



**SECURITY  
INTELLIGENCE  
UPDATE**  
APRIL 2021



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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 **SUBSTANTIAL**.

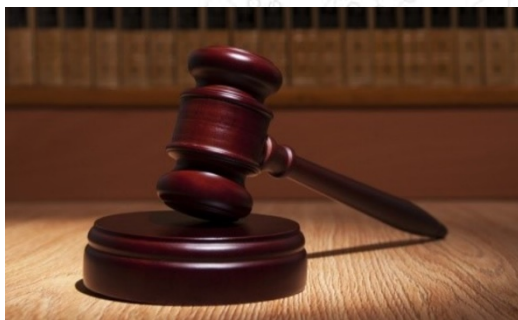
The threat to Northern Ireland from Northern Ireland-related terrorism is **SEVERE**.





## Open-Source Security Incident News

### Security company director fined by the SIA



The Director of a security business has been fined at Birmingham Magistrates' Court after pleading guilty to supplying unlicensed security staff to a building site. The Security Industry Authority (SIA) prosecuted Adeel Yasin, the director of Prime London Services Ltd, after one of its investigators found an unlicensed security officer at work during checks at a BP Garage under renovation in

Oxfordshire. Yasin was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay court costs of £1,400 plus a victim surcharge of £100. Prime London Services Ltd was fined a total of £1,000 and ordered to pay court costs of £1,541.25 plus a victim surcharge of £100. Yasin had originally pleaded not guilty to the charges, but then changed his plea when he heard the evidence against him.

### Man charged with making explosives

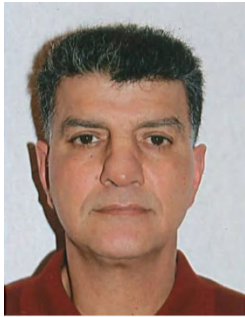
40-year-old man has been charged with a range of offences including four counts of making explosives under suspicious circumstances. It follows security alerts near Camlough, Craigavon and Keady, County Armagh, this month. The man has also been charged with two counts of causing an explosion likely to endanger life and two counts of attempting to cause an explosion. The man has also been charged with a number of driving offences.

### Driver held after 16 migrants found in M25 lorry

A lorry driver has been arrested on suspicion of planning to move 16 migrants out of the UK illegally. They were discovered in the trailer on the M25 and A3 junction in Surrey. The migrants, including Moroccan, Algerian and Pakistani nationals, were detained on suspicion of immigration offences. The Turkish driver, 36, is suspected of planning to move them out of the country through the Channel ports.



## Trafficker jailed after £37.6 million cocaine seizure



A German truck driver has been jailed for 19 years after attempting to bring almost half a tonne of cocaine into the UK hidden in tyres. Kadus Rafiei, 57, originally from Shiraz in Iran, was sentenced after being found guilty of attempting to import Class A drugs following a five-day trial at Canterbury Crown Court. The National Crime Agency investigated the German national following the seizure of the drugs at Dover's Eastern Docks on 18th March 2020.

## Money launderer tried to leave Heathrow with suitcases stuffed full of cash



A brazen money launderer who tried to smuggle almost £1.4 million cash out of the UK in his luggage has been jailed for more than two years. The National Crime Agency launched an investigation after Zdenek Kamaryt, 38, originally from Ceske Budejovice in the Czech Republic, was

detained at Heathrow Airport on 8 November 2020 as he attempted to board a flight to Dubai. He had checked in three suitcases for the flight – each was stuffed full of vacuum-packed packages of cash totalling more than £1.3 million. Another £50,000 was found in his carry-on hand luggage, including bundles of £50 notes stuffed inside socks. Kamaryt was charged with money laundering offences, which he later admitted in court. A judge at Isleworth Crown Court sentenced him to 26 months in jail. The money will also be seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

## Jail for Welshman who assaulted security staff and police at Belfast Port

A Welshman who assaulted security staff and police as he tried to get home at Belfast Port has been jailed for three months. Prosecutors said Craig Harries spat at one member of staff and when asked questions about Covid-19 replied: "I have everything." The 34-year-old, of no fixed abode, committed the offences last month just after receiving a suspended sentence for a similar incident. He was convicted on two counts of common assault, an assault on police and resisting arrest.

## Man arrested over New IRA bomb-making activities

Police investigating the New IRA's bomb-making activities have arrested a 52-year-old man in Londonderry. It follows a search in the Creggan area as part of an operation targeting the dissident republican group's storage of explosive devices and equipment. Police said they "seized a considerable amount of material for further examination" in the operation.

## Aggressive patient spat on hospital security guard after turning violent on ward

An aggressive patient has been fined after he spat on a hospital security guard during a violent outburst on a ward. Craig Russell was an inpatient at Newcastle's Royal Victoria Infirmary when he woke up one morning and lost his temper. The 46-year-old then spotted police officers, who had attended the hospital for an unrelated incident, and flew further into a rage, a court heard. Russell began shouting abuse and pulling wires from his body, despite numerous attempts by nurses to calm him down.

## German man admits sharing IS videos



A German man arrested as he was about to board a flight at Stansted Airport has admitted sharing propaganda videos by the Islamic State (IS) group. Florian Flegel, 23, was set to fly to Germany on 12 October when he was arrested at the airport in Essex. At Woolwich Crown Court, Flegel, from Dusseldorf, pleaded guilty to six counts of disseminating terrorist publications including IS videos. He is due to be sentenced at the

same court this month.

## London streets not safe for women or girls, admits Sadiq Khan

London's mayor has admitted the city's streets are not safe for women or girls, saying those in power must tackle the problem. Sadiq Khan said it cannot be right that females have to work out in advance of walking which routes are the best lit, saying he had tried to make routes safer. Women's experiences of not feeling safe after the disappearance of Sarah Everard have prompted widespread anger in the media and on social media. MPs have warned there is an "epidemic" of violence against women in the UK which is not taken seriously enough.



## NI to Scotland bridge: Official feasibility study for Irish Sea link

An official feasibility study is to assess the possibility of building a bridge or tunnel between Northern Ireland and Scotland. The transport expert Sir Peter Hendy was asked by the government to examine connections between the different parts of the UK. He has said further work should now be undertaken to look at "fixed

link" across the Irish Sea. Two engineering professors will assess the potential project. They will look at the feasibility of such a link, an outline cost and timescale and the associated works needed. They are Douglas Oakervee, a former chairman of HS2 and Crossrail, and Gordon Masterson, a former vice-president of Jacobs Engineering. Some experts have suggested £15bn might be required for the project but others have said that £20bn would be a conservative estimate.

### Three in court over alleged security van robbery plot



Three men have appeared in court charged with plotting to rob a security van in west Belfast. Jason McMillan, 30, Michael McMillan, 27, and Stephen Allen, 23, were detained by the PSNI's Paramilitary Crime Task Force. Belfast Magistrates' Court heard the arrests followed a three-hour surveillance operation in Northumberland Street. All three were remanded in custody. Police told the court they believed the men planned to rob a G4S van making a cash delivery to shops in the area. Jason McMillan, of Duncairn Parade in the city, was alleged to be the "controlling mind" of the operation, a detective told the court. He faces a single count of conspiracy to rob.

Michael McMillan, of Carlisle Road, and Stephen Allen, of Glenville Park in Newtownabbey, are jointly charged with conspiracy to rob and possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life. The court heard the pair were allegedly in a car from which police recovered a loaded gun.

## MI5 policy allowing agents to commit crimes was legal, say judges



*Maya Foa, the director of Reprieve, said the idea that the government could authorise undercover agents to commit the most serious crimes 'must be challenged'.*

MI5's partially secret policy of allowing agents to participate in serious crimes in pursuit of intelligence was legal, three court of appeal judges have concluded. The judges held on Tuesday that MI5 was "not above the law" because the long-established power did not equate to an immunity from prosecution, in the latest step in a long-running legal case brought by four human rights groups. At a hearing in the case in January government lawyers told a court that MI5 officers could in theory authorise an informer to carry out a murder if they were "an extremely hostile individual".

But in its judgment the appeal court concluded any authorisation given by MI5 officers to informants would have been acceptable because the spy agency's internal guidance said it could only apply proportionately.

The guidance, the judges stated, "stipulates that authorisation may only be given" where "the potential harm to the public interest from the criminal activity is outweighed by the benefit to the public interest derived from the anticipated information the agent may provide".

## Two charged after £1.6m worth of cocaine and cash found in London flat



Two men have been arrested following the seizure of 20kg of cocaine and £25,000 in cash at a flat in Rotherhithe, South East London. Investigators from the Organised Crime Partnership (OCP) – a joint National Crime Agency and Metropolitan Police Service unit – raided the flat in Helena Square where they seized the suspected criminal cash and the drugs, which were hidden in various places in one of the bedrooms. The cocaine would

be worth an estimated £1.6 million if sold on the streets of London. Vidiol Muratas and Fatjon Nakaj, both Albanian nationals aged 43 and 31, were arrested at the property and have since been charged with possession with intent to supply class A drugs.

## Londoner had haul of firearms, explosives, and fake police IDs

A firearms supplier who kept an arsenal of lethal weapons in his house, including in his daughter's bedroom, has been jailed for eight years. Darren Dixon, 32, from Kentish Town,

London, was arrested in October 2019, following a joint investigation by the National Crime Agency and Metropolitan Police Service. The haul of 26 firearms in his home included five handguns with loaded magazines, a sawn-off shotgun, and a pump action shotgun, which were found in the room where his three-year-old daughter slept. Explosives, gunpowder, and live ammunition, as well as zombie knives, smoke grenades and garrottes, were also seized along with fake police IDs.

## NCA officers involved in dismantling Western Balkan crime group

Around 100 officers from the National Crime Agency have been involved in a UK-wide operation targeting suspected members of a Western Balkan organised crime group. 20 people were arrested this morning at addresses in Birmingham, Reading, Blackburn, Sunderland, and London as part of an eight-month long investigation led by Thames Valley Police into the supply of drugs, fraud, money laundering and modern slavery offences. One of the suspected heads of the group – a 36-year-old man – was arrested by NCA officers at an address on Pershore Road in Birmingham on suspicion of conspiracy to produce and supply class B drugs.

## Two drivers jailed for 28 years over £3million cocaine smuggling plot



Two men have been sentenced to more than 28 years in prison for attempting to smuggle cocaine worth over £3million into the UK in a van, following an investigation by the National Crime Agency. Marain Macovei, 25, of Germany and Lulian-loan Stratulat, 25, from Romania, appeared at Canterbury Crown Court on Monday 1 March, where they received 12-and-half-years and 15 years 9

months respectively for their plot to sneak 39 kilograms of cocaine into the UK.

## Crime rise warning over new £100 contactless payment limit

An increase in the contactless payment limit to £100 may cause a surge in thefts and fraud, figures working in banking and finance have warned. The amount that people can spend on “tap and go” cards is currently limited to £45 but is set to more than double to a limit of £100. The UK government has said that by increasing the limit, millions of payments will be made simpler. Contactless cards are a popular choice and in 2019, eight out of 10 adults in the UK used contactless payments. Although the decision may be welcome news for shoppers, some have warned that the increase in funds available to spend without typing in a pin could be seized on by criminals.

## More white people arrested over terrorism than any other ethnic group for third year in a row



The number of white terrorism suspects being arrested in Britain has outstripped those of Asian appearance for the third year in a row. Official figures show that 89 white people were arrested on suspicion of terror offences in 2020, compared with 63 Asian suspects, 15 black suspects and 18 of other ethnicities. "The proportion of white people arrested exceeded the proportion of Asian people arrested

for the third consecutive year," a Home Office document said. "Arrests of persons of white ethnic appearance accounted for 48 per cent of arrests, up seven percentage points on the previous year. Those of Asian ethnic appearance accounted for 34 per cent of terrorist-related arrests, down five percentage points." Of those arrested, 81 per cent considered themselves to be of British or British dual nationals, the highest proportion on record.

## Corrupt truckers jailed for attempting to bring cocaine and heroin into the UK through Channel port



Two corrupt lorry drivers have been jailed for a combined 31 years after being found guilty of trying to smuggle class A drugs into the UK. The National Crime Agency began an investigation into Slovenian national Adam Grzelj, 52, in April 2020 after his lorry was intercepted at Dover. The packages of drugs were found concealed in pallets

beneath boxes of frozen pizza. Border Force officers recovered 81 kilos of cocaine and three kilos of heroin, which would have had a street level value of £6.7 million.

## Manchester Arena inquiry: 'Disaster gap' means public may need to treat traumatic injuries

Members of the public are likely to have to treat traumatic injuries from a terrorist attack without help from paramedics, a leading doctor has told the Manchester Arena inquiry. A "disaster gap" exists in which the emergency services may be held back from the scene

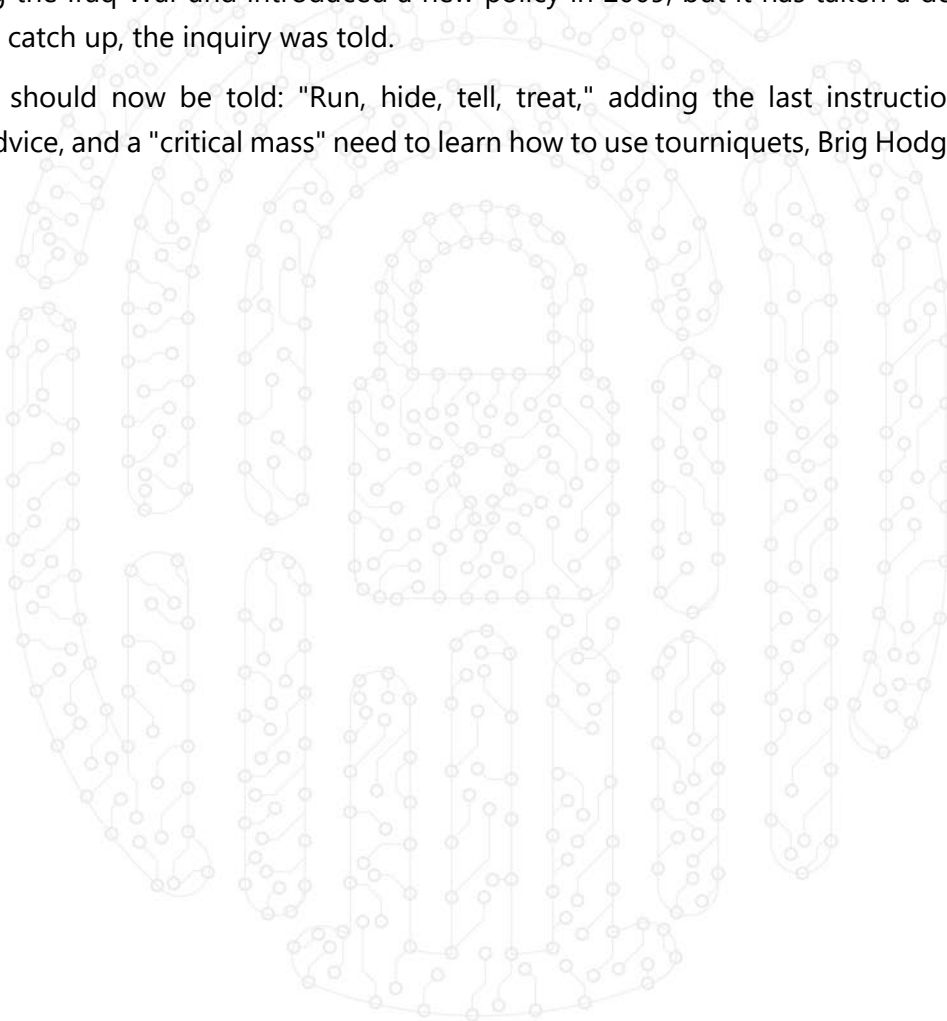


because they are worried, they may be attacked, Brigadier Tim Hodgetts, a professor of emergency medicine, told the inquiry.

In the "platinum 10 minutes", members of the public may have to triage, clear airways, and apply tourniquets themselves, Brig Hodgetts, the medical director to the

UK Defence Medical Services, said. The military learned the importance of tourniquets in saving lives during the Iraq War and introduced a new policy in 2009, but it has taken a decade for the NHS to catch up, the inquiry was told.

The public should now be told: "Run, hide, tell, treat," adding the last instruction to the standard advice, and a "critical mass" need to learn how to use tourniquets, Brig Hodgetts said.







## Security Industry News

### Police forces issue notice for registered ARCs to be ECHO-connected by 1 October

ECHO (Electronic Call Handling Operations Ltd), the industry-backed alarms handling operator, has announced that Essex Police and the Metropolitan Police Service have jointly issued notice to their registered Alarm Receiving Centres (ARCs) to be ECHO-connected by 1 October 2021. Chief Superintendent Ewen Wilson, head of the Contact Management Command at Essex Police, stated: "From the outset, we've been at the forefront of the transition from existing telephone call handling of alarm activations to a modern, fully automated solution providing tangible benefits, including the reduction of call handling demands and police response times. Having been the first police force in the UK to successfully test and adopt the new process, we have every confidence in the delivery of this new automated service."

### ASC runs online debate focused on Government's Protect Duty consultation



The Association of Security Consultants (ASC) ran an online information and education session for members, security industry colleagues and end users alike who are planning to take part in the Government's vital Protect Duty consultation. The idea behind the free online debate hosted on Zoom was to provide invaluable help and guidance around the Home Office's proposals for the Prevent Duty prior to consultation submissions being made. There were presentations from key figures in Government as well as the commercial and legal sectors. Hosted by ASC chair Joe Connell, the digital session provided

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a detailed insight into the Protect Duty's principal aims, as well as offering plenty of opportunity to put questions to the guest speakers.

## SIA Qualifications update



From April 1 among other changes to training qualifications, you must have a first aid qualification before you can take the training required for a door supervisor or security guard licence. From October you must take top-up training before you can apply for a door supervisor and security guard licence, even if you are renewing your badge and already passed the basic training. From April 1, you can take the top-up training. The sectors covered by the SIA except close protection, and vehicle immobilisation (in Northern Ireland only), are having more training hours added to the training courses that you have to take so as to apply for an SIA licence. The training typically covers first aid and counter terrorism.

Michelle Russell, Acting Chief Executive of the SIA, says: "The private security industry plays an important role in the protection of the public. We have updated the qualification standards to keep security operatives and the communities they serve as safe as possible. These changes are important to ensure that security operatives can continue to protect the public.

## Home Secretary leads Virtual G6 Summit on security threats and illegal migration



Home Secretary Priti Patel has led a discussion with international partners on increasing co-operation to tackle online harms and illegal migration and dismantle the crime gangs exploiting desperate people. The Home Secretary met with the interior ministers of France, Germany, Italy, Poland, and Spain, alongside representatives of the United States and the EU Commission, at a Virtual G6 Summit. During the online gathering, the G6 partners agreed to use Interpol more

effectively to enhance law enforcement co-operation across the world, discussed the need to do more to tackle illegal migration and focused attentions on the action needed to break up the abhorrent organised crime gangs whose constituent members operate across national boundaries.

The UK's hosting of the G6 event comes as the UK Government launches landmark changes to fix the UK asylum system and replace it with a new one which is fair but firm.

## Convenience store crime survey



Some £175m was spent by convenience store retailers in the year on crime prevention, typically on CCTV, contract security staff and intruder alarms. Taken with the cost of crimes against the convenience sector, that's equivalent to five pence 'crime tax' on every transaction in stores, according to the 2021 Crime Report by the Association of Convenience Stores (ACS).

As the trade body says, throughout the pandemic, convenience stores have stayed open, providing essential goods and services to customers that rely on them. Stores have adapted their businesses so that they are covid secure, such as adding Perspex screens to counters, and one-way signage around the aisles to avoid shoppers and staff coming into too close contact. But despite limits on customer numbers in many stores and an overall drop in the number of people visiting convenience stores over the last year, there have still been an estimated 1.1million incidents of shop theft recorded in the convenience sector. And asking people to keep to covid rules such as wearing a mask in store and asking young people to take off a mask so as to aid retailers when checking identity before sales of alcohol and cigarette, has only added to trigger points for verbal and physical abuse, the survey suggests. You can download the seven-page report from the ACS website: <https://bit.ly/ACS2021CrimeReport>

## Growing threat from far-right terrorism



Far-right terrorism poses a growing threat in the UK, according to the annual report of Hope Not Hate, the anti-nazi group. HNH points to the young age of many of those now being convicted. Among far-right extremist groups listed by HNH are FKD, founded by a 13-year-old in Estonia; four FKD-linked young people have been convicted of terrorism in the UK, and the group was banned in July 2020. And the short-lived The British Hand was set up last year by a 15-year-old boy. The report covers trends and changes in the domestic and international far right: whether racism, covid and related conspiracy theories, and terrorism. The report can be found using the following link:

<https://www.hopenothate.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/state-of-hate-2021-final-2.pdf>

## Latest SIA Licence Holders and ACS Statistics

The SIA has published the latest SIA licence holder demographics and ACS statistics up to 1st February and we have highlighted some points below:

822 Companies currently hold Approved Contractor Scheme accreditation

420,413 Active SIA licences held, an increase of 1,720 in January 2021

370,551 SIA licence holders, an increase of 1,438 during January 2021

37,767 female SIA licence holders, accounting for just over 10% of all licence holders and only 154 females joined the industry in January 2021

39,354 SIA licences held by individuals between 18 and 25, an increase of 411 in January 2021

The statistics do show that the industry does appear to be attracting younger people with almost 30% of new licence holders aged between 18 and 25 years, however, the females joining the security industry remains consistent at just over 10%

## Changes to how you deliver SIA licence-linked training

Guidance for training providers: what you need to know if you will be delivering SIA licence-linked training after 1 April 2021 can be found using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-how-you-deliver-sia-licence-linked-training>

## Secured by Design launch new guide for construction site security



Secured by Design (SBD), the official police security initiative, have issued a new guide for Construction Site Security which provides advice on how to secure a site from the very start to the end of construction. Even prior to the COVID-19 crisis construction site theft was an ongoing problem that blighted the UK construction industry, with the industry suffering estimated losses of around £800 million a year. The impact of these losses - due to crimes such as theft,

criminal damage, arson, and anti-social behaviour - are not only limited to the stolen or damaged equipment or property, but also have significant additional consequences, very often affecting even completion dates. Overall development costs also rise due to project delays, the need for equipment to be repaired or replaced, and higher insurance premiums. The guide can be downloaded for free from the SBD website:

[https://www.securedbydesign.com/images/CONSTRUCTION\\_SITE\\_SECURITY\\_GUIDE\\_A4\\_8p.p.pdf](https://www.securedbydesign.com/images/CONSTRUCTION_SITE_SECURITY_GUIDE_A4_8p.p.pdf)

## National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC)



# National Cyber Security Centre

The NCSC supports the most critical organisations in the UK, the wider public sector, industry, SMEs as well as the general public. When incidents do occur, they provide effective incident response to minimise harm to the UK, help with recovery, and learn lessons for the future. Please see the links to this month's NCSC weekly threat reports.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-5th-march-2021>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-12th-march-2021>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-19th-march-2021>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-26th-march-2021>



## Demonstrations held / planned

### Nine officers injured at Bradford anti-lockdown protest

Nine police officers were injured during an anti-lockdown protest in Bradford, police said. Up to 400 demonstrators marched through the city centre. West Yorkshire Police said the "majority of protesters were peaceful", but added a group had to be stopped after they tried to make their way to a vaccination centre. Police arrested 13 people for public order offences and issued 19 fines for breaching Covid regulations.

### Batley school protests: Identifying prophet row teacher 'unacceptable'



Sharing the identity of a teacher who showed pupils an "offensive" cartoon of the Prophet Muhammad could result in police action; a watchdog has warned. Protests were held outside Batley Grammar School, where the staff member was suspended after complaints. Baroness Kishwer Falkner said making a teacher fear for their safety was "simply unacceptable". The Equality and Human Rights Commission chair said the school

"ought to be trusted" to act.

"A teacher's identity being shared, making them fear for their safety, is simply unacceptable and could result in enforcement action from the police," she said.

Gary Kibble, head teacher at the West Yorkshire school, said the teacher had "given their most sincere apologies" for the caricature being shown and said an investigation had begun.

## Kill the Bill Manchester protest: 18 arrested after protesters block tram lines



Eighteen people have been arrested after protesters blocked tram lines in Manchester, police have said. The Kill the Bill protest against the government's Police and Crime Bill was described as "largely peaceful" by Greater Manchester Police. But "significant disruption" was caused by protesters sitting on the Metrolink line in St Peter's Square, police said.

Protests were also held in towns and cities such as Bath, Falmouth, Nottingham, and Sheffield. In Brighton, hundreds of people gathered in front of the city's police headquarters to protest. In Cambridge about 100 people gathered outside the Parkside police station, with some protesters climbing on top of the building's entrance lobby.

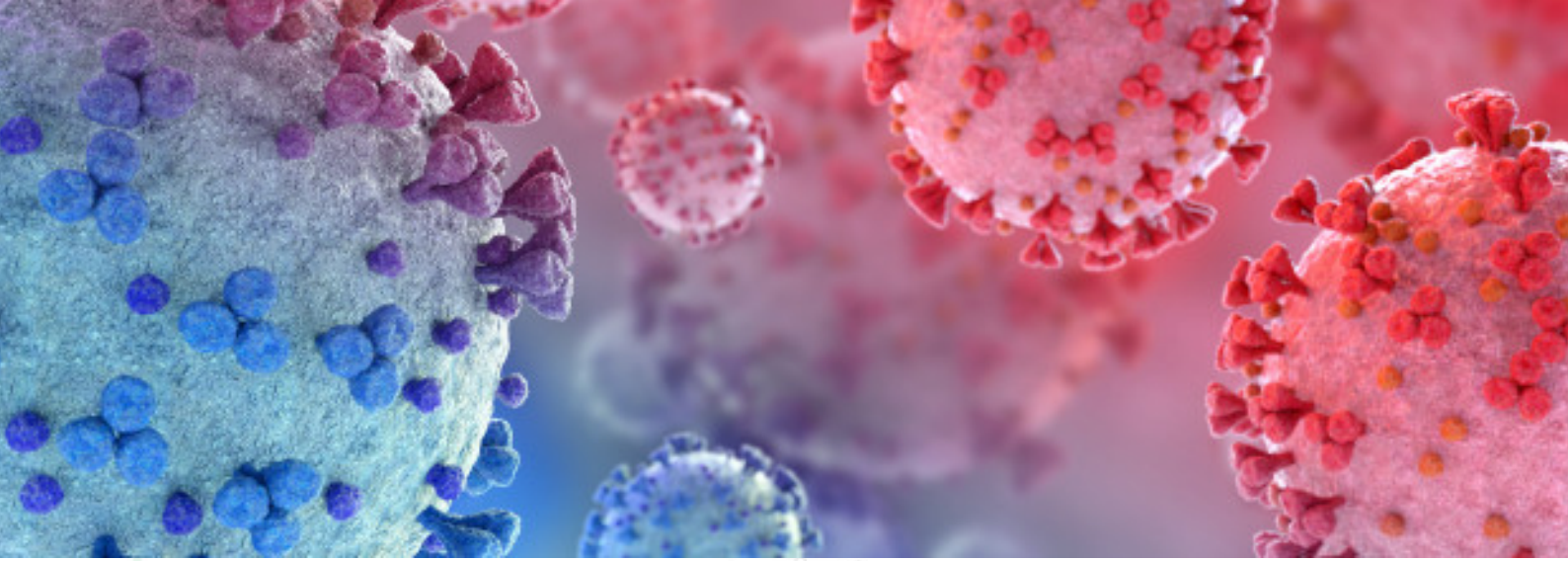
### Arrests during anti-lockdown protests in London

Thousands of people have attended anti-lockdown demonstrations in London, after MPs urged the government to allow peaceful protest during lockdown. Crowds marched from Hyde Park to Westminster, with at least 33 arrests by police, mostly for Covid breaches. Scotland Yard said the number of people attending Saturday's demonstrations exceeded expectations. The Home Office said it was still illegal for people to attend protests under the current coronavirus rules.

### Sarah Everard memorial: Arrests as police clash with crowds at cancelled vigil

Politicians from all sides have criticised police for their handling of a gathering at Clapham Common to remember Sarah Everard. A vigil had initially been planned but it was cancelled after police said it risked breaching lockdown rules and the organisers, Reclaim These Streets, decided it could not go ahead.

But despite this, hundreds of people gathered at the common, in south London, with the Duchess of Cambridge even joining them briefly late in the afternoon. By the evening, the sombre atmosphere turned to one of anger and protest, with scuffles as police told attendees to go home. At one stage, police were seen grabbing hold of several women before leading them away in handcuffs, as onlookers screamed and shouted at the officers: "Shame on you."



## Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News

### ATM withdrawals drop by £37bn during year of Covid

Withdrawals from cash machines in the UK have fallen by £37bn during the 12 months of the Covid pandemic, renewing the debate over the future of cash. Link, which oversees the UK's cash machine network, said the number of visits to ATMs had fallen by 43% compared with the previous 12 months. But the amount withdrawn on each cash machine visit has gone up, from an average of £67 to £84. Less demand and Covid restrictions mean 4,000 fewer free ATMs are in operation.

Some may be restored, such those at a busy supermarket which may have temporarily cordoned off for social distancing, but other cost pressures will still exist for providers.

It still remains likely that further cuts to the 41,000 free-to-use machines will come in the next few years, prompting concern that some vulnerable people will be unable to access their favoured way to pay.

### Covid-19: Three UK terror plots foiled during pandemic

Three terror attacks have been prevented in the UK since the coronavirus pandemic began, according to security services. Arrests for terrorism-related activity fell by 34% in 2020, the lowest level in nine years, Home Office data showed. But the number of terror plots stopped has risen to 28 since March 2017, counter terror police said. The foreign secretary said young people had been recruited to terror groups in "worrying" numbers during lockdown. Dominic Raab told the House of Commons there had been a recent rise in the volume of terror-related content online. "We can see a worrying rise in the proportion of children and teenagers that are now being arrested for terrorism offences," he added. The UK's senior national coordinator for Counter Terrorism Policing warned that these organisations "have not stopped planning attacks or radicalising vulnerable people online".

