



Terrorism threat level: **SEVERE**

**SECURITY  
INTELLIGENCE  
UPDATE**

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## About Us

Sentinel Group Security (SGS) was formed in July 2005 and became a fast-growing security services provider within United Kingdom and Ireland. We first partnered with our customers to provide specialised and effective security solutions including open source intelligence reporting, security vulnerability assessments and training. Our capability is defined by our employees and the high level of skills and experience they possess and the procedures they adopt.

### Intelligence led security

With a 360° approach to threat detection and intelligence service provision. Outside of dealing with major incidents, the SGS National Operations Centre proactively assesses the various security threats that your business, people, assets, and brand might face by monitoring social and conventional media to identify:

- On-going threats
- Specific industry threats
- Future trends
- Best practice



### Disclaimer

In compiling this report SGS has relied on the veracity of public information available at the time of publication. SGS accepts no legal, equitable or other liability whatsoever for any actual or consequent loss incurred by the client in relation to this report or for the accuracy of any statement herein.

## United Kingdom's National Security Threat



### Introduction

The main threats to national security are terrorism, espionage, cyber threats and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, many of which impact on the UK's national infrastructure.

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

While the threat from terrorism to the UK as a whole is high, and historically both international and Northern Ireland terrorist groups have targeted UK infrastructure, the current terrorist threat to the national infrastructure can be characterised as generally limited and often aspirational.

The exception is transport which continues to face enduringly high levels of threat from international terrorism. In addition, the emergency services and defence sectors,

specifically police and military personnel, also face a high level of threat from both international terrorism and dissident republic groups in Northern Ireland, for whom they are a priority target for attack.

Generally higher levels of effective and visible protective security at national infrastructure sites are likely to act as a deterrent to terrorists, who increasingly favour 'soft' targets which allow them to achieve their aims with greater chance of success. Nevertheless, with the continual diversification of the threat, the ambition and capability of terrorist groups to target UK infrastructure is likely to continue to evolve. <https://www.cpni.gov.uk/national-security-threats>



# United Kingdom's Threat Definitions

## International terrorism



International terrorism from groups such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al Qaida present a threat from many others. They hold territory in places without functioning governments, making it easier for them to train recruits and plan complex, sophisticated attacks. Drawing on extreme interpretations of Islam to justify their actions, these groups often have the desire and capability to direct terrorist attacks against the West, and to inspire those already living there to carry out attacks of their own.

## Northern Ireland-related terrorism

Northern Ireland-related terrorism continues to pose a serious threat to British interests. Although the Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA) has ceased its terrorist campaign and is now committed to the political process, some dissident republican groups continue to mount terrorist attacks, primarily against the security forces.

## Domestic extremism

Domestic extremism mainly refers to individuals or groups that carry out criminal acts in pursuit of a larger agenda, such as "right-wing extremists". They may seek to change legislation or influence domestic policy and try to achieve this outside of the normal democratic process.

<https://www.mi5.gov.uk/counter-terrorism>

## Cyber

“Cyberspace” is the term used to describe the electronic medium of digital networks used to store, modify, and communicate information. It includes the Internet but also other information systems that support businesses, infrastructure, and services.



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

Cyber security affects both the public and the private sector and spans a broad range of issues related to national security, whether through terrorism, crime or state and industrial espionage.

<https://www.cpni.gov.uk/cyber>

## Espionage

The potential impact of successful State-sponsored espionage against the UK is both wide reaching and significant. The threat of espionage (spying) did not end with the collapse of Soviet communism in the early 1990s. Espionage against UK interests continues and is potentially very damaging. Several foreign intelligence services (FIS) seek to gather intelligence

on a broad range of subjects, including foreign policy, 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

### Town centre 'gunman' back in trouble days after he's spared jail



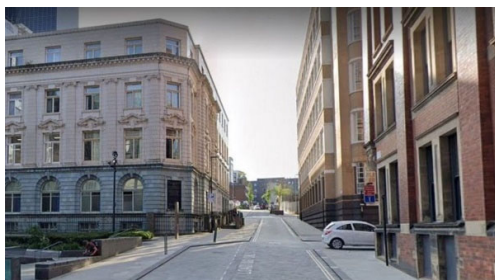
Joseph McLaughlin's custody shot Picture: WILTSHIRE POLICE

A street drinker who threatened to shoot a security guard just days after he was caught brandishing an air rifle in the town centre has Joseph been jailed. McLaughlin, 31, was spared an immediate jail sentence, 24 hours after he was arrested for aiming the firearm in The Parade. Three days later – on Christmas Eve - he was arrested again, having threatened to “shoot” a Brunel shopping centre security guard. Magistrates activated the 26-week suspended sentence in full. A further four weeks’ imprisonment was imposed for the threatening behaviour offence, although the sentences will be served concurrently.

### Newcastle neo-Nazi extremist jailed for terror offences

Luke Hunter, 23, from Newcastle, created extremist material and ran accounts on multiple online platforms. Hunter, the son of a former counter-terrorism officer, was arrested in 2019 at his home address. He was affiliated with a now-banned terrorist organisation called the Feuerkrieg Division (FKD). Hunter, of High Callerton, was sentenced at Leeds Crown Court to four years and two months in prison. Hiding behind an alias, he posted extremist material to several online platforms, including his own website, podcast, and a channel on the Telegram messaging application.

### Manchester city-centre rave condemned by police



Police have condemned about 100 people who attended a city-centre rave. Officers were alerted to loud music and an illegal gathering at unoccupied flats in Hanover Street in Manchester's Shudehill area. Police issued £1,000 fixed penalty notices to two men, aged 17 and 18, and seized music

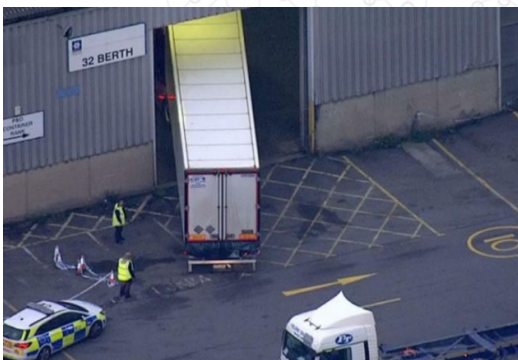
equipment. A 27-year-old man arrested on suspicion of a racially aggravated public order offence remains in custody. He was also given a £200 fixed penalty notice.

## Asda is forced to hire hundreds more security guards at its supermarkets for huge surge in Christmas panic buyers



The supermarket chain deployed extra security on the doors of all its 421 large superstores between December 19 and December 24. It said the additional safety measures in place are to 'protect colleagues and customers during the busy Christmas shopping period'. Asda said the extra security staff will support safety marshals currently on duty at the front of each of its stores.

## Four found guilty over Essex lorry deaths



Four men have been found guilty of their involvement in a people smuggling ring which led to the deaths of 39 Vietnamese men, women, and children in October last year, when the victims were found unresponsive in the trailer of a lorry in Grays. At the Old Bailey on, Monday 21 December, the jury returned their verdicts after a 10-week trial.

Eamonn Harrison, a 24-year-old lorry driver from Mayobridge in Northern Ireland, was found guilty of 39 counts of manslaughter and guilty of one count of conspiracy to assist unlawful immigration. Gheorghe Nica, 43, of Mimosa Close in Langdon Hills, was found guilty of the same charges. Christopher Kennedy, 24, of Corkley Road in Darkley, County Armagh, was found guilty of one count of conspiracy to facilitate the commission of a breach of UK immigration law. While Valentin Calota, 38, of Cossingham Road in Birmingham, was found guilty of the same charge.



## Alleged gun runner extradited to UK



An alleged gun runner has been extradited to the UK from Spain as part of a National Crime Agency investigation. NCA officers took custody of Robert Brazendale, 33, and brought him back to the UK. He appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court and was remanded to custody. He will next appear at Manchester Crown Court on 15th January 2021. No bail application was made at this

time. Brazendale, of Warrington, Cheshire, was arrested in Estepona on the Costa del Sol in October on a European Arrest Warrant. He has been charged with a conspiracy with others to commit offences under section 16 Firearms Act 1968 of possessing firearms and ammunition with intent to endanger life.

## Teenage girl, 17, spat in police officer's face and assaulted hospital workers



A teenage girl threatened to kill a police officer, spat in another's face, and assaulted hospital workers and officers during a three-week crime wave. The 17-year-old also made threats to a staff member at her former school and terrorised shoppers with fireworks. On another occasion she attacked four police officers while in custody. This month she was sentenced to a 12-month detention and training order after pleading guilty to various offences including

seven assaults on emergency workers.

## Newcastle and London terror convicts' sentences challenged



*Fatah Abdullah admitted inciting a terrorist attack when he appeared in court in March*

A man who incited a German terror cell to commit mass murder has had his jail term challenged by the attorney general. Lawyers for Suella Braverman told the Court of Appeal the nine-year minimum term for Fatah Abdullah, from Newcastle, was too lenient. They also challenged the 14-year minimum term given to Safiyya Shaikh, from West London, for plotting a terror attack at St Paul's Cathedral. Abdullah, 35, was sentenced to life imprisonment in June after pleading guilty to inciting terrorism overseas and engaging in conduct in preparation to assist others to commit terrorist acts. Between 9 April and 11 December 2018, the Iranian national had





encouraged Omar Babek and Ahmed Hussein to plan terror attacks in Germany, including driving a car into a crowd, attacking people with a meat cleaver, and causing an explosion.

### Lockerbie bombing: New suspect soon to be charged



The US will soon announce charges against a Libyan suspected of making the bomb that blew up Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie in 1988, US media say. Prosecutors will soon seek the extradition of Abu Agila Mohammad Masud to stand trial in the US, reports say. He is currently being held in Libya, according to the Wall Street Journal. This has not been confirmed by the Libyan authorities. The blast on board a Boeing 747 over the Scottish town left 270 people dead.

### Police officer set on fire after trying to evict man from field



A Police officer suffered serious injuries after being set on fire as he tried to evict a man from a field today. The married police officer in Newquay, Cornwall was left with a number of burns to his arms and legs. A 30-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and remains in custody. Police confirmed

they were called to help bailiffs evict a man from a field on private land this morning when the attack unfolded.





## Royal Berkshire Hospital security staff in walkout over pay



Security staff at an NHS hospital have gone on strike over their "lowly pay". The guards, who provide security at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading, want their wages increased to £12 an hour and £13 an hour for supervisors, according to the public sector workers' union. Unite claim that employer, Kingdom Services Group, is using the coronavirus pandemic as an "excuse to drive down pay and employment conditions".

The Royal Berkshire Hospital said in a statement: "We are aware of the situation and are working with Kingdom to ensure the safety of our patients, staff, visitors and the hospital site."

## Derbyshire boy, 15, charged with terrorism offences

A 15-year-old boy has been charged with two terrorism offences. The boy, from South Derbyshire, appeared via video-link at Westminster Magistrates' Court. He is charged with dissemination of a terrorist publication and collecting information of a kind likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism. West Yorkshire Police said he had previously been arrested under the Terrorism Act in September. He has been bailed to appear at the same court on 22 January.

## Hackney cyber-attack causes collapse of property purchases



A cyber-attack on an east London council has caused property purchases to fall through or be significantly delayed. Hackney Council was attacked at the start of October, causing IT problems that have impacted services including the processing of land search requests. One woman said she missed out on her home purchase because she lacked a land search, costing her £2,000 in fees. The cyber-attack happened

nearly eight weeks ago and has continued to have a serious impact on the lives of Hackney residents.

### Russian mortar launcher destined for NI found at Dublin Port



A mortar launcher that sparked a security alert at Dublin Port was destined for a private collector in Northern Ireland, police believe. Gardai (Irish police) attended the incident. ATO declared the weapon, a decommissioned Russian-manufactured 82mm KRH 36Y mortar launcher, safe and said no munitions were present. A gardai spokesman said that "at this time" they were "satisfied that there was no criminal intent" in its importation.

### Cambridge security guard accused of stealing £515K diamond denies pretending to be other people



*Police raid house and search property in Fallowfield, Cambridge*

A Cambridge man accused of stealing a half million pound from the ex-husband of Formula One heiress Petra Ecclestone has denied pretending to be multiple other people. Former security guard Justinas Ivaskevicius, 34, of Fallowfield, Cambridge, is on trial over the alleged theft of a 16.8-carat fancy yellow diamond ring from gold dealer James Stunt in December 2017.





## Manchester Arena inquiry: Salman Abedi 'trained with Islamist militia'



Manchester Arena bomber Salman Abedi trained or fought with an Islamist militia in Libya, an inquiry has heard. His cousin Abderahman Forjan told police Abedi travelled to Libya during its 2011 revolution and "obtained a job locating Gaddafi supporters". Abedi had been involved in "raids during that period" and images showed him with weapons, rocket launchers and military vehicles, a court heard. Twenty-two people were killed in the bombing at the arena in May 2017.

## Cifas Warning: School scams

The counter-fraud trade association Cifas is warning schools to be wary of requests for payments received from unknown callers. This follows reports of fraudsters contacting head teachers claiming a High Court Writ has been issued against them. Targets of this scam claim that after requests for a payment of up to £3,000 were refused, the fraudsters then apply additional pressure by claiming enforcement officers would be sent to the school. Cifas is reminding schools to ensure that staff are trained to handle such situations, and that any schools approached with this scam should ask for the information to be emailed as well as a phone number to contact them back on. Staff should not engage in further conversation.

## Dozens of migrants who crossed Channel in small boats will be deported



Dozens of migrants who crossed the Channel in small boats will be deported. Three special flights will return them to France, Germany, and Spain under the EU's Dublin Regulation. The rule allows countries to return asylum seekers to the first EU nation they entered. The Home Office is fighting last-ditch legal appeals seeking to block the deportations.

## Security staff were brought in for Nottingham's trams during Freshers' week

A council report regarding tram services in Nottingham states a security firm was brought in to help manage the services as students returned to the city.

The NET Operational Performance and Progress Update for August to October will be discussed as part of the agenda. Within the report, there are statistics such as the reliability and punctuality of the services (97.6% and 98.1% respectively) as well as changes imposed due to Covid-19 restrictions. It states new signage was used to remind customers about wearing masks and socially distancing during journeys. As well as 250 patrols being carried out on the

tram network by Community Protection Officers (CPOs) during the month of November, the report also confirms extra support was brought in for the return of schools and universities.

### London Gateway: £100m cocaine stash hidden in banana pulp



Cocaine with an estimated value of £100m has been found in a banana pulp shipment, the Home Office has said. The drugs, which weighed more than a tonne, were discovered during routine inspections at London Gateway, Thurrock in Essex, on 12 November. They originated in Colombia and were headed for Antwerp in Belgium, according to customs officials.

### Lorry driver charged with attempting to smuggle migrants including alleged child sex offender



A Romanian lorry driver has been charged with attempting to smuggle migrants – including a man suspected of child sex offences – out of the UK on two separate occasions. 48-year-old Sebastian Gabriel Podar was arrested as part of a National Crime Agency operation at the port of Dover in December. Nine migrants were discovered in the

rear of his HGV, which was booked onto a ferry to France. Among the nine was a 39-year-old Bangladeshi man under investigation for child sexual offences by Nottinghamshire Police. He was arrested and now faces charges. The remaining eight migrants of Indian, Algerian, and Bangladeshi nationality were handed to the immigration authorities.



## Couple jailed after attempt to import firearms and ammunition



A woman from Walsall and the boyfriend she used as a courier to import firearms for organised crime groups have been jailed for over 23 years. A National Crime Agency investigation revealed that Chelsea Addison, 30, paid for Steven Dema, also 30, from Blackpool, to travel to Amsterdam to collect a Zastava assault rifle, a Zoraki 9mm pistol and over 100 rounds of ammunition. Addison and Dema were sentenced to 11 years, 6 months and 11 years, 9 months' imprisonment respectively

following a hearing at Canterbury Crown Court.

## Loyalist paramilitary groups in NI 'have 12,500 members'



There are an estimated 12,500 members of loyalist paramilitary groups in NI, a leaked security assessment has shown. Briefings, obtained by BBC NI's Spotlight programme, cover all the paramilitary groups, and are based on PSNI and MI5 intelligence. The assessment says there are about 7,500 people in the UVF and 5,000 in the UDA. Although many are not active, sources say they are still "card carrying" members. Last month, the Independent Reporting Commission (IRC) warned paramilitary groups still pose a "clear and present danger" to Northern Ireland. Set up by the UK and Irish governments, the Commission provides an annual assessment of progress towards ending paramilitarism and has called for a process to begin to disband the groups.



## Security Industry News

### Home Secretary hails security agreement with EU

Home Secretary Priti Patel has hailed the UK's new comprehensive security agreement with the EU that will see the UK continuing to be one of the safest countries in the world. A range of fast and effective security capabilities were agreed with the EU, which will help bear down on criminals and bring them to justice.

Measures agreed include:

- streamlined extradition arrangements
- an arrangement enabling the fast and effective exchange of national DNA, fingerprint, and vehicle registration data via the Prüm system to aid law enforcement agencies in investigating crime and terrorism
- continued operational co-operation with Europol and Eurojust that reflect the scale of our contribution to these agencies
- arrangements enabling the fast and effective exchange of criminal records data via shared technical infrastructure
- arrangements providing for continued transfers of Passenger Name Record data to protect the public from serious crime and terrorism

### Gloucestershire door supervisor fined for working with suspended licence



A Door Supervisor whose licence was suspended has been fined after being repeatedly found by the police to be working illegally in Cirencester. Stephen Stuckle, aged 50, entered a guilty plea at Cheltenham Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 15 December. The court imposed a fine of £250 plus costs of £300 and a victim surcharge of £32.

## Top-up training consultation results issued by the Security Industry Authority

Ahead of the Security Industry Authority (SIA) introducing new licence-linked qualifications in April next year, the regulator held a consultation process back in September. The results of this exercise have now been made public.



The private security industry is increasingly recognised as providing an important role in the protection of the public. This recognition brings scrutiny, and it is arguably now more important than ever that the industry both maintains and improves its standards going forward. The new licence-linked qualifications reflect what the SIA has learned from the recent consultation as well as extensive research and stakeholder engagement. The former took into account the views of approximately 6,000 respondents, while also including the views of front-line staff and security businesses to better understand working practices, environments and emerging technology.

Further, there has been input from the National Counter-Terrorism Security Office and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure to develop counter-terrorism training. Also, advice has been forthcoming from experts in specialist areas like physical intervention and there have been recommendations made subsequent to coroners' inquests in the wake of deaths involving security operatives. The top-up training will encompass critical safety elements of the new content that the SIA is introducing to licence-linked qualifications next April. From October 2021, door supervisors and security officers will need to complete top-up training before they renew their licence. Read the results from the SIA's consultation in full:

<https://mailchi.mp/c2a080276476/new-licence-linked-qualifications>



## Police package will not undo cuts



The 2021 to 2022 funding package for police by the Home Office is not nearly enough to undo the cuts of since 2010, says a police and crime commissioner. West Midlands Police has endured years of austerity since 2010 which has forced it to shrink by a quarter – losing 2,221 police officers, said PCC David Jamieson. The government announced a £15 billion funding package to fight crime and recruit more officers. More information on

the announcement can be found using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/police-to-receive-more-than-15-billion-to-fight-crime-and-recruit-more-officers>

## Award for British Standard Industry Association (BSIA)



The British Security Industry Association (BSIA) has won the Business Member Association of the Year Award at the Association of Association Executives Awards 2020, last night. The judges chose the BSIA as overall winners by recognising that “the new leadership team have clearly pushed the organisation forward – raising its profile and benefitting its members a great deal.”

## SIA suspends over 130 licences and seeks retraining after investigating training fraud

The Security Industry Authority (SIA) suspended more than 130 SIA licences as an ongoing criminal investigation revealed that some licence-holders may not have been awarded their qualifications legitimately. Individuals are licensed by the SIA to work in seven different sectors,



including door supervision, security guarding, and close protection. Licence applicants must complete sector-specific qualifications to become licensed.

The SIA does not deliver training but sets and approves training standards; this is done by creating and publishing Specifications for Learning and Qualifications. SIA-endorsed awarding organisations maintain standards through the approval and monitoring of training providers who deliver the qualifications to people seeking to be licensed to work in the private security industry.

## BSI announces appointment of Susan Taylor Martin as new CEO



The British Standards Institution (BSI) has announced that Susan Taylor Martin will be appointed as CEO at the organisation in January and will benefit as the result of a progressive handover from current CEO Howard Kerr, who leaves the business after leading it for 12 years.

## HMRC under fire for "serious" personal data breaches affecting 20,000-plus individuals



Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has reported no less than 11 "serious" personal data incidents to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) in the most recent financial year. The incidents, disclosed in HMRC's newly published Annual Report, are estimated to have affected 23,173 individuals in total. An analysis conducted by litigation

practice Griffin Law shows that the most widespread and serious personal data incident recorded in the report happened in May this year at the height of lockdown, when National Insurance number letters relating to 16-year-old children were sent out with incorrect details, impacting up to 18,864 members of the public.

However, the most severe incident occurred back in February, when a fraudulent attack resulted in 64 employees' details being obtained from three PAYE schemes. Names contact details and ID data (such as passwords and usernames) were leaked. An estimated 573 people are said to have been impacted as a direct result. According to the HMRC report, the incident is still under investigation.

## G4S backs £3.8 billion Allied deal after bid battle

Security firm G4S has agreed to a sweetened takeover offer from its US rival Allied Universal Security Services, which values the British company at £3.8bn. Under the terms of the cash offer, G4S shareholders would receive 245p a share. This is an improvement on the 210p a share previously offered by Allied Universal, which G4S said significantly undervalued the

company. G4S, which operates services including running four British prisons and managing 21 UK Covid-19 test centres, has been heavily criticised following a series of scandals about its work on UK government contracts.

## Alert issued on the illicit finance risks faced by independent schools



The National Economic Crime Centre (NECC), in conjunction with the Independent Schools Council (ISC) and the Independent Schools' Bursars Association (ISBA), has published an alert on the money laundering risks faced by independent schools. Graeme Biggar, NECC Director General said: "The UK's independent school sector is internationally well regarded and attracts students from all over the world. Sometimes, people who have accumulated significant wealth through corruption or other forms of

serious crime will attempt to secure school places for their children or the children of associates. This exposes the sector to significant reputational risks. Some of these individuals may also be subject to international financial sanctions and therefore those schools dealing with linked funds may be in breach of sanctions regulations. The alert can be found using the below link:

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications/486-necc-bribery-corruption-risks-to-uk-independent-schools-alert/file>

## 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-4th-december-2020>

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

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



## Demonstrations held / planned

### Cases dropped against Extinction Rebellion activists who blockaded Horse Hill oil site

A social worker who risked her job to lock herself up in front of a Surrey oil production site says she has no regrets. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has dropped her case, along with that of three other Extinction Rebellion protestors, who in June this year blockaded and occupied the Horse Hill oil and gas drilling site near Horley. Margaret Mulowska, who lives in Staines, freely admits blockading the entrance to the UK Oil and Gas (UKOG) site. A social worker who risked her job to lock herself up in front of a Surrey oil production site says she has no regrets. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has dropped her case, along with that of three other Extinction Rebellion protestors, who in June this year blockaded and occupied the Horse Hill oil and gas drilling site near Horley.

### London protests: 29 arrests as police break up anti-lockdown demonstration

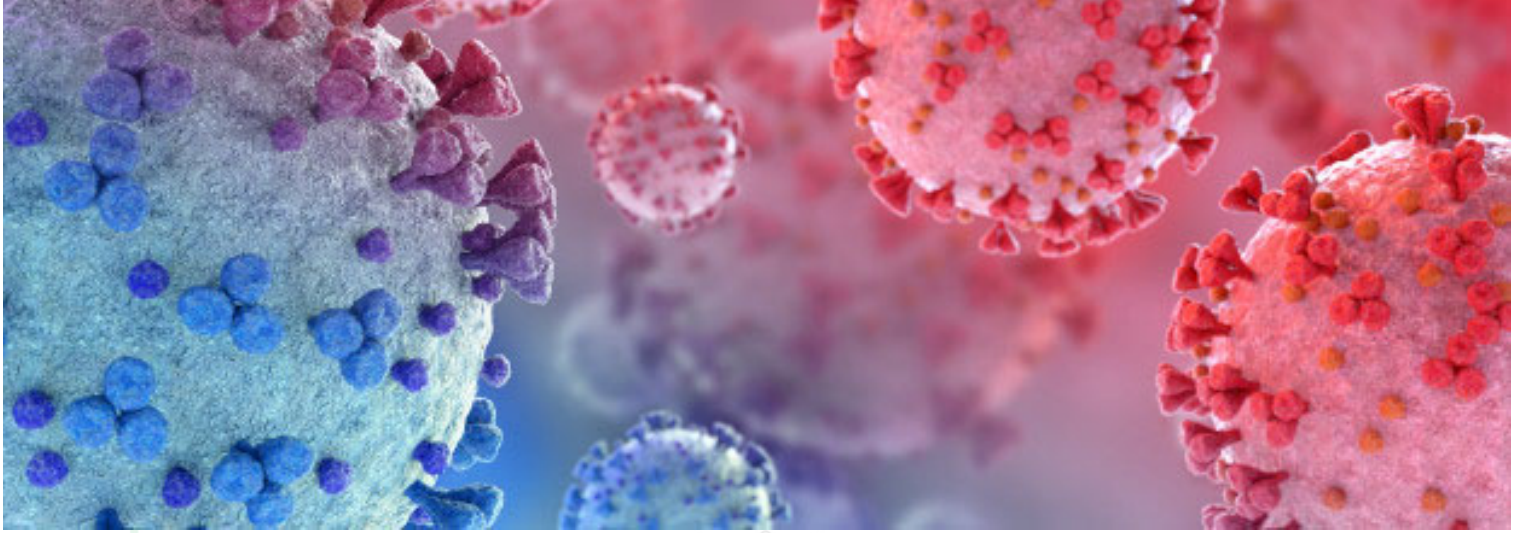
London police have intervened as anti-lockdown protesters descended on the centre of the capital, as part of demonstrations across the UK. While the protests were not as large as expected, the Metropolitan Police said they had a "lengthy engagement" with protesters, who "are gathering in significant numbers". Demonstrators marched from Parliament Square along Whitehall, booing as they passed Downing Street and shouting "freedom".

### Stonehenge tunnel: Protest staged at monument

Protesters have taken part in a "mass trespass" at Stonehenge to oppose plans to dig a tunnel near the monument. The group, made up of local residents, ecologists, activists, archaeologists, and pagans, gathered at the Wiltshire site.

English Heritage closed the site and said it was an offence to enter without permission. Transport Secretary Grant Shapps approved the £1.7bn scheme against the recommendations of planning officials. Campaigners are worried that the work will have a detrimental impact on the wider Stonehenge world heritage site.





## Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News

### Covid-19: Military to support mass testing of students in England

Members of the armed forces will offer remote support to help roll out mass Covid testing to secondary schools and colleges in England from January 2021. The Ministry of Defence said 1,500 military personnel will provide support for the testing scheme. The government is planning a staggered return for secondary schools' students in England after the Christmas break. Teaching unions have said schools have not been given enough time to prepare for mass testing.

### Covid-19: Stranded truckers clash with police in Kent

Scuffles broke out between police and hauliers at the Port of Dover and at a lorry park at the disused Manston Airport. Kent Police said one man was arrested as tempers flared among stranded truckers as they waited for Covid-19 tests and a negative result. Many drivers have been stuck in Kent after France closed its borders.

### Pandemic 'exposes' UK security planning gaps



The Covid pandemic has exposed "profound shortcomings" in the UK's oversight of national security, a parliamentary report has said. The Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy said problems the UK has faced reflect gaps in the planning and preparation for biological risks. A pandemic

has been categorised among the highest security risks since 2010.

But the report says the only major planning exercise in the last decade left some critical areas untested. The MPs and peers on the committee added that local authorities and emergency responders have sometimes lacked the intelligence and support they need from central government to carry out their role in biological security effectively.



Insufficient attention had also been paid to areas like detection, they say.

- UK cyber-threat agency confronts Covid-19 attacks
- UK facing 'nasty mix' of threats, says MI5 chief
- New government unit to take over Covid response

The UK's preparations for a significant disease outbreak had mainly focused on a flu pandemic, the report can be found using the following link:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/4035/documents/40449/default/>

## Covid-19 vaccine: First person receives Pfizer jab in UK



A UK grandmother has become the first person in the world to be given the Pfizer Covid-19 jab as part of a mass vaccination programme. She was given the injection the first of 800,000 doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine that will be dispensed in the coming weeks. Up to four million more are expected by the end of December. Hubs in the UK will vaccinate over-80s and some health and care staff - the programme aims to protect the most vulnerable and return life to normal.

## Covid-19 vaccine supply targeted by cyber-criminals

According to IBM, the global supply chain for the COVID-19 vaccine has been targeted by a cyber espionage campaign; the company has suggested that due to the sophistication of these attacks, the perpetrator could likely be a nation state. IBM claims that the campaign has been targeting the delivery "cold chain" which is in place to maintain the right temperature of the vaccine supply whilst it is being transported.

