



SECURITY INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

December 2020

Terrorism threat level : SEVERE





CONTENT

PAGE

About Us: Sentinel Group Security

2

Intelligence led security

2

Disclaimer

2

United Kingdom's National Security Threat

3

Introduction

3

United Kingdom's Threat Definitions

3

United Kingdom Current Threat Levels

7

Introduction

7

What the threat levels mean

7

Current national threat level

7

Open Source Security Incident News

8

Security Industry News

17

Demonstrations held / planned

22

Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News

25



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.

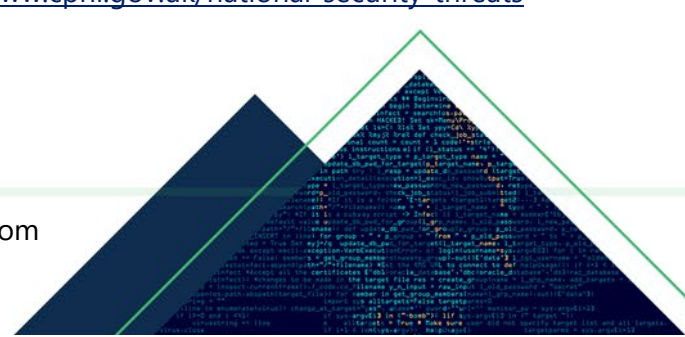
National infrastructure sectors represent core strategic interests for foreign intelligence services, whose targeting against the sectors is likely to include espionage for economic, political, military, or commercial gain.

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

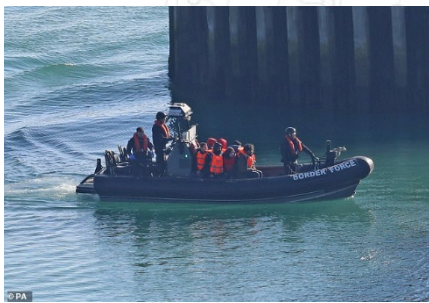
The threat to the UK (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) from terrorism is **SEVERE**.

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



Open Source Security Incident News

33 illegal immigrants are caught in a lorry at Calais trying to flee the UK from Dover



The illegal immigrants were found hiding in a lorry in Calais, France. But despite their efforts to escape the country, 31 have now been returned to UK Under a reciprocal agreement, France can return asylum seekers within 24 hours. The gang of illegal immigrants have been caught trying to flee the United Kingdom over fears about how they will be treated after Brexit.

Four arrested in Northern Ireland as part of Encrochat drug investigation



In a series of raids supported by the Police Service of Northern Ireland, arrests were made in Lisburn, Antrim, and Crumlin and Limavady yesterday. Three of the people were charged last night with offences relating to the supply of class A and B drugs and money laundering. They are Samuel Manning, 33, from Lady Wallace Gardens, Lisburn, Mervyn John Armstrong, 41, from Millhouse Road, Antrim, and Sean Gerard

Cassidy, 44, from Tully Road, Antrim. Cassidy was also charged with conspiracy to import a prohibited firearm and ammunition.



Gloucestershire man arrested on suspicion of terrorism offences



A 43-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of terrorism offences. Counter Terrorism Policing South East detained the man, from Gloucestershire. Officers are searching three locations in the county and another in the West Mercia Police force area as part of their inquiry. The man has been arrested on suspicion of encouragement of terrorism contrary to section one of the

Terrorism Act 2006; dissemination of terrorist publications contrary to section 2 of the Terrorism Act 2006; and collection of information contrary to section 58 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

Suspected illegal immigrants arrested on boat off East Anglia coast



The fishing boat, intercepted by NCA off Great Yarmouth on Tuesday, in Harwich harbour. Photograph: National Crime Agency/PA

Sixty-nine suspected illegal immigrants and three crew members have been arrested after a fishing boat was intercepted off the coast of East Anglia, says the National Crime Agency. It has launched a people smuggling investigation after Border Force officials intercepted the vessel off Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. The agency said the 30m (98ft) boat had sailed from near Ostend, Belgium. The three crew members, a Latvian national and two Ukrainian nationals, were arrested on suspicion of facilitating illegal immigration.

Apple products worth £5m stolen from lorry on M1



Apple products worth £5m have been stolen from a lorry in a robbery on the M1 in which the driver and security guard were "tied up". Northamptonshire Police said the theft took place on the southbound slip road at junction 18 on 10 November. The items stolen included iPhone 11s, AirPods and Apple Watches. The force said that after the driver and security guard had been "targeted and tied up", the lorry was driven

to Eldon Close in Crick, where the trailer was transferred to "an awaiting truck". Officers said the offenders "drove off leaving the lorry driver and security guard behind". The truck was later found in Lutterworth, Leicestershire, where it is thought the 48 pallets of Apple products were loaded into a third vehicle.

Crime agency warning over post-Brexit security



Hundreds of cross-border investigations will have to be reorganised if the UK crashes out of the EU's key security agency - Europol - the National Crime Agency (NCA) has warned MPs. Letters published this month reveal growing concern among UK police chiefs. They said the fight against international crime will be slowed if the UK loses access to EU tools. The NCA said the potential loss of access to Europol was the area "we are most concerned about". The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) predicted there will be a major impact on operations if the UK cannot negotiate a date to retain access to databases that play a pivotal role in uncovering criminals on the move.

Naloxone: Police to carry emergency drug overdose spray



An emergency antidote to treat drug overdose victims will be carried by police officers in Scotland as part of a pilot project. The nasal spray Naloxone counters the effects of overdoses from opioids such as heroin. The trial will run for six months in the east of Glasgow, Falkirk, and Dundee. Supporters of the initiative say it is being introduced in response to rising drug-related deaths in Scotland.

Latest available figures show there were 1,187 drug-related deaths in Scotland in 2018, the highest number since records began in 1996. They argue Naloxone can provide extra time for the ambulance service to arrive and take over emergency medical treatment.

Firearms and ammunition buried in Warrington garden



Two firearms and over a hundred rounds of ammunition have been found at a property in Warrington as part of a National Crime Agency EncroChat investigation into the large-scale supply of firearms. Officers searched a house on Selworthy Drive, Warrington, where two taped packages were buried in the back garden. One package contained a loaded Smith & Wesson

9mm semi-automatic pistol and approximately 100 rounds of ammunition, while a Grand Power semi-automatic pistol with over 20 rounds of ammunition and a suppressor were recovered from a second package.

Lorry driver jailed for trying to smuggle migrants out of the UK



A Romanian lorry driver has been jailed for 31 months for attempting to smuggle a group of migrants out of the UK in his lorry. 35-year-old Marius Halmaghe from Tulcea, in Romania was arrested in Kent. His truck was stopped just outside of Dover port. Four adult migrants, two Bangladeshis, one Indian and one Egyptian, were found in rear of the trailer. Halmaghe was later charged with and pleaded guilty to attempting

to facilitate illegal immigration. At a hearing at Canterbury Crown Court on Friday 6 November a judge sentenced him to 31 months in prison.

400 stitches for security guard after hammer attack

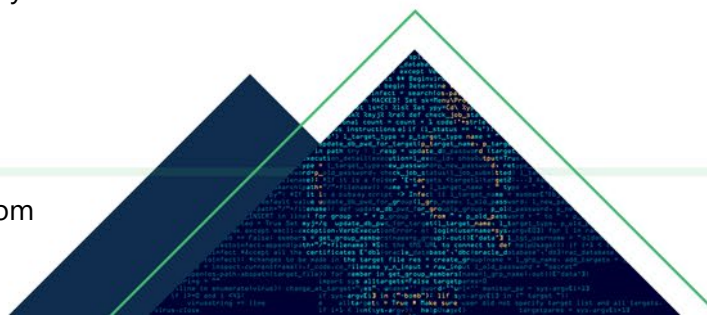
A security guard needed 400 stitches after he was brutally attacked with a hammer by a group of men during his night shift at a recycling plant. John Marsh was rushed to hospital after the gruesome attack, which happened while he was on duty at Clearaway Recycling Services, in Burnt Mills industrial estate, in Basildon. The 47-year-old, from Basildon, claims the attack came a week after he had been made aware that scrap metal had been stolen from the site.

Two men arrested in Pall Mall over suspected terror plot

Two men seen acting suspiciously in Westminster have been arrested over a suspected terror plot. The pair, both aged 34 and from east London, were held in Pall Mall, which connects



Trafalgar Square to St James's Street. Officers searched both men and the vehicle. They were arrested on suspicion of the preparation of terrorist acts, contrary to section five of the Terrorism Act 2006.



Quorn man charged after 'gun pointed at children'



A man has been charged with firearms offences following reports a gun was pointed at children in Leicestershire. Police were called to a man reportedly walking near Sarson Street in Quorn, Leicestershire, with "a long-barrelled firearm". The man was shot with rubber bullets by armed officers. Michael Reynolds has been charged with possession of an air weapon in a public place and possession of an air weapon with intent to cause fear of violence. The 50-year-old of

Castledine Street, Quorn, has been remanded in custody and is due to appear at Leicester Magistrates' Court.

Spitting man threatened hospital security staff



A man spat water on the floor and threatened security staff at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, telling one he would "rip his face off". Matthew Suttle, 47, told another security officer that he would kill him and caused damage by head-butting a wall during the incident, Norwich Crown Court heard. Lori Tucker, prosecuting, said Suttle turned up at the accident and emergency department having had a mental health assessment the day before and was described as being very up and down.

Edmonton police station car crash: Man arrested

A man has been charged after a car crashed into a north London police station and part of the road outside the building was set on fire. Edmonton Police Station was evacuated following the crash on Fore Street. Adam Pawlowski, 45, of Goffs Lane, Cheshunt, has been charged with attempted arson with intent to endanger life and criminal damage.

Reading park knifeman facing life for 'terror' murder of three friends



Reading attacker Khairi Saadallah has pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey to three murders and three attempted murders in a park this summer - but denies being a terrorist. Khairi Saadallah, 26. At a hearing he pleaded guilty to three murders and three attempted murders - and denied he was motivated by ideology or religion. Saadallah launched a two-minute series of knife attacks on two groups sat in Forbury Gardens, Reading, shortly before 7pm on Saturday June 20. James Furlong, 36, David Wails, 49, and Joseph Ritchie-Bennett, 39, all died, while three others - their friend Stephen Young, and Patrick Edwards and Nishit Nisudan, who were sitting in a nearby group - were injured.

Twenty-three dangerous foreign criminals have been removed from the UK this week after violating our laws.



Two charter flights carrying individuals convicted of rape and other sexual offences were removed by the Home Office to their home country. Individuals with criminal records for drugs production and serious violent crime were among those on the deportation flight. Officials also returned six individuals who arrived here on illegal crossings with no legal right to remain in the UK. Flights

were arranged to return them to Sweden, Denmark, Austria, and Germany.

Man jailed for downloading Islamic State terror videos



A man has been jailed for downloading Islamic State group material, including bomb-making videos and a video showing two men being killed with a knife. Ataubaq Taj, 34, of Hacking Street, Salford was sentenced to six years when he appeared at Manchester Crown Court. Taj, formerly of Accrington, was convicted last month of making a

record containing information likely to be useful to a terrorist. He was ordered to serve five years in jail and an additional year on licence. Counter Terrorism Policing North West said Taj downloaded and stored several files of propaganda material on his phone, laptop, USB drives and CDs.

In a similar incident: Another man has appeared before the Old Bailey accused of sharing Islamic State group videos. German national Florian Flegel, 22, was arrested at Stansted Airport in Essex on 22 October when he was about to board a flight to Germany. He is charged with five counts of disseminating terrorist publications, including Islamic State group propaganda videos. Mr Flegel, from Dusseldorf, appeared by video link from HMP Wandsworth. Mr Justice Sweeney set a trial for 28 June next year at Woolwich Crown Court.

Londonderry: Petrol bomb thrown during attempted hijacking



A petrol bomb has been thrown at a delivery van during an attempted hijacking in Londonderry. The police said the incident happened on Fairview Road during disorder in the Galliagh area of the city. Cars and bins have been set alight, with masonry and fireworks being thrown at officers. The PSNI said the petrol bomb was thrown at the vehicle by a "group of youths". Police said the driver managed to escape and the flames were extinguished by members of the public

"before significant damage was caused".

Money launderer sentenced to 20 months imprisonment after stashing £500,000 among air fresheners

A man has been sentenced to 20 months in prison for money laundering offences after being caught trying to smuggle almost £500,000 out of the UK within a truckload of air fresheners. Polish National Krzysztof Hubert Turadek, 34 appeared at Canterbury Crown Court where he received the almost two-year sentence.

Money launderer sent back to prison after second NCA investigation



A corrupt money transfer business owner responsible for a £5 million money laundering scheme is being sent back to prison after the National Crime Agency found he had flouted the terms of his release. Shafiq Ahmed, 59, from Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London was sentenced to a year in prison at Kingston Crown Court for breaching his Serious Crime Prevention Order (SCPO). A stricter SCPO has been granted with restricted terms, and he has to forfeit a phone and two SIM cards. Ahmed was originally jailed in June 2013 for running a criminal network responsible for laundering millions of pounds from his base in Tooting, London.

People smugglers who steered two boats of migrants jailed



Two men have been jailed for smuggling themselves and 23 other people across the Channel on two small boats. Iraqi national Assad Abdul Latif Sayed Abdulghany, 30, and Iranian national Ali Azarkish, 23, were both sentenced to 16 months' imprisonment. They had previously admitted assisting unlawful immigration into the UK.

Their convictions were secured at Canterbury Crown Court with the help of Border Force footage which showed the men in control of their vessels. Abdulghany and Azarkish had their rigid-hulled inflatable boats (RHIBs) intercepted in September.

7.5 years for lorry driver stopped with £1m cocaine haul

A Romanian lorry driver has been jailed after an investigation found that he had attempted to bring cocaine worth up to £1 million into the UK. Cristian-Dan Balasoiu, 46, was sentenced to 7 years and six months imprisonment for attempting to import 10 kilos of the Class A drug.

Prison for Luton man who hid loaded gun in wardrobe



A Luton man has been jailed for five years after National Crime Agency officers found a loaded firearm at his home. Ishtiaq Shah, 22, was arrested by NCA officers in January 2020 after a search of his family home led to the discovery of a revolver loaded with nine rounds of live ammunition. Forensic teams examined the revolver and found it to be a Turkish-made ZORAKI Streamer R1-C I model, which was chambered to fire 6 mm ammunition from a 9-chamber rotating cylinder. The serial number

and other markings had been obliterated on the frame in an attempt to make the weapon untraceable. However, the revolver bore marks indicating it had been sourced from the Czech Republic.

Harry Vaughan: Neo-Nazi teenager sentenced



A high-achieving grammar school pupil who secretly promoted neo-Nazi terrorism online has been sentenced. Harry Vaughan, 18, from south-west London, had pleaded guilty to 14 terror offences and two of possessing indecent images of children. Passing sentence at the Old Bailey, Mr Justice Sweeney said: "You are a dangerous offender." He sentenced Vaughan

to two years detention in a young offenders' institution, suspended for two years. The 18-year-old was also ordered to attend a rehabilitation programme.

Trio admit using drones in bid to smuggle illegal items into Wandsworth Prison

Three men have admitted trying to smuggle psychoactive substances and mobile phones into a London prison by using drones. Members of the public contacted the police after seeing a drone flying near Wandsworth Prison in August 2016. At Kingston Crown Court, Jamie Duggan (30) pleaded guilty to conspiracy to convey prohibited items into a prison and conspiracy to supply psychoactive substances. Co-defendants Kye Hardy-King (28) and Craig Kearney (30) also pleaded guilty to the same charges at earlier hearings.



Security Industry News

UK To Create National Cyber Force



The Government has confirmed that the United Kingdom will increase its defence spending by £16.5bn in extra money over four years. This is the UK's biggest increase in defence spending since the Cold War, and the new cash will be used to create a "National Cyber Force" that will bolster the UK's cyber capabilities to protect UK. In a speech on defence spending, the Prime Minister avowed that the new GCHQ and Ministry of Defence (MoD) partnership will conduct cyber operations to disrupt hostile state activities, terrorists and criminals threatening the UK's national security, involving itself in countering terror plots and supporting military operations. The National Cyber Force draws together personnel from intelligence, cyber and security agency GCHQ, the MoD, the

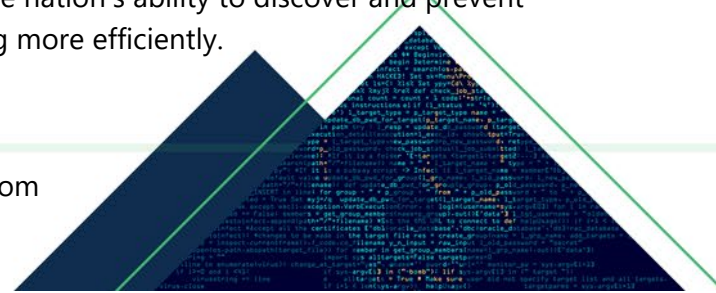
Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) under one unified command for the very first time.

Counter-Terrorism Policing receives funding for "historic" Counter-Terrorism Operations Centre



The government has committed "millions of pounds" to bolster the protection of the public against terrorism by announcing substantial funding for an all-new national Counter-Terrorism Operations Centre as part of its latest Spending Review. In practice, the Counter-Terrorism Operations Centre will bring together

Counter-Terrorism Policing, members of the UK's intelligence community and other parts of the criminal justice system in one location. This fully integrated approach specifically aims to keep the public safer from terrorism by enhancing the nation's ability to discover and prevent attacks, improving response speeds and also working more efficiently.



NCA publishes 2020 Annual Report on Suspicious Activity Reports



The Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) Annual Report for 2020 has just been published by the National Crime Agency (NCA). It emerges that the UK Financial Intelligence Unit (UKFIU) has seen another record number of SARs, receiving and processing 573,085. That represents a 20% increase on the previous period when the figure was 478,437,

with an 81% increase (to 62,408) in requests for a defence against money laundering or terrorist finance. See link to view the full 23-page report:

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications/480-sars-annual-report-2020/file>

UK Government bans installation of Huawei 5G equipment from September 2021



The government has banned British telecommunications firms from installing Huawei 5G equipment after September 2021. The ban is part of a plan to remove the Chinese firm's equipment from high-speed mobile networks. The UK has already ordered all Huawei equipment to be removed from its 5G network by the end of

2027. The government has also already banned the buying of new Huawei 5G equipment after 31 December. The US and other European nations have also restricted the role of Chinese 5G suppliers over security concerns.

SIA website to move to GOV.UK

In December we will be moving our website to GOV.UK and closing our current site. We are making this change, so our online information meets the Government's digital standards. See link to view the new website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/security-industry-authority>

CTP launches safeguarding website to combat 'perfect storm' of online radicalisation



The impact of COVID-19, social isolation and a rise in hateful extremism online is creating a 'perfect storm' which is making more young people vulnerable to radicalisation. Parents, friends, and families can now access specialist support to stop their loved ones from being drawn into harmful activities or groups thanks to

the launch of ACT Early - a new dedicated safeguarding website and advice line devised by the specialists at Counter-Terrorism Policing. This new resource provides advice, guidance, and support for anyone who is concerned that someone they know may be at risk from being radicalised by terrorists or extremist content online. www.actearly.uk

Burglary reporting

A quarter of UK residents say that they would not report an unsuccessful break-in at their home to the police, according to new figures from an insurance company. Aviva's study into burglaries and attempted break-ins found 63pc of UK adults would report an attempted unlawful entry at their home to the police at once. A further 10pc would inform the police only later, when convenient to them. This leaves 27pc of the population who would not tell the law.

Ticketmaster UK fined £1.25m



The ticketing website Ticketmaster UK has been fined £1.25m by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a data protection offence. The ICO found that the company failed to have appropriate security measures to prevent a cyber-attack on a chat-bot installed on its online payment page. That failure to protect customer information is a breach of the General Data

Protection Regulation (GDPR), the European Union-wide rules that came into force across the EU (including the UK) in May 2018. The data breach, which included names, payment card numbers, expiry dates and CVV numbers, and Ticketmaster usernames and passwords, potentially affected 9.4m of Ticketmaster's customers across Europe including 1.5m in the UK.

Proposed new 'Martyn's Law' counter-terrorism legislation revealed

The extent and scope of planned new 'Martyn's Law' counter-terrorism legislation for all public venues and places in the UK was revealed at the public inquiry into the Manchester Arena bombing. Ministers announced new 'Protect Duty' legislation in February, although the Covid-19 pandemic has delayed a period of public consultation, the inquiry was told. The legislation would be 'primary legislation to impose a duty upon those who ought to be responsible for the safety of the public when they are in a publicly accessible location'. The inquiry was told a duty would be placed on the owners or operators of venues, or public places, to consider terror

threats and methodologies, assess the impact attacks could have on them and put in place plans.

Which? on remote access scam

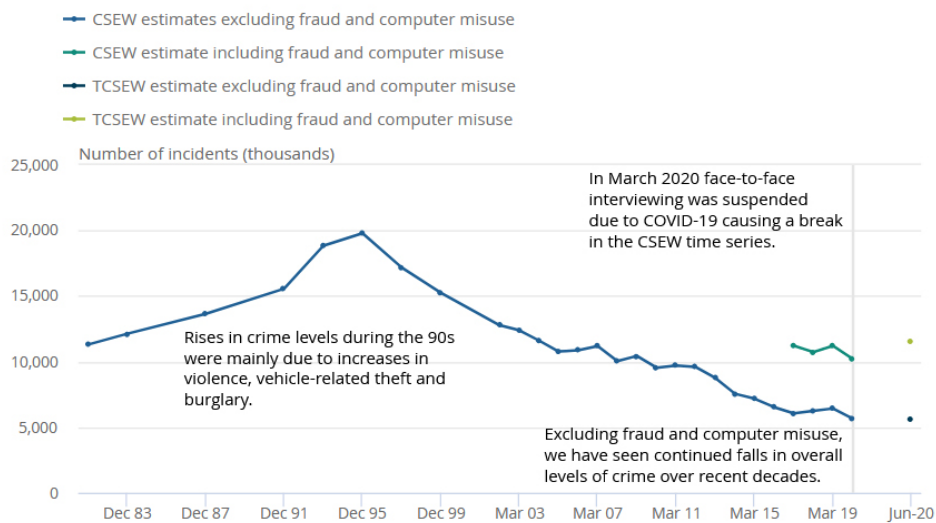
People have lost thousands of pounds to a convincing scam where the perpetrators phone up pretending to be tech support from a reputable firm such as Microsoft or BT, says the consumer advice and campaign group Which?

The fraudsters attempt to persuade victims to install remote access software – as used by many legitimate IT workers – that allows them to steal money and personal details. Which? is calling for banks to refund more customers who fall victim to this scam, having heard of a number of cases where people have been denied reimbursement due to banks claiming that they either authorised the payments or had been grossly negligent.

Crime survey latest

Decreases in crime levels during the year ending June 2020 were mainly driven by changes in society after coronavirus lockdown restrictions were put in place, according to the UK official Office for National Statistics. Billy Gazard from the OCS' Centre for Crime and Justice said: "The most substantial reductions were seen in theft and robbery offences during the April to June quarter. There are indications that crime levels in June were moving back towards pre-lockdown levels.

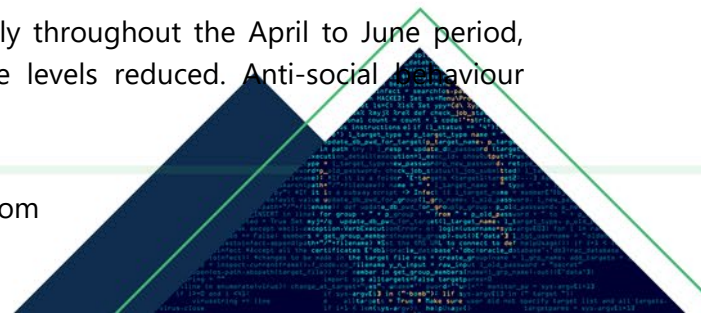
England and Wales, annual estimates



Crime estimates by the CSEW December 1981 to March 2020, and TCSEW estimates for the year ending June 2020

Source: Office for National Statistics - Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and the Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW)

"Police recording of drug offences increased sharply throughout the April to June period, reflecting proactive police activity as overall crime levels reduced. Anti-social behaviour



incidents also increased. These include reported breaches of lockdown restrictions to the police.” For details of the latest England and Wales Crime Survey for the year to June 2020 visit the ONS website:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingjune2020>

Circa 6,000 officers join police service as Coronavirus enforcement ramped up



The Government’s campaign to recruit 20,000 additional police officers over the next three years is ahead of schedule, with almost 6,000 new officers joining the service before the end of September. One year on from the launch of the campaign, 5,824 extra officers have joined forces across England and Wales.

Over recent weeks, the police service has also been keeping members of the public safe by stepping up enforcement against those flouting rules in place to help stop the spread of the Coronavirus.

Freedom of Information request reveals 250,000-plus malicious e-mail attacks on BBC every day

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) receives over a quarter of a million malicious e-mail attacks every day. Data revealed under the Freedom of Information Act by the cyber security team at the Parliament Street Think Tank has shown that an average of 283,597 malicious e-mails were blocked by the organisation every day over the first eight months of 2020. On a monthly basis, the data shows that the BBC receives an average of 6,704,188 hostile e-mails classed as scam or spam. Additionally, an average of 18,662 malware attacks such as viruses, ransomware and spyware are blocked. Across the eight-month period running from January to August this year, a total of 51,898,393 infected e-mails were blocked by the BBC’s cyber defence systems.

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-6th-november-2020>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-13th-november-2020>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-20th-november-2020>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-27th-november-2020>



Demonstrations held / planned

More than 150 arrests at London anti-lockdown protest

More than 150 people have been arrested during anti-lockdown protests in London's West End. The group Save Our Rights UK said it held the protest, which started from Marble Arch on the 28th November. Police made arrests for a number of different offences, including breaching coronavirus restrictions, assaulting a police officer and illegal drugs.

Extinction Rebellion launches campaign of financial disobedience



Extinction Rebellion is launching a campaign of financial civil disobedience aimed at exposing the “political economy’s complicity” in the unfolding ecological crisis. The group – which has staged some of the UK’s biggest civil disobedience protests over the past two years – is turning its attention to what it says will be a sustained campaign of debt and tax strikes. It is also asking people to “redirect” loans from banks that finance

fossil fuel projects to frontline organisations fighting for climate justice.

Anti-lockdown protests in Liverpool

Anti-lockdown protests in Liverpool have led to 15 arrests as hundreds march against the Government's measures. Those who were arrested chanted "freedom" and clashed with the police. They were protesting against the Government's current lockdown restrictions. Police used pepper spray as the protestors fought with officers on the ground.



Police in Bristol arrest 14 at anti-lockdown march

14 people have been arrested after anti-lockdown marchers defied police orders to cancel their protest. Avon and Somerset Police had made clear they would act if an event organised by Stand-Up Bristol went ahead. Despite the warning, about 200 people gathered on College Green before marching through the city centre. After assembling on College Green, the marchers, many of whom were chanting "freedom" and carrying placards bearing anti-lockdown messages, moved through Broadmead.

Anti-lockdown protesters march through Manchester streets



Crowds marched through Manchester city centre, accusing MPs who voted for the lockdown of treason and urging people to "free your faces" and remove their masks. Hundreds of anti-lockdown protesters have taken to the streets against the national lockdown. Huge crowds marched through Manchester

city centre, accusing MPs who voted for the lockdown of treason. Many held placards of anti-lockdown slogans, with one reading "Fear is the currency of control" while some chanted "take off your masks",

Extinction Rebellion protester scales Norwich crane

An Extinction Rebellion protester has climbed a crane, prompting an emergency services response. Police were called to reports a protester, thought to be a 17-year-old boy, was at the top of a crane in Duke Street in Norwich. Banners have been hung from the machine and the protester has not come down. Three other people were arrested in connection with the incident.

London anti-lockdown protest leads to 104 arrests

Police arrested at least 104 protesters during anti-lockdown demonstrations in central London. A large police presence remains in place near Trafalgar Square where the protest was eventually dispersed. Smaller groups of protesters remained on Oxford Street and along the Strand. The Metropolitan Police said: "This gathering is unlawful and is putting others at risk. We are directing those there to go home."

New lockdown: Manchester University students pull down campus fences



Students have torn down "prison-like" fencing erected around their campus on day one of England's new lockdown. Those living at the University of Manchester's Fallowfield halls of residence awoke to find workers putting up "huge metal barriers". They were eventually pulled down as hundreds of students - who said they were not warned about the measure - protested.

Activists target HSBC's billboards

Advertisement billboards promoting HSBC bank were commandeered by campaigners in 10 UK cities to expose its investments in fossil fuels and detention centres in the US. Protest group "Brandalism" replaced HSBC's advertisements with their own artworks, accusing the bank of investing in "climate colonialism," including £67 billion in fossil fuels since the Paris Climate Accords of 2015. Among the cities targeted was Sheffield in South Yorkshire.

Bristol illegal rave attended by 700 people



Police were attacked as they tried to break up an illegal rave at a warehouse near Bristol. Officers who were called to Yate and said up to 700 people were there. Some of the crowd began acting violently towards officers and threw objects when they were told to leave, Avon and Somerset Police said. The site was cleared after eight people had been arrested and music equipment seized.



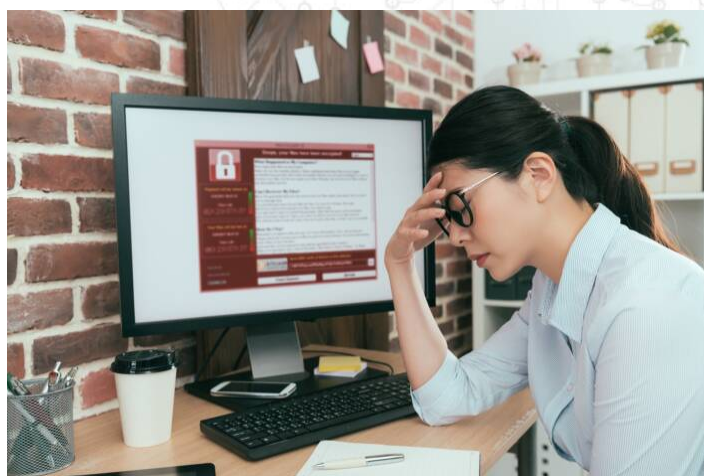
Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News

Victim Support: Impact of crime increases in severity during pandemic

Victim Support has issued a new report confirming what many commentators across the sector have suspected. In short, that the impact of crime has increased in its severity during the pandemic. With ongoing restrictions exacerbating the situation, victim services are expecting further demands for help as the current lockdown period eases and more victims begin to seek support. The detailed report, entitled 'Crime and COVID-19: How Victims and Survivors have been Impacted by the Pandemic, suggests that the crime experienced by victims and survivors has increased in both severity and intensity since the initial lockdown began back in March, in turn leading to higher levels of anxiety and mental health problems among this cohort. See link to access the report:

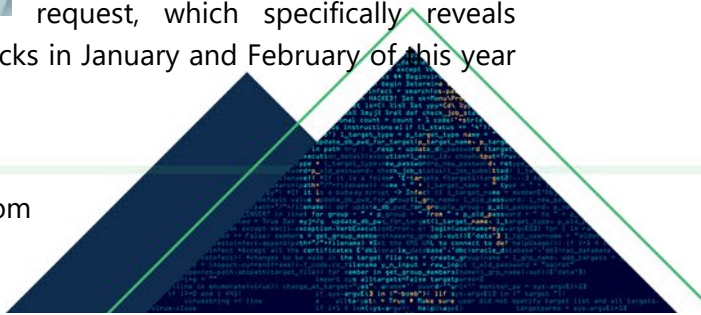
https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020_Crime_and_Covid19_Impact_report.pdf

HMRC reports 75% surge in targeted e-mail attacks during COVID-19 outbreak



Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has reported a staggering 367,520 phishing e-mail attacks perpetrated against the Government department during 2020, with data indicating a sharp rise in incidents after the UK went into its first lockdown period back in March. According to official data obtained by accountancy firm Lanop Outsourcing under a Freedom of Information request, which specifically reveals

that HMRC faced an average of 26,100 phishing attacks in January and February of this year



before that number soared to an average of 45,046 attacks per month from March through until September (i.e., a 73% increase).

The lowest recorded number of phishing attacks during March to September took place in August when 38,096 attacks were detected by HMRC. However, this figure then soared to 57,801 cases in September (the largest monthly quantity all year, in fact).

Covid: Lockdown 'causing drugs gangs to recruit locally'



"County lines" gangs could be using children in care across north Wales to distribute drugs to get around lockdown restrictions, it is claimed. The urban gangs use young people to expand their markets for drugs like cocaine and heroin into smaller towns. The research by the crime and justice consultancy Crest Advisory comes as England is in the middle of a

month-long national lockdown, with travel restricted between Wales and England. Travel between the countries was also limited during Wales' recent firebreak lockdown and before that local lockdowns.

Funding secured for drone-based delivery of PPE and COVID-19 testing kits in UK

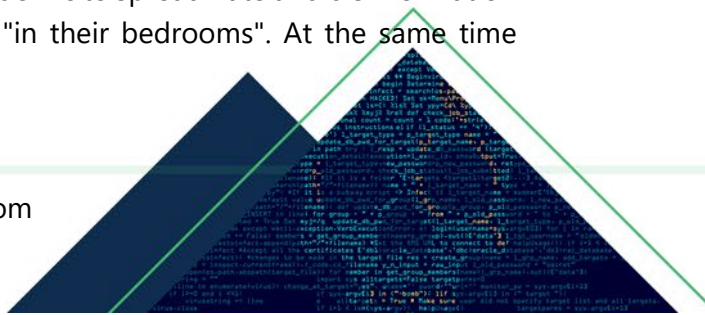


A consortia working to establish a UAV/Drone Emergency Medical Airbridge between Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly in the UK to supplement the existing National Health Service (NHS) medical supply chain has secured a share of £33m funding from the UK Government to use aviation to solve major global challenges. DronePrep, which is based at

Worcestershire technology accelerator BetaDen in Malvern, is a consortia that has been awarded a share of the initial £7m funds to support project using unmanned aerial vehicles to deliver critical PPE and Covid-19 testing kits to vulnerable rural communities in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Covid: Lockdown 'exploited by extremists to recruit'

The second lockdown in England is making more young people vulnerable to being groomed by extremists, a senior counter-terror officer has warned. Supt Matthew Davison, from Counter Terrorism Policing, said extremists were using the pandemic to spread hate and disinformation online. He said young people were being targeted "in their bedrooms". At the same time



referrals to the anti-extremism Prevent programme are falling. The government said it would "continue to challenge and disrupt extremists who sow division".

UK cyber-threat agency confronts Covid-19 attacks

More than a quarter of the incidents which the UK's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) responded to were Covid-related, according to its latest annual report. The review covers the period from September 2019 to August 2020, so the pandemic occupied an even higher proportion of the agency's efforts after the first lockdown began. In total there were 723 incidents of all kinds, marking close to a 10% rise on the previous period. Of those, 194 were Covid-related. Some of the incidents related to countering nation-state attacks, but most were criminal in nature, the GCHQ division reported.



Covid-19: Man arrested, and fines issued at Derry lockdown protest



A man was arrested, and another cautioned following an anti-lockdown protest in Londonderry. Police said they also issued a number of fixed penalty notices at the event in Guildhall Square. Ch Supt Darrin Jones said police would normally "work with organisers and protestors to facilitate lawful and peaceful protests, the Health Protection Regulations are there to protect us all during this pandemic, particularly when there are increased restrictions in place". SDLP Foyle MLA Sinéad McLaughlin said the protest was "encouraging people to take risks with their health and potentially exposing the most vulnerable people in society to an illness that can prove deadly".