



# SECURITY INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

November 2020

**Terrorism threat level : SEVERE**





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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.

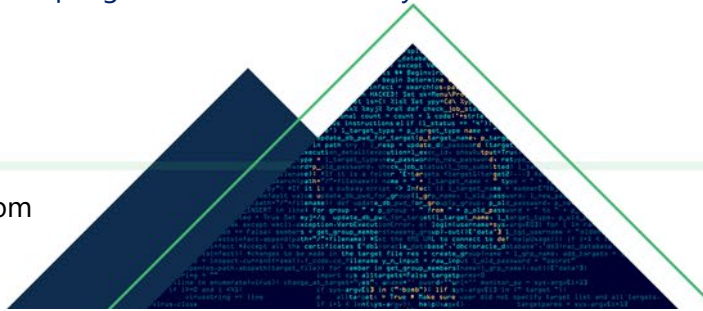
National infrastructure sectors represent core strategic interests for foreign intelligence services, whose targeting against the sectors is likely to include espionage for economic, political, military, or commercial gain.

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, 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 in the near future

### 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 **SEVERE**. (Updated 3rd November 2020)

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

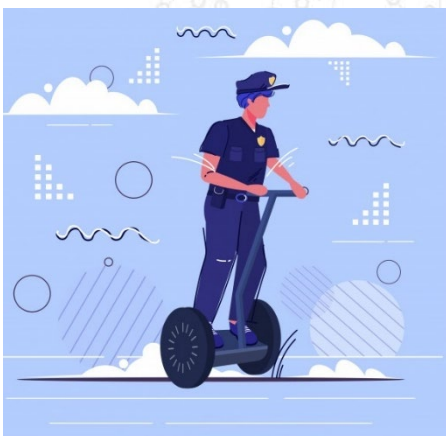




## Open Source Security Incident News

### PCSOs could be ditched for private security patrols

Town councillors could ditch Police Community Support Officers to pay for private security patrols instead in a bid to save cash. Frinton and Walton Town Council has paid Essex Police towards the provision of PCSOs in its area since the role was launched in 2004. The council has been told the cost of supplying six PCSOs next year would be £233,754. But councillors will debate alternatives to funding the officers at a meeting, including an option of paying for private security firms to patrol the town.



### Security guard left for dead after thieves 'deliberately' run him over with van

A security guard was "deliberately" hit by a van and left for dead by a gang stealing mopeds from a company in Warrington. A silver transit van containing a number of people entered the grounds of an industrial site on Skyline Drive in Burtonwood. Once in the grounds the group got out and stole two mopeds from plastics manufacturer Plastic Omnium, before attempting to flee the scene. Cheshire Police said as the group drove off a 23-year-old security guard was deliberately hit by the vehicle as he attempted to stop the vehicle going through the gates.



## Shoplifter brandished kitchen knife in Cardiff Lidl after stealing multiple packets of steak



Officers from South Wales Police were called to the Lidl store in Ely, Cardiff, in Cowbridge Road West following reports of an "aggressive shoplifter." "The man stole multiple packets of steak and, when challenged by staff, produced a kitchen knife. No-one was injured in the incident at the shop which was open at

the time, and the man left in the direction of Caerau Lane.

## Leicester man charged with several terror offences

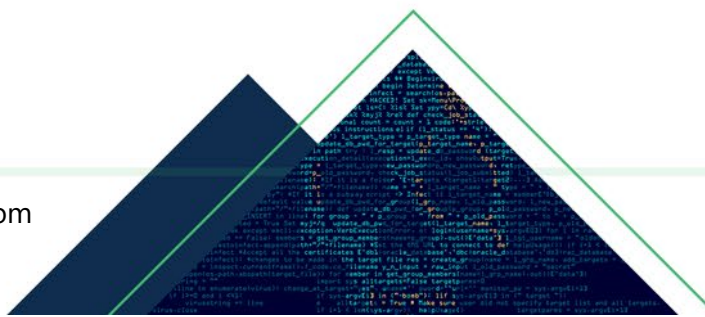


A man from Leicester has been charged with a series of terror offences. Hisham Chaudhary, of Chestnut Drive, was arrested after an investigation by the East Midlands and North East terror units and Leicestershire Police. He has been charged with four counts of disseminating a terrorist publication, membership of a

proscribed organisation and two counts of entering a funding arrangement. Mr Chaudhary, 27, is due to appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court later.

## Black men 'stopped and searched by Met over fist bump'

Two black men were stopped and searched by Met Police officers on suspicion of exchanging drugs because they had bumped fists, a watchdog has found. The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) reviewed the Met's use of stop-and-search powers. IOPC director Sal Naseem said the "legitimacy of stop and searches was undermined" by a number of issues. The Met said stop-and-search was a "vital and legitimate power that protects Londoners".





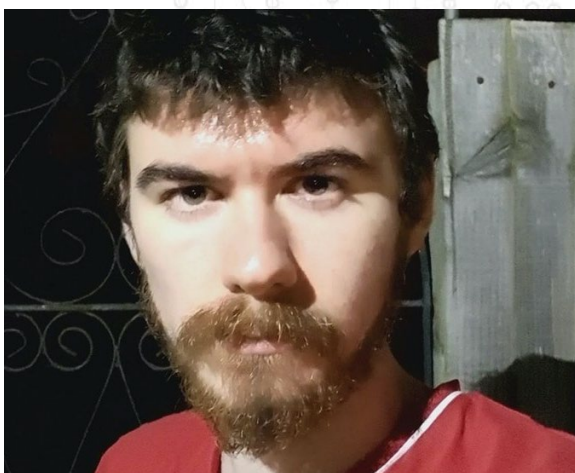
## Manchester Arena inquiry: Guard did not raise alarm about bomber because he was 'scared of being branded racist'



A security guard who was working on the night of the Manchester Arena attack has told an inquiry he did not raise the alarm about Salman Abedi because he was scared of being "branded a racist". Kyle Lawler, then an 18-year-old steward, said he had received training in what to look out for but was "naive" about the possibility of a terrorist incident and believed it "won't happen to me".

He failed to alert his control room about bomber Abedi, who was hiding in an area at the back of the City Room foyer, after being told about Abedi six minutes before the explosion.

## Man charged with right-wing terror plot to kill immigration solicitor



A man has been charged with preparing for a right-wing terrorist attack on a major immigration law firm. Cavan Medlock, 28, of Harrow, north London, is charged with preparing an act of terrorism by researching Duncan Lewis Solicitors with the intention of killing an immigration solicitor. Prosecutors allege he equipped himself with a knife and handcuffs, as well as Nazi and Confederate flags before going to the offices in Harrow on 7 September. He is charged with preparation of terrorist acts under Section 5 of the Terrorism Act 2006.



## Tanker stowaways: 'Hijacking' ends after special forces storm ship



Seven people were detained when military forces stormed a tanker suspected to have been hijacked off the Isle of Wight. Sixteen members of the Special Boat Service (SBS) ended a 10-hour standoff which started when stowaways on board the Liberian-registered Nave Andromeda reportedly became violent. The stowaways, believed to be Nigerians seeking UK asylum, were handed over to Hampshire Police. The 22 crew members

were found safe.

## Co-op security guard in Great Barr threatened by knifeman after confronting shoplifter

A Co-op security guard was threatened by a knifeman in a terrifying ordeal after he tried to stop a shoplifter. The worker thwarted the would-be thief but was confronted by another man armed with a blade. It happened at the Dyas Road store in Great Barr. The employee was not injured. West Midlands Police has launched an investigation with the support of the supermarket.

## Diseased addict harpooned security guard with dirty drug needle

A drug user with hepatitis threw a used hypodermic needle into the arm of a security guard who was trying to stop him injecting himself. Derby Crown Court heard how a second needle thrown by Gary Swift became embedded in the door in at the homeless shelter he was staying at in Derby. The hearing was told how the victim now suffers post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of what happened and has not worked in the same role since the incident took place more than two years ago.

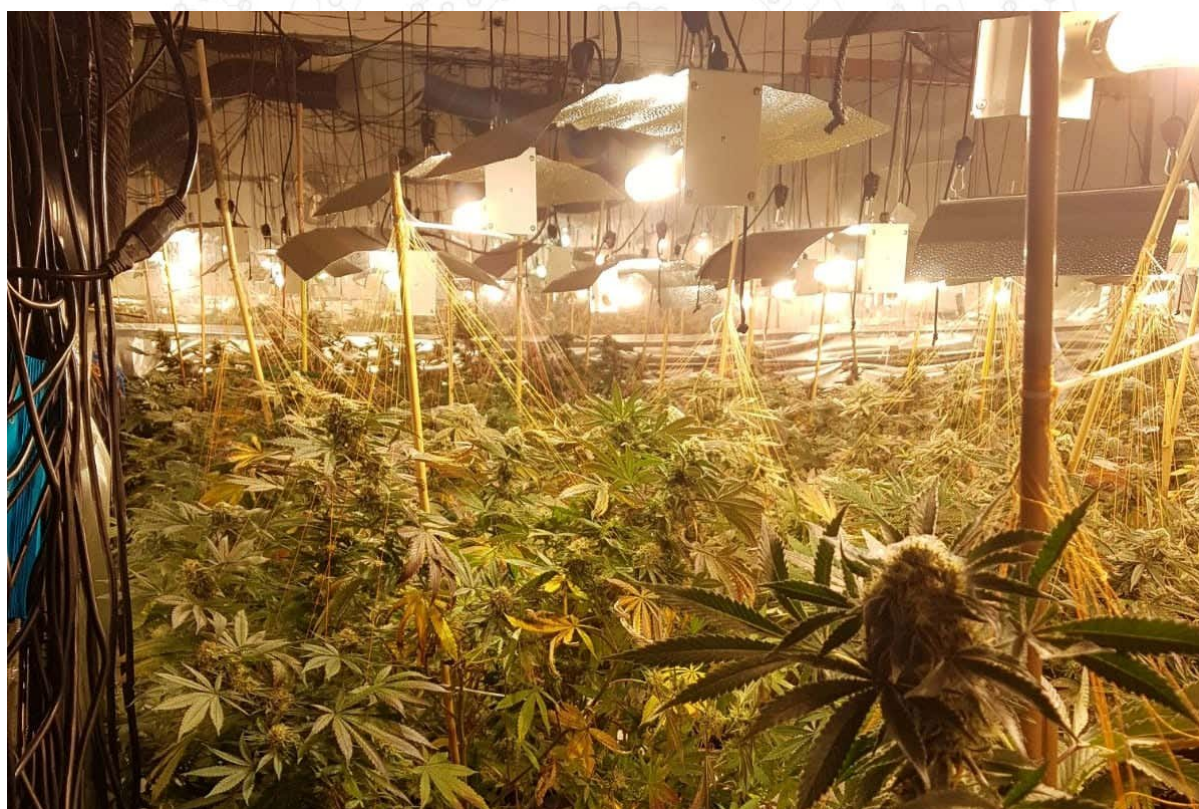


## Luton man in court over Islamic State social media posts

A man has appeared in court accused of posting violent films produced by the Islamic State group on social media. Ibrahim Anderson, 43, from Luton, has been charged with 10 counts of disseminating terrorist publications. He also faces one charge of failing to comply with a terrorism notification order by not telling police about an email address he used. Mr Anderson indicated not guilty pleas to all charges at Westminster Magistrates' Court.

It is alleged he used a Facebook account under a fake name to post two IS videos and sent a further eight films to another person using an encrypted messaging application in July this year. He will next appear the Old Bailey for a preliminary hearing on 6 November.

## Three arrests as NCA uncovers million-pound cannabis farm in Coventry nightclub



National Crime Agency officers have discovered a massive three-floor cannabis farm in a former nightclub in Coventry. They raided the property on Trinity Street, smashing through several reinforced doors to access the grow. When they got inside, they discovered around 1000 cannabis plants spread across the building's three floors. NCA experts value the haul at over £1 million. As well as the plants officers recovered sophisticated planting, growing and



irrigation equipment, valued at around £150,000. Three men were arrested. Two were detained with the assistance of West Midlands Police drone unit as they attempted to flee the building.

## Police arrest 20-year-old man after 'pepper spray' was released in a Pizza Hut, Tesco, and McDonald's



Police have arrested a 20-year-old man who handed himself in after 'pepper spray' was released in a Pizza Hut, Tesco and McDonald's which left customers and staff 'gasping for air,' and 15 people needing medical treatment. Hazmat crews had to be called into all three premises in Upper Gornal, Dudley.

## Police seize nearly 10 million illegal cigarettes in Port of Harwich.

Border police seized nearly 10 million contraband cigarettes from a Polish-registered lorry in the Port of Harwich that had arrived on a ferry from Hook of Holland. Police investigated the lorry after reviewing paperwork that said the vehicle should have been carrying tens of washing



machines but only four appliances were onboard. Authorities arrested the Polish driver, who was later released without charge. This is the second largest seizure of cigarettes at Harwich port this year.



## Police seize 83kg of cocaine at Holyhead Port

Police seized 83 kg of cocaine hidden in a lorry of refrigerated goods during a search at the



port of Holyhead in Anglesey, Wales. Police arrested the driver of the lorry, who they said intended to transport the narcotics to Northern Ireland. The incident is one of the largest narcotics seizures in Wales in recent years.

James Joseph Gray, 51, of County Londonderry, has been charged with exporting Class A drugs. He appeared at Llandudno Magistrates' court on Monday 12 October and was further remanded to appear at Caernarfon Crown Court on the 9 November.

## Drugs trafficker jailed in cocaine and beer cover-up

A man who was driving a lorry load of beer into the UK has been jailed for six years and nine months after he tried to smuggle Class A drugs worth more than a million pounds into the country. Arunas Cirplys, 53, from Kaunas, in Lithuania, was sentenced at Canterbury Crown Court after pleading guilty at a hearing. He became the subject of a National Crime Agency investigation after packages containing cocaine were found in the vehicle he was driving.

## Police arrest five and seize narcotics in Stratford

Police arrested an individual in Stratford on charges of possession for the purpose of trafficking. Upon searching his vehicle, they seized 404 g of methamphetamine, 174 g of cocaine and 70 hydromorph capsules. The arrest led to the detention of a further four



individuals, from whom police also seized narcotics. The total value of the seized narcotics was more than USD 67,000. The UK is a transit and destination country for narcotics and police frequently arrest individuals on trafficking charges.

## New MI5 chief says UK facing 'nasty mix' of threats



Britain is facing a "nasty mix" of national security threats, from hostile state activity by Russia and China to fast-growing right-wing terrorism, the new director general of MI5 has said. Ken McCallum said terrorism remains the

biggest threat - with Northern Irish and Islamist extremism also a concern. The Covid lockdown raised the risk of online contact between groups, and made covert surveillance harder, he added. Mr McCallum was speaking at his first media briefing as head of the service. Mr McCallum said empty streets in lockdowns during the coronavirus pandemic have made covert surveillance far harder. Fewer crowds give adversaries fewer opportunities to attack but make the job of MI5's watchers more conspicuous.

## Scottish MI5 spy to be crown's key witness in New IRA terrorism trial



A former Scottish police officer turned MI5 spy has inflicted major damage on the New IRA leading to the arrests of alleged key figures and the disruption of links between violent dissident republicans and terrorist groups in the Middle East. Dennis

McFadden infiltrated the New IRA's high command over the last eight years, providing safe houses in Northern Ireland and Scotland that were in fact bugged by the Security Service while handing out free tickets for Celtic matches and drinks from the bar in his home.



He played a central role in MI5’s Operation Arbacia, which culminated at the end of this summer with the arrest of nine suspected leading New IRA members, all of whom have been charged with directing acts of terrorism.

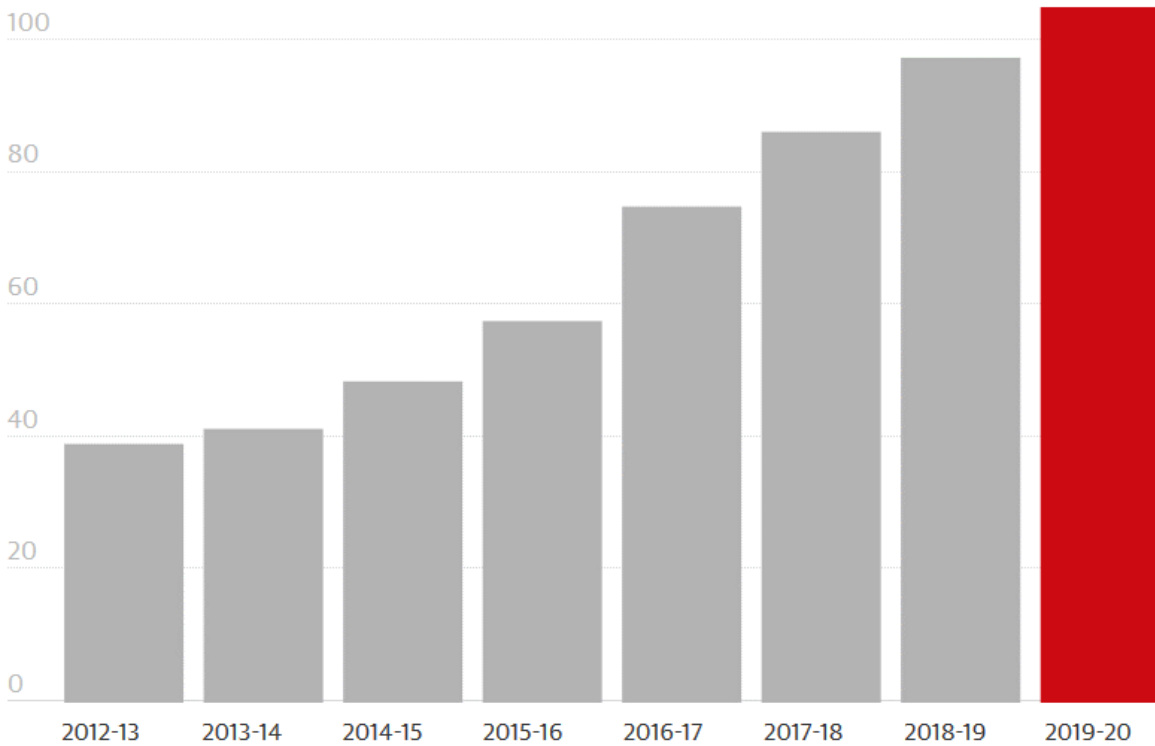
McFadden will be the crown’s key witness in what will be the biggest terrorist trial since the so-called super grass cases of the early to mid-1980s.

The nine suspected New IRA figures charged with directing terrorism are Kevin Barry Murphy, 50, Davy Jordan, 49, Damien McLaughlin, 44, Gary Hayden, 48, Joe Barr, 44, Shea Reynolds , 26, Paddy McDaid, 50, Sharon Jordan, 45, and Mandy Duffy, 49.

### Crimes linked to race and religion rise in England and Wales

The number of racially or religiously aggravated offences in England and Wales rose in June and July, most likely linked to Black Lives Matters protests and far-right counter-protests, the Home Office has said. The number of offences recorded by police increased year on year by 34% in June to 6,697 and about 17% in July to 6,677, following declines between March and May, when the UK was under a coronavirus lockdown. The Home Office said the increases in

Number in thousands



Source: Home Office





June and July were probably related to Black Lives Matters protests and far-right counterdemonstrations following the death of George Floyd in the US.

## Daniel Horton admits stabbing Central London Mosque prayer leader



*Raafat Maqlad outside his home*

A man has been convicted of stabbing a prayer leader in the neck as he held prayers at London Central Mosque. Daniel Horton - who had converted to Islam and worshipped at the mosque - admitted attacking Raafat Maglad, 70, on 20 February. Horton, 30, pleaded guilty at Southwark Crown Court to wounding with intent and possessing an offensive weapon.

Horton, of no fixed address, is due to be sentenced at the same court on 16 November. He had converted to Islam and had been attending the north London mosque as a worshipper for a few years, prosecutors told the court. On the day of the attack, he attended the mosque where Mr Maglad, in his role as a Muezzin, was calling all members of the mosque to prayer in the main prayer hall.

## Northern Ireland man charged after £6m cocaine seizure in Wales

A man from County Londonderry has been charged after cocaine with an estimated value of £6m was seized at the Port of Holyhead in Wales. James Joseph Gray, 51, is accused of exporting Class A drugs. Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) Det Ch Supt John McVea said he believed the drugs were "destined for Northern Ireland". Mr Gray appeared before Llandudno Magistrates' Court and was remanded into custody. Border Force officers found around 83kg of cocaine in a lorry with refrigerated goods at the port.



## Tesco blackmail plot: Nigel Wright jailed for 14 years

A farmer who laced baby food with metal shards in an attempt to blackmail Tesco has been jailed for 14 years. Nigel Wright, 45, of Osgodby, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, contaminated jars of Heinz baby food and placed them on supermarket shelves. He then wrote to Tesco threatening that babies would be seriously or fatally injured unless he was paid £1.4m. Wright was found guilty in August of three counts of blackmail and two charges of contaminating goods.

## Police officer stabbed in stomach while trying to arrest attempted robbery suspects in Pimlico



A police officer has been stabbed as she attempted to arrest two teenagers who were trying to rob a grocery store in central London. Two officers were in Chapter Street, Pimlico, when they witnessed two men armed with knives attempting to rob the store. The shopkeeper

had managed to push the suspects, both believed to be 15 years old, out of the store and the officers then tried to detain them. As they challenged the men, one of the officers was stabbed in the stomach but continued to chase the suspects along Vauxhall Bridge Road, the suspects were arrested shortly afterwards with the help of firearms officers.

## PCSO 'BOMB MAKER' Police worker, 34, charged with making explosives and importing weapons after house raid

A Police worker has been charged with making an explosive substance and importing weapons after a raid on her home. Former community support officer Zoe Watts, 34 - who now has a different role in Lincolnshire Police - was arrested after officers discovered chemicals of a potentially explosive nature. Neighbours on her street in Lincoln were evacuated for hours while a bomb disposal team was called out to carry out safety checks. Watts, who has worked for Lincolnshire Police for nine years, has been suspended by the force after her arrest.



## Birmingham terrorist Shahid Khan faces return to jail over getting new phone without telling police

A convicted terrorist has been warned he faces going back to jail for failing to tell police he had acquired new replacement bank cards and a mobile phone. Shahid Khan, 28, admitted breaching conditions imposed on him following his conviction in 2012 for travelling to Pakistan to undergo training at a jihadist camp. Khan, of Perry Barr, Birmingham, appeared at the Old Bailey after pleading guilty to four counts of breaching a notification order at Westminster Magistrates Court - three in August and one in September. Between November 2019 and May 2020 he had acquired two replacement bank cards linked to his main NatWest account and had opened a Monzo account without telling police, whom he was required to notify of any changes in his financial information within three days, the court heard. Investigations also revealed he was using a mobile phone which detectives were unaware of.

## Brexit could increase the risk of terrorism in Northern Ireland, security committee warns



Brexit could increase the risk of terrorism in Northern Ireland, Parliament's top security committee has warned. The Intelligence and Security Committee issued in a report into Northern Ireland-related

terrorism where highlighted the threat posed by the UK leaving the EU. A Westminster committee has also urged Stormont to consider an overhaul of Northern Ireland's justice system to take terrorists off the streets for longer. The report finds that infrastructure on the Irish border for customs checks would be targeted for attack by dissident republicans as well as utilised as a "recruiting tool".

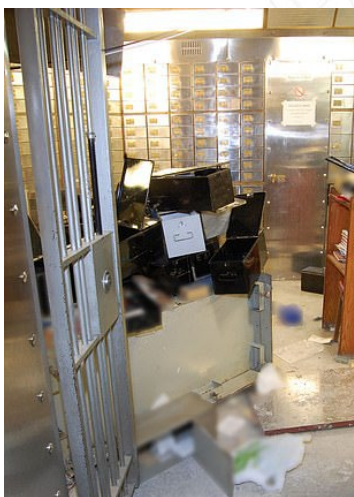
## Westminster Holocaust memorial would be 'trophy site' for terrorists



Plans for a Holocaust memorial next to Parliament would create a "trophy site" for terrorists, the former independent reviewer of terror laws has warned. The memorial has been proposed for Victoria Tower Gardens on Millbank. But a planning inquiry has been told by Lord Carille that the landmark would be a "self-evident terrorism risk". The plan was previously rejected by Westminster City Council, but the final decision will be made by the government following the public inquiry.

## Hatton Garden security vault heist ringleader issued with £6 million Confiscation Order

One of the ringleaders from the Hatton Garden security vault heist has been ordered to pay £5,997,684.93. Michael Seed, also known as 'Basil', was convicted back in March 2019 for his part in the £13.69 million heist, believed to be one of the largest burglaries in English history. Wearing a face covering and a wig to disguise his identity, Seed was the one who entered the vault through the drilled hole and helped empty the contents. He was witnessed walking away from the scene with a bin bag over his shoulder, presumed to be full of gold, jewellery, and precious stones. Three years later, police officers raided Seed's one-bedroom Islington council flat where they found an array of items stolen from Hatton Garden.





## Prison inmates sentenced for attacking prison officer

Two HMP Whitemoor prisoners who tried to murder a prison officer have both received life sentences following an investigation by the Met's Counter Terrorism Command. Brusthom Ziamani, 25 (18.08.95) and Baz Macaulay Hockton, 26 (29.01.94) were both sentenced at the Old Bailey for attempted murder. Ziamani was also sentenced for actual bodily harm and common assault of a nurse and another officer who both came to the victim's assistance. The Judge decided that the offences had a terrorist connection under section 30 of the Terrorism Act 2008, which brings a heavier sentence.

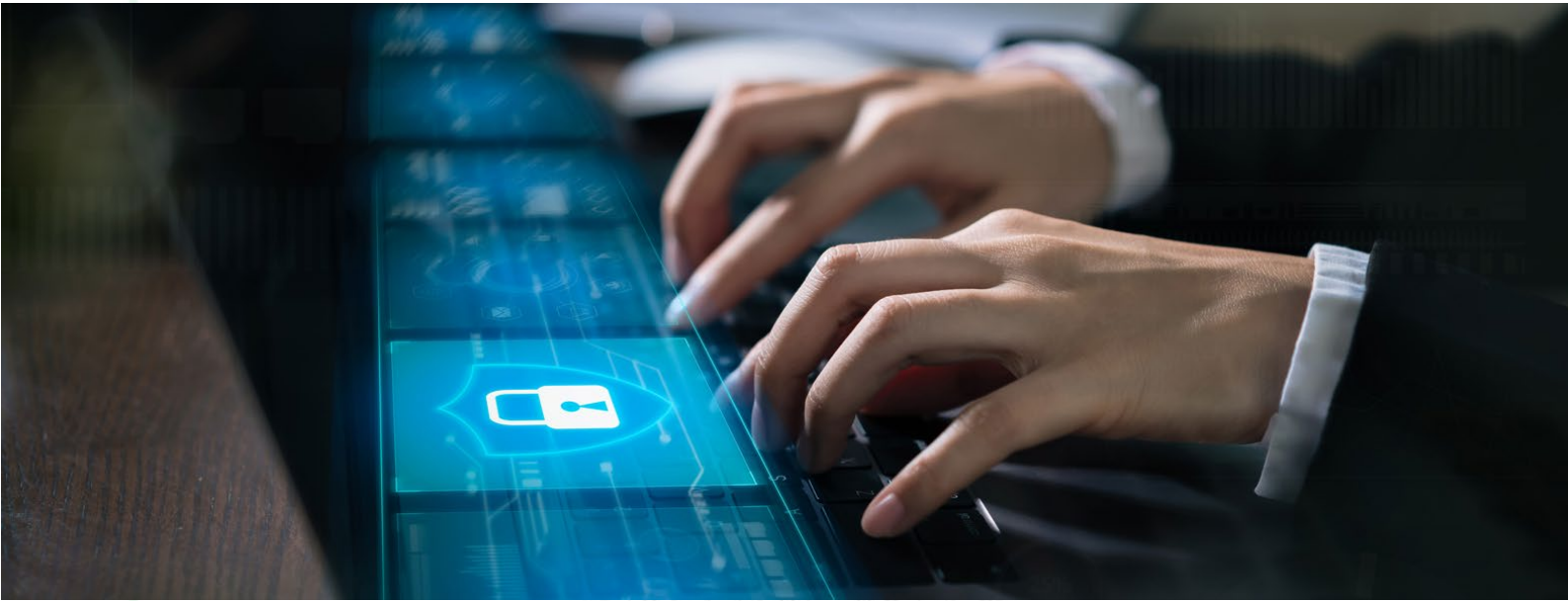
## Authorities dismantle cocaine network operating through Antwerp port

Authorities in Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, and the UK dismantled a cocaine trafficking network operating across all four countries. Belgian prosecutors said that 29 people were arrested in relation to the drug ring, with 16 charged with importing drugs, money laundering and participating in a crime organisation. The arrests come after security forces conducted raids across all four countries, with 54 raids in Belgium and tens of others in the three other countries. The investigation revealed that the smuggling network imported cocaine from South America through Antwerp port, and allegedly relied on the compliance of police officers, warehouse managers and transport companies. Police seized a total of 3.5 tons of cocaine and USD 2.3 mn since the investigation into the network started in late-2019. Antwerp is one of Europe's main ports of entry for cocaine.

## UK terrorism threat level raised to 'severe'

The UK's terrorism threat level has been upgraded from "substantial" to **"severe"**. The move means security chiefs believe that an attack is highly likely but there is no specific intelligence of an imminent incident. The move follows the shooting in Vienna earlier this month in which four people died. The week prior, three others died in a knife attack in Nice, France, and a teacher was murdered in Paris last month. Home Secretary Priti Patel said the British people should be "alert but not alarmed". "This is a precautionary measure following the horrific events of the last week in France and last night in Austria and is not based on a specific threat." She added that significant steps had already been taken to amend powers and strengthen the tools for dealing with developing terrorist threats.





## Security Industry News

### Home Office announces tougher criminality rules for EU citizens



The Home Office has confirmed that EU criminals could be barred from entering the UK under tougher border rules designed to make the country safer. The rules for EU criminals will come into force from 1 January 2021 when free movement ends and are part of the firmer and fairer approach the

Government is adopting towards the immigration system where people from across the world will be treated equally. Currently, under EU law, the UK has to allow some EU criminals into the country who would otherwise have been stopped and turned away. Under the changes, foreign criminals sentenced to more than a year behind bars will be banned from entering the UK.

### Public perception of security officers' role "must be addressed urgently" asserts BSIA

According to a recent YouGov poll, the public perception of security officers when it comes to the latter being seen as playing an essential role in the UK, both prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic, is ranked only slightly ahead of traffic wardens. The 'Perceptions of the Security Officer' study was carried out by YouGov\* on behalf of the British Security Industry Association (BSIA), The Security Institute and The Security Commonwealth as part of the organisations' joint 'Hidden Workforce' campaign. The survey's objective was to understand the current







perception of security officers among the British public and also the extent of the key issues they face, namely potential lack of respect and recognition and underestimation of their role.

While 31% of those interviewed believed that security officers are fundamental to keeping the UK safe and secure, with 41% indicating respect and a feeling of safety due to the work that security officers carry out, the role of the security

officer ranked ninth out of ten essential services behind postal workers and pharmacists, and just ahead of traffic wardens, who were ranked in tenth place. When interviewees were asked about these roles during COVID-19, security officers were not mentioned at all as an essential service. The Top Three were NHS workers, nurses, and care workers.

### ICO fines British Airways £20 million for data breach affecting 400,000-plus customers



The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has fined British Airways £20 million for the latter's failure to protect the personal and financial details of more than 400,000 of its customers. An ICO investigation found that the airline was processing a significant amount of personal data without adequate security measures

being in place. This failure broke data protection law and, subsequently, British Airways was the subject of a cyber-attack during 2018, but which the company did not detect for more than two months.



ICO investigators found that British Airways ought to have identified weaknesses in its security and resolved them with security measures that were available at the time. Investigators concluded that addressing these security issues would have prevented the 2018 cyber-attack being carried out in this way.

## Crowded Space Drones receives UK's inaugural compliance certificate for private sector



UK Surveillance Camera Commissioner Tony Porter QPM LLB has awarded Crowded Space Drones the first-ever private sector certificate of compliance in relation to surveillance camera systems and the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 for the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS, i.e. drones) in surveillance-related applications. This certification has been granted following a comprehensive independent audit conducted by IQ Verify on behalf of the Surveillance Camera Commissioner. Historically, this certification has only ever been granted to public sector organisations such as the police service and the National Health Service. That being so, this development represents a significant step forward when it comes to recognised drone-centric standards for the private sector.

## Forecourt crime latest

The latest Forecourt Crime Index from BOSS – the British Oil Security Syndicate, a not-for-profit trade body, suggests that forecourt crime, after an increase during the first quarter of



2020, has fallen to its lowest level since 2015. The BOSS Forecourt Crime Index covering the second quarter (Q2) of 2020 fell by 50.1pc to 99 (198: Q1 2020). However, the volume of incidents is on the rise and BOSS expect a surge in incidents during the second half of 2020.



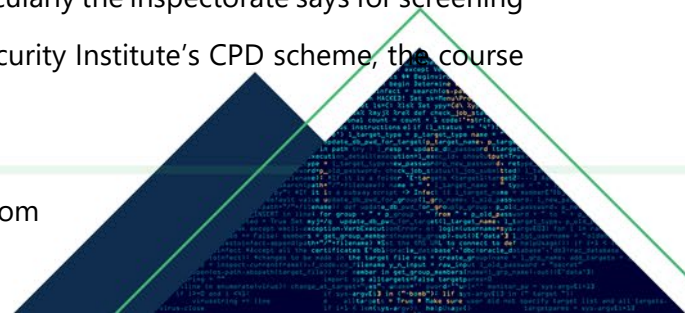
This latest Index is based on No Means of Payment (NMoP) incident reports that are made to BOSS Payment Watch, a loss recovery service from BOSS. The total number of incidents reported in Q2 2020 fell by half when compared with the first quarter of 2020, which was a record high, and down 46pc when compared with Q2 2019.

The average number of Incidents per site also fell by half from 14 in Q1 to seven in Q2 2020, but the average litres drawn per incident surged 20.2pc to 48 litres (39.9 litres: Q1 2020). As a result, the average value per incident increased 5.7pc to £53.63 (£50.73 per incident: Q1 2020). At 117ppl average fuel prices during Q2 2020 were 12pc lower than in Q2 (127ppl: Q1 2020).

### E-Learning screening course on BS 7858:2019



The National Security Inspectorate (NSI) is launching an e-learning course. It is to help NSI approved companies understand and apply the requirements of the revised Code of Practice BS 7858:2019 'Screening of Individuals Working in a Secure Environment'. This introductory course is available to all who wish to enrol but is particularly the inspectorate says for screening administrators and controllers. Accredited by the Security Institute's CPD scheme, the course



covers: information and documentation requirements; relevant legislation and regulatory requirements; the difference between personal opinion and fact; and the implications of non-compliance.

From the course learners can understand the reasons for screening; be able to assist in developing a screening process; and understand how to apply the requirements in practice. Each learner will receive a personal Certificate of Completion.

## Bounce Back Loan Scheme fraud report

UK Government faces a potential loss of £15 billion to £26 billion through businesses not being able to repay 'Bounce Back Loan Scheme' loans; and fraud, according to a National Audit Office (NAO) report. The official auditors concluded that the Government 'prioritised one aspect of value for money – payment speed – over almost all others and has been prepared to tolerate a potentially very high level of losses as a result', whether because of fraud or businesses unable to repay. The report sets out that the Bank was not able to prevent duplicate applications across lenders for the first month of the scheme. For the full, 51-page report, visit the NAO website.

<https://www.nao.org.uk/report/bounce-back-loan-scheme/?slide=1>

## Door supervisor with illegal home-made 'licence' sentenced to curfew



Ronald Gleave, a Crewe-based door supervisor who went to work wearing a fake Security Industry Authority (SIA) licence, has been sentenced to a three-month curfew in the wake of investigations conducted by the regulator. 36-year-old Gleave, of Cheyney

Walk in Crewe, was sentenced at South Cheshire Magistrates' Court in September. At an earlier hearing, he had pleaded guilty to charges of fraud and working without an SIA licence. South Cheshire Magistrates' Court heard that an SIA investigations officer found Gleave working as a door supervisor at Crewe's Brunswick Hotel in September last year. He was wearing an armband displaying a piece of paper with the words 'Door Supervisor' inscribed on it. A 16-



digit number and an 'expiry date' of 23 March 2023. On further investigation, the SIA discovered that Gleave had taped his home-made licence to his own genuine door supervisor's licence, which expired on the same date in 2014.

## Acting Security Industry Authority Chief



The Security Industry Authority (SIA) has appointed Michelle Russell as Acting Chief Executive. She will take up that role after Ian Todd leaves the SIA, as announced in August. Michelle is the SIA's Director of Inspections and Enforcement. She joined the private security regulator in January from another regulator, the Charity Commission, where she was director of investigations, monitoring and

enforcement. Elizabeth France, Chair of the SIA said: "Michelle was selected following an internal competition. All Authority Members took part in the interview and selection process and were impressed by the candidates' performances. It confirmed our view that we have a strong senior team at the SIA. After careful consideration, we decided that Michelle Russell should take the SIA forward as Acting Chief Executive until a permanent appointment is made, probably in about six months."

## 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 click the links below to view this month's NCSC weekly threat reports.

- [Weekly threat report 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2020](#)
- [Weekly threat report 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2020](#)
- [Weekly threat report 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2020](#)
- [Weekly threat report 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2020](#)
- [Weekly threat report 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2020](#)





## Demonstrations held / planned

### Covid-19: Arrests at London anti-lockdown protest



Eighteen people have been arrested at a protest in central London over coronavirus lockdown restrictions. Large crowds gathered outside Buckingham Palace, where police were stationed, before moving on to Trafalgar Square. Some protesters carried placards calling for "freedom" and an end to the "tyranny" of Covid-19 restrictions. The Metropolitan Police said the crowds had been dispersed but urged people to continue social distancing. There was some disruption on Westminster Bridge as officers tried to break up demonstrators.





## Coronavirus: Arrests at Stormont protest

Arrests have been made and fixed penalty notices handed out at a protest against coronavirus restrictions in the grounds of Stormont estate in east Belfast. The PSNI said more than 300 people gathered at the demonstration against the new regulations in NI. Ass Ch Cons Alan Todd said police engaged with the organisers "before and during the protest". "Unfortunately, both the organisers and participants did not cooperate with these requests and continued in breach of the regulations," he said. The PSNI said the numbers in attendance and the "lack of social distancing in the crowd were in stark contrast with assurances given to police by the organisers".

## Extinction Rebellion activists block entrances to Ineos refinery



Climate change activists are staging a protest outside the Grangemouth oil refinery. Demonstrators from Extinction Rebellion are attempting to prevent access to the Ineos plant and have blocked two roads with boats. The group said protesters had also locked themselves together. The group has accused the petrochemical manufacturer of being Scotland's biggest climate change polluter.

## Leeds anti-lockdown protest: Police officer punched

A police officer was punched while trying to arrest a protester at an anti-lockdown event in Leeds. About 200 people took part in the protest in Millennium Square, including anti-

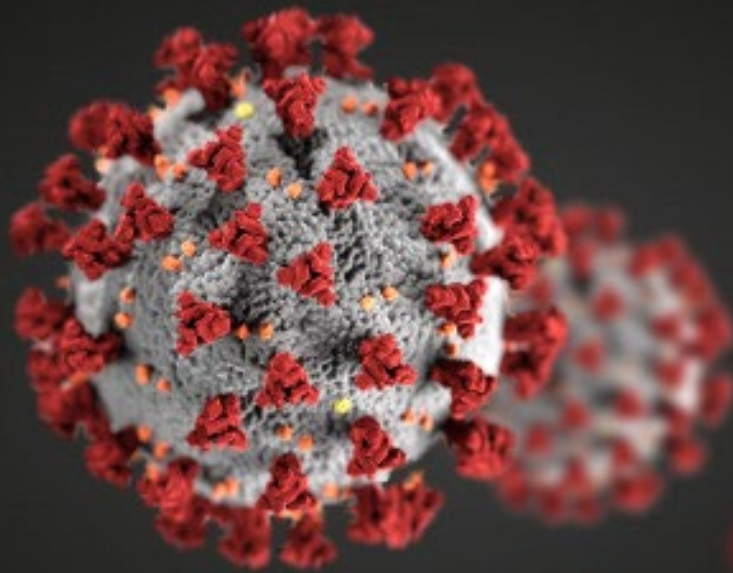
vaccination groups and far-right activists. West Yorkshire Police said no social distancing measures were in place and the event was not Covid-secure. Trouble flared when organisers refused to accept fixed penalty notices, the force said.

## Extinction Rebellion protesters whose print blockade cost millions let off with slap on the wrist



Prosecutors let two Extinction Rebellion protesters off with a slap on the wrist despite a print blockade costing millions of pounds. Will Farbrother, 39, and project manager Eleanor McAree, 26, were said to earn a total of £80,000 but CPS lawyers chose not to pursue them for compo. Their protest cost small businesses, supermarkets, and the printing company millions. More than 100 protesters blocked print works at Broxbourne, Herts, and Knowsley, near Liverpool, on September 4. Both sites are run by News printers, owned by The Sun's parent company. The mob laid siege to the plants, which also print The Times, Telegraph and Daily Mail, claiming they wanted to send a message about global warming.

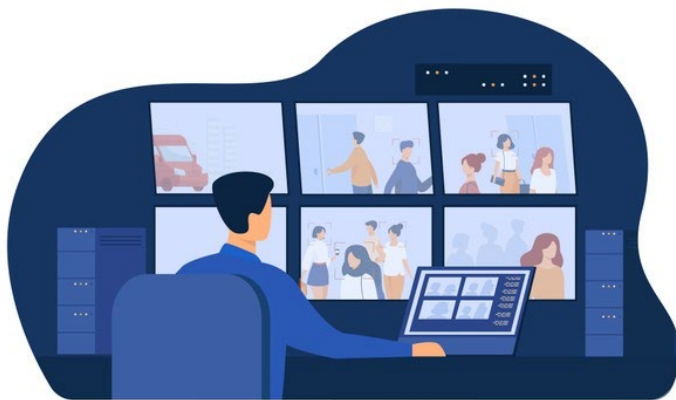




## Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News

### Remote servicing for security “likely to accelerate during Coronavirus pandemic and beyond”

According to recent research conducted by JLL, more than three-quarters of businesses globally report that 80% or more of their employees were working from home during April



and May as they navigated lockdowns and social distancing measures in a global pandemic. The need to stay at home, but in parallel maintain business continuity, has forced businesses to adopt remote working formats. Business leaders have quickly begun to understand

that having sufficient remote working capability is a vital aspect of business resilience, and especially so during a pandemic.

In the last 20 years, the industry has been developing remote capabilities, such as monitoring building status and performance and conducting remote diagnostics. Today, in the fields of fire and security, technologies allow many services to be supported remotely for the end user. A vital part of the management of all customer facilities, whether it's an office, logistic warehouse or Data Centre, is the maintenance of security and fire solutions that are essential for business continuity.



## Covid in Bristol: Marshals to patrol city's streets



Covid marshals are to patrol Bristol's streets, under new measures announced to tackle the spread of coronavirus. Elected mayor Marvin Rees said the city will also take on some local responsibility for test and trace. He said if the "targeted interventions" do not work it was "inevitable" the city would move into tier two or three. He said the duties of the eight marshals would include cleaning touch points, directing pedestrians, helping businesses manage queues, and offering guidance to the night-time economy.

## Hertfordshire man arrested on suspicion of Bounce Back Loan fraud

A 52-year-old man from Hertfordshire was arrested this morning in connection with potential offences against the Bounce Back Loan scheme and other frauds. He was arrested at his home address in Hoddesdon and a search of his premises and a lockup recovered £17,000 in cash and a number of high value watches. NCA Branch Commander Simon Gower commented: "This arrest is the first by the NCA in relation to potential fraud against the Government's Bounce Back Loan scheme. The man arrested is suspected of falsely applying for the loan and allegedly using the money on personal items."



## Huge brawl at petrol station as group 'refuse to wear masks' in Tier 3 area

A fight broke out at a petrol station, with one woman seen throwing punches after apparently



refusing to wear a mask. The brawl started after a couple reportedly confronted a group of people for not wearing face coverings at a petrol station in Oldham, Greater Manchester. At the time Oldham was currently in the Very High Tier 3 category of the lockdown. Two people, a man, and a woman, both in their 40s, were assaulted during the fight, according to the police.

## Covid-19: TfL issues almost 500 fines to passengers not wearing masks



Transport for London (TfL) has issued almost 500 fines to people not wearing face coverings on public transport, Freedom of Information requests show. Anyone travelling on London's transport network since 15 June has had to wear a face covering or face a £100 fine. Between July and September TfL handed out 127 fines in Lambeth, which covers Waterloo, the most in any borough.

## Fake COVID marshals are trying to force their way into people's homes



Scammers are pretending to be COVID marshals and medical professionals so they can gain access to people's homes. Genuine COVID marshals do not have the power to enforce social distancing, issue fines or enter private properties, the Chartered Trading

Standards Institute (CTSI) has warned. The organisation said this scam is a version of one seen over the summer, where fake healthcare professionals offered bogus coronavirus tests to get into people's homes. Fraudsters are shifting their tactics as rules and regulations change - and Katherine Hart, the CTSI's lead officer for doorstep crime, said constant vigilance is needed.

## 80% of professionals deem businesses "unprepared" for 2020 fraud levels

Research conducted by Cifas, the UK's leading fraud prevention service, shows that 80% of fraud prevention professionals believe businesses are unprepared for an expected surge in



fraud as the COVID-19 crisis presents fraudsters with new opportunities. The results have arisen from a survey carried out among professionals from some of the UK's leading organisations and financial institutions at the recent Cifas Annual Conference.

Nearly three-quarters of those attending the event believe that COVID-19 and its economic effects will have a 'significant' impact on levels of fraud, with Cifas warning that the pandemic has presented fraudsters with new ways in which to steal money and information from the public.



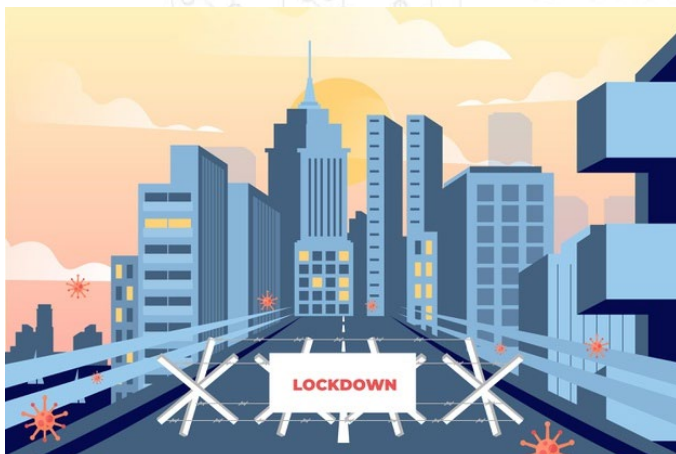
## UK's tax agency HMRC has seen steady increase of cyberattacks amid COVID-19



Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in the U.K. has been hit with 521,582 malicious email attacks over the last three months, according to official figures. The HMRC oversees tax affairs for millions of people in the U.K. The data, which was obtained by the Parliament Street think tank cyber security research

team using the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, showed an average of over 5,000 spam, phishing and malware attacks. These attacks were recorded by HMRC over a three-month period between June and September 2020. Spam and junk made up the largest proportion of attacks - contributing to 377,820 of the total 521,582 recorded by HMRC. Whereas, phishing, made up 128,255 of the overall number of attacks, and the remaining 15,507 attacks were said to contain malware.

## PM imposes COVID-19 lockdown as cases surpass 1 million



Prime Minister Boris Johnson ordered a national lockdown after confirmed COVID-19 cases surpassed 1 million. The lockdown will take effect from 5 November until 2 December, during which pubs, restaurants, gyms, non-essential shops, and places of worship will close, but schools, colleges and

universities can stay open. Non-essential travel on public transport will not be allowed, and people will be required to stay at home except for specific reasons outlined by the government. The decision follows similar nationwide restrictions imposed in France and Germany in recent days amid rising COVID-19 cases.