encompassed an extensive programme of stakeholder engagement, including interviews and discussions with sector bodies, training providers, employers, and learners as well as licence-holders. The SIA set up expert Working Groups for each of the licensable sectors and conducted three online consultations that received more than 5,000 responses.

British Security Industry Association welcomes extension of Thatcham certification withdrawal

The British Security Industry Association (BSIA) has welcomed certification body Thatcham Research's extension to the proposed withdrawal date of its Whole Vehicle Marking certification to 31 December 2022 in order to allow sufficient time for a new British Standard to be developed and introduced as its replacement going forward. The extension has been announced after the BSIA lobbied on behalf of its Asset Property Marking Section members

that the original date of withdrawal of 31 December this year gave insufficient time for the industry to find a replacement accreditation, which usually takes between 18 and 24 months.

UK joins international allies in issuing Best Practice cyber defence advice for organisations



The UK's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has issued new guidance in tandem with international allies aimed at helping organisations to stay safe from malicious cyber actors. The joint cyber security advisory entitled 'Technical Approaches to Uncovering and Remediating Malicious Activity' has been published in conjunction with the US' Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the Australian Cyber Security Centre, the New Zealand National Cyber Security Centre and CERT NZ, as well as the Canadian Communications Security Establishment. The full advisory can be viewed on the CISA website via this link: <https://us-cert.cisa.gov/ncas/alerts/aa20-245a>

Female cyber course surge

The number of girls looking to learn new cyber security skills surged this summer after National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) courses went online for the first time. The NCSC, a part of GCHQ, confirmed CyberFirst summer course takers rose to a record-breaking 1,770, having moved from classrooms to online. While the number of applications from boys saw a 31pc rise, the number of girls applying rose 60pc in 2019.

CyberFirst aims to ensure greater diversity in the next generation of cyber security people, offering 14 to 17-year-olds learning about digital forensics, ethical hacking, cryptography, and cyber security challenges. As a recent report released by the NCSC with the audit firm KPMG, the UK's cyber security workforce (like security in general) has barely more than a tenth women.

Ian Todd to leave the SIA



The Chief Executive of the Security Industry Authority Ian Todd has announced his decision to leave the SIA, on October 16. The SIA says it's due to 'significant changes in personal circumstances. He said: "It has been an honour and a privilege to

lead the SIA over the past 18 months and I am proud of what we have achieved together, particularly rising to the challenges of Covid-19.

NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY CENTRE (NCSC)



National Cyber Security Centre

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-4th-september-2020>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-11th-september-2020>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-18th-september-2020>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-25th-september-2020>



Demonstrations held / planned

Covid-19: Four arrested at Newcastle anti-lockdown protest



Four people have been arrested in relation to breaches of Covid-19 regulations following an anti-lockdown protest in Newcastle city centre. Two men were also fined for not adhering to rules put in place to help prevent the spread of coronavirus. Northumbria Police said it had been aware of a planned protest at Grey's Monument. Those arrested were confirmed as a 70-year-old woman and three men aged 26, 58 and 59. The protest attracted a

small crowd with placards and speakers using megaphones. Health protection regulations allowed gatherings for the purpose of protest, but they must meet strict requirements, police said.

Covid: Clashes as police shut down protest over new rules

Police have clashed with demonstrators at a protest in central London against coronavirus restrictions. Officers used batons to control the crowd, after bottles and water were thrown by demonstrators massed in Trafalgar Square. At least three protesters and nine officers were injured, while 16 people were arrested. The Met Police said the protest had been shut down

because the crowd was not complying with social distancing. Thousands gathered in central London to protest against the latest government rules, with very few wearing masks. Protests are exempt from the rule-of-six restrictions, but demonstrators must social distance; organisers must also submit a risk assessment. Rules in England limit indoor and outdoor gatherings to six people, with some exceptions.

Police clash with anti-immigration protesters in Dover

Police clashed with anti-immigration protesters outside Dover harbour, leading officers to arrest ten people. Authorities reported disruptions on the A20 due to protesters blocking the dual carriageway in both directions. The protest comes amid a reported surge in the number of people crossing the English Channel in small vessels this year.

Churchill statue vandalised again as topless climate protesters chain themselves to railings



It comes a few months after it was defaced during racism demonstrations and had to be boarded up. Winston Churchill's statue in Parliament Square has been vandalised with graffiti again. The words "is a racist" were sprayed on the plinth beneath the statue of the wartime prime minister. It comes only three months after it was vandalised with similar words during Black Lives Matter protests - forcing it to be boarded up for its own protection. London's Metropolitan Police said a man had been arrested on suspicion of causing criminal

damage. Graffiti was sprayed amid protests by Extinction Rebellion activists in the capital. Police made arrests after at least 13 topless women put bike locks round their necks and chained themselves to railings near parliament to highlight the "bare truth" of climate change.

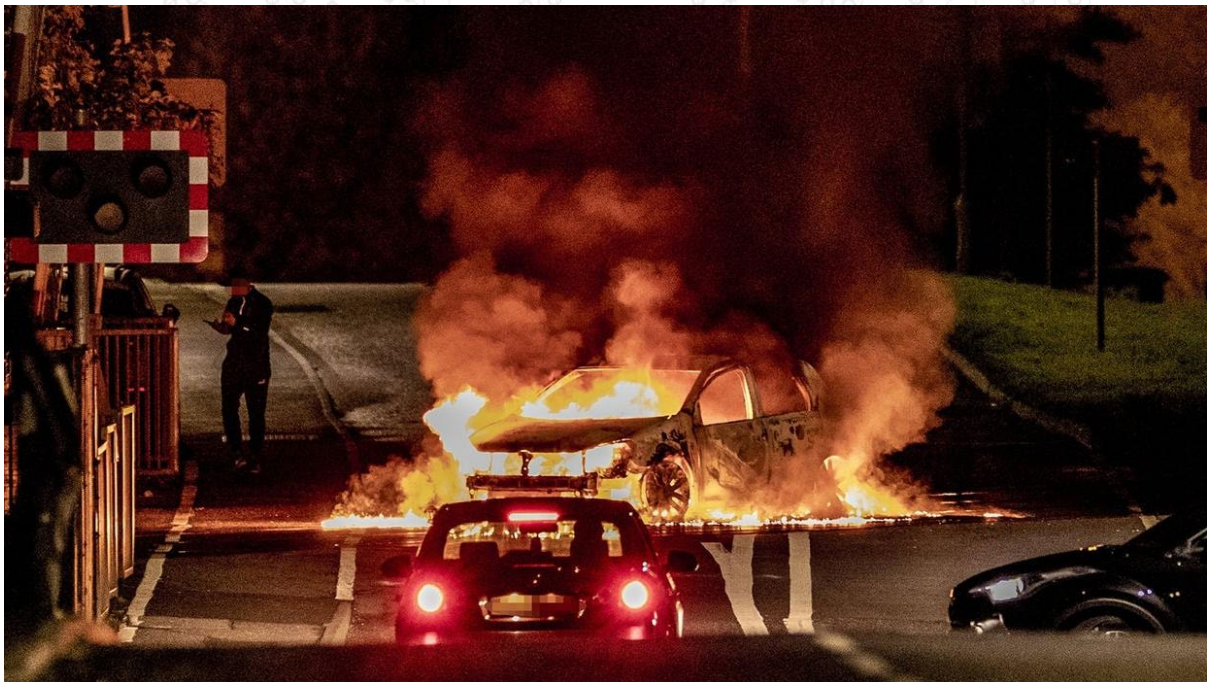
Anti-lockdown protest as coronavirus cases rise by 141



Protesters opposed to Covid-19 restrictions have gathered in Edinburgh as figures showed the highest weekly rise in cases since May. Coronavirus sceptics, vaccine conspiracy theorists and those opposed to mandatory mask-wearing

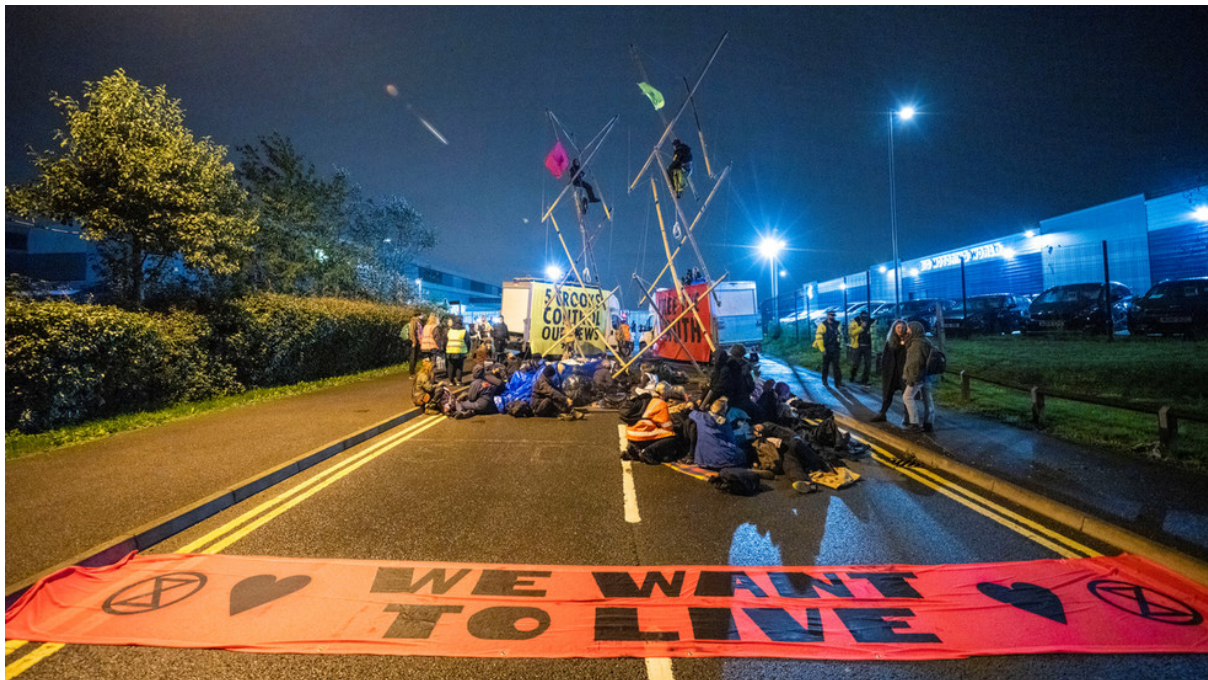
staged a rally at Holyrood. It comes as figures showed almost a thousand people tested positive for the virus the week commencing 31 Aug -7 September in Scotland. In the past seven days there were 994 confirmed cases. The figure is almost double the 507 new cases in the week previous.

Arrests in investigation into disorder in Lurgan last month



Police investigating disorder in Lurgan last month, when officers and the community came under attack from petrol bombs thrown in the Kilwilke area, have made five arrests. The arrests were made in the Lurgan and Portadown areas earlier today (Thursday 3rd September). The five men, aged 25, 29, 36, 46 and 52, were arrested on suspicion of a number of offences including riotous behaviour, use of petrol bombs, affray and attempted grievous bodily harm with intent and all remain in custody at this time.

Newspapers delayed as Extinction Rebellion blocks printing presses



Extinction Rebellion (XR) activists have delayed the distribution of several national newspapers, after blocking access to three printing presses owned by Rupert Murdoch. More than 100 protesters targeted News printer presses in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, Knowsley, Merseyside, and near Motherwell, North Lanarkshire. Newsagents said some of the papers - which XR accuse of failing to report on climate change - have arrived late. Thirteen people have been arrested. The Sun tweeted, saying copies of the paper would be delayed arriving at newsagents, and that the blockade was an "attack on all the free press".

Arrests as Extinction Rebellion protests begin across England



Police arrested approximately 160 activists participating in a demonstration in London organised by environmental activist group Extinction Rebellion. Protesters obstructed roads in and around Parliament Square as part of a "die-in", in which protesters lie under

white sheets to appear like corpses to draw attention to the climate crisis. Activists are expected to continue holding disruptive demonstrations in London in September and other major cities.



Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News

Authorities impose COVID-19 restrictions on northeast England amid surge in cases



The housing minister confirmed that the government will impose coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions in areas of northeast England from 18 September due

to a rise in cases there. He did not give further details ahead of an official announcement on 17 September. The measures may include restrictions on social gatherings, and may affect individuals in Northumberland, Newcastle, Sunderland, North and South Tyneside, Gateshead, and county Durham. The restrictions come as UK health officials recorded 3,991 new COVID-19 cases, which is the highest daily increase since 8 May.

Impersonation scam cases rise during COVID-19



Criminals are exploiting Covid-19 to target victims, says a financial services trade body that says it has seen a sharp rise in impersonation scams in the first half of 2020. Impersonation scams occur when the victim is convinced to make a payment to a criminal claiming to be from, typically, the police, a bank, a utility company, or a government department. There were almost 15,000 impersonation scam cases reported by UK Finance members between January and June, an

increase of 84 percent compared to the same period last year. Among these, some 8,200 cases

involved criminals impersonating the police or a bank, a year-on-year rise of 94 per cent. Another 6,730 cases involved fraudsters imitating other trusted names such as a utility company, telecommunications service provider or government department, an increase of 74 per cent.

Bournemouth barber claims lockdown drove him to smuggle cocaine

A barber who returned to the UK from Brazil with £300,000 worth of cocaine hidden in suitcases has been jailed. Jhonatan Martins Kirchhoff, 22, from Commercial Road, Bournemouth, told National Crime Agency investigators that he had turned to drug smuggling to earn extra cash and pay off his own drug debts after work dried up because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Kirchhoff appeared at Isleworth Crown Court on 27 August where he faced charges for the importation of controlled drugs. He was sentenced to five years and four months in prison, after pleading guilty at an earlier hearing.

“Crime returning to pre-lockdown levels” asserts National Police Chiefs’ Council



The provisional data from police forces in England and Wales shows that police recorded crime is 7% lower than in the same period for 2019 with lockdown measures beginning to ease. Snapshot figures based on preliminary police recorded crime provided to the National Police Chiefs’ Council from 43 forces in England and Wales (excluding fraud, which is recorded centrally by Action Fraud) cover the four weeks to 2 August compared with the same period in 2019. This is the fifth crime trends update since the beginning of lockdown restrictions across England and Wales and indicates certain crime trends returning towards pre-lockdown levels.

