



**SECURITY  
INTELLIGENCE  
UPDATE**  
JUNE 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 republican 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

### Three men convicted over gun and ammunition plot

Members of a London-based organised crime group are facing jail after being convicted of possessing and supplying handguns and ammunition. Artem Kuts, 39, of the Isle of Dogs, and Oliver Mark, 40, of Stratford, were among four people arrested as part of an investigation into the supply of firearms. They were found guilty on Friday 28 May following a seven-day trial at Southwark Crown Court.

### 100kgs of cocaine discovered in spare lorry wheels



A Polish lorry driver has been arrested after 100kgs of cocaine was found in two spare wheels attached to the underside of his lorry. The 37-year-old was stopped at the Port of Dover by Border Force officers who conducted a search of the lorry. They discovered the drugs, and he was subsequently interviewed and released under investigation while enquiries continue.

### Woman suffers serious injuries after 'acid' attack on doorstep

A woman has been rushed to hospital after suffering serious injuries in a suspected acid attack in Brighton. An investigation is under way to find out who was behind the attack. Officers were called to the scene when it was reported a noxious substance had been thrown over the victim. The attacker fled before the police arrived and enquiries are taking place to identify the suspect.

### Neo-Nazi accused of terror offences was UKIP member

Dean Morrice, a former British Army driver, said he left Ukip before the period when he stands accused of terror offences. A neo-Nazi accused of terror and explosives offences has said he was first drawn into "politics" by Nigel Farage. Dean Morrice has been charged with eight terror offences and two counts of possessing explosive substances that were found at his home near Bristol.

## Police investigate after video of woman racially abusing doorman goes viral

A criminal investigation has been launched after a video of a woman racially abusing a doorman went viral. West Midlands Police said they are aware of the incident after footage emerged showing a woman directing racist abuse at a member of door staff in Birmingham's popular Broad Street nightclub district.

## 1,100 arrested in national crackdown on county lines drug gangs



Over 1,000 people have been arrested and 292 weapons seized in a country-wide crackdown on county lines drugs gangs. Officers seized 33 guns and 219 knives as they launched a number of raids across the country and arrested 1,100 people and identified 80 drug dealing phone lines. There are currently thought to be around 600 county lines gangs operating in the UK, down from around 2,000 two years ago.

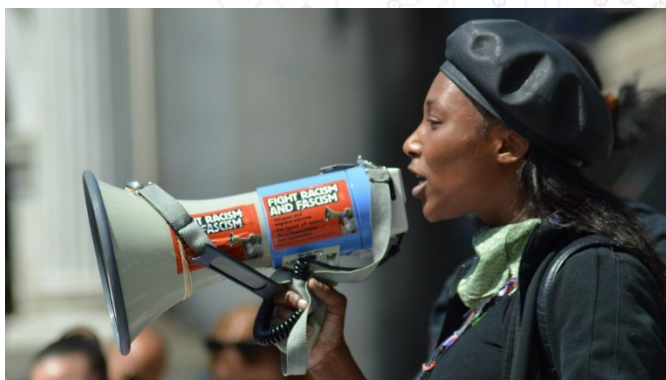
## UK police arrest man after car driven into pro-Palestine protest



British police have arrested a man after a car was driven into pro-Palestinian demonstrations in the English city of Nottingham. The 51-year-old was arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm and dangerous driving, officers said. He remains in police custody. The incident took place in the centre of the city. Social media clips appear to show a car being

driven through crowds of protesters on the streets. One man is thought to have suffered serious leg injuries as a result.

## Five arrested following Sasha Johnson shooting



Five men have been arrested in connection with the shooting of Black Lives Matter activist Sasha Johnson. Officers from the Violence Suppression Unit based in Southwark and Lambeth stopped a 17-year-old man on May 25. He was arrested on suspicion of possession of an offensive weapon and possession with intent to supply Class A

drugs.

Further investigations led officers to Peckham, where three more men were arrested on suspicion of affray and possession with intent to supply Class B drugs.

A final man was arrested later that evening, on suspicion of affray and failing to stop for police, following police pursuit of a car. All five have since been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and remain in custody. The 27-year-old Oxford graduate, Sasha Johnson, is fighting for her life in hospital after being injured at a party in Peckham, south-east London in the early hours of Sunday.

## Ram-raiders smash into London's exclusive Yves Saint Laurent store and nick handbags worth £70,000



Ram-raiders smashed into a flagship designer store and stole handbags worth £70,000. The crooks reversed into the shop-front three times with a white van and snatched the goods in two minutes. The balaclava-wearing gang of five left the Citroen Berlingo -be-hind as they fled the wrong way down a neighbouring road in an estate-style car. Police got to the Yves Saint Laurent store in Old Bond Street, central London, minutes later.

## Two men arrested by counter-terror cops accused of handing out 'far-right' extremist materials across London

Two men accused of spreading "far-right extremist material" have been arrested in dawn raids at their homes in south and east London. Officers from the Met's Counter Terrorism Command arrested two men, aged 38 and 33, on suspicion of dissemination of terrorist publications. The Met said the arrests were made under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) and were both part of the same terror probe.

## Far-right terrorism-promoting troll branded mass murderer a 'legend' in vile posts

A dangerous far-right troll who downloaded terrorist material has been jailed after encouraging ethnic cleansing and branding a white supremacist mass murderer a "legend". John Nimmo had already been given prison sentences in 2014 and 2017 for targeting MPs in vile online rants, telling one she would "get it like Jo Cox". As a result, he was banned from using pseudonyms on social media but routine police checks on him revealed he had been spreading poison again.

The 32-year-old encouraged the murder of Muslims on his Gab social media account, where he praised the gunman in the Christchurch massacre in New Zealand and uploaded shocking racist posts.

## Cambridge graduate who wore 'Nazi' mask and had instructions to make bomb jailed



A Cambridge graduate who shared racist hate online and referred to going "on a spree" before being found to have instructions on how to make a bomb has been jailed. Oliver Bel was locked up for two years today, with a judge branding him "highly manipulative" and able to "exploit" his Asperger's syndrome "when it suits". Manchester Crown Court heard how pictures on the 24-year-old's phone show him wearing a "Nazi type mask", while messages in a WhatsApp chat said, "kill all n\*\*\*\*\*". Police also found him to be behind anonymous posts on far-right website Iron March after he had already been warned about his behaviour,

## Eleven firearms discovered in County Armagh

Eleven firearms discovered in Jerretspass have been described as a "significant" cache of weapons by police. The weaponry included handguns, machine guns, machine pistols and an assault rifle. Officers made the discovery after a search operation in Jerretspass in County Armagh.

The search was part of an investigation into organised crime, supported by the PSNI. The weapons were discovered in two waterproof holdall bags, one bag contained three handguns and four machine guns, while the other bag contained a rifle and three machine pistols. The guns were found with magazines, and a supply of ammunition.

## Far-right collector of Nazi memorabilia jailed for terror offences over bomb-making manuals



Maidenhead man who filled his house with Nazi memorabilia including bomb-making manuals has been jailed for four years after being found guilty of terror offences.

Nicholas Brock, 53, decorated his bedroom with SS memorabilia and covered his upper body in tattoos of the "death's head" skulls associated with the paramilitary group as well as swastikas and other symbols of Hitler's Germany.

He collected Nazi-era daggers, downloaded terrorism manuals, and even had a framed "certificate of recognition" from the Ku Klux Klan in his own name hanging on his wall. He was

jailed Tuesday after being found guilty on three counts of possession of materials likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism, over bomb-making and knife-killing manuals he had downloaded onto a hard drive.

## Mass brawl between Luton Airport passengers



Three passengers were taken to hospital with serious injuries and 17 were arrested after a mass brawl erupted in the departure lounge of London's Luton Airport. The fight, which started in the post-security 'airside' zone sent others scurrying for safety as punches and kicks were thrown between duty free shops and restaurants.

Video posted to social media showed blood spots on the floor of the north London terminal, which is popular with budget airlines including Wizzair and Easyjet. At least

a dozen were seen involved in the violence as others could be heard shouting and pleading for the violence to stop.

## Corrupt police officer Kashif Mahmood caught after crime group was hacked



*Kashif Mahmood, who assisted a drugs gang, was commended for bravery in 2014 while serving in London*



A corrupt policeman who stole drug money for an organised crime group is the latest criminal to be convicted with the help of intelligence from an encrypted messaging service hacked by police. PC Kashif Mahmood, 31,

carried out fake stops on cars he knew to be carrying hundreds of thousands of pounds in drug money at the behest of an international syndicate.

EncroChat, a messaging network favoured by gangsters that was hacked by French police, was used by those running the enterprise. A total of 1,500 arrests have been made as a result of the breakthrough, with the seizure of more than 100 guns and drugs worth hundreds of millions of pounds on the street.

## Routine checks have been introduced in the UK to stop terrorists hiring vans



Owners of vans and trucks in the UK who hire them out were told, as of 10 May 2021, to carry out routine checks on drivers and vehicles under a new set of rules that have been introduced. The new rules were introduced in response to the London Bridge and Westminster Bridge terrorist attacks in 2017. Both incidents used hired vehicles (a hired car in the case of the Westminster Bridge attack and a hired Renault Master van in the case of the London Bridge attack) as weapons with the intent to cause serious harm to pedestrians. A year previously, a similar attack involving a 19-tonne truck happened on Bastille Day in Nice which resulted in 86 people dying and injuries to over 450 people.

The new guidelines have been drawn up by the British Standards Institution. They include a requirement to carry out checks on drivers' references and to check their previous employment history for any evidence of links to criminal or terrorist activity. Vehicle owners will also be required to carry out regular visual checks of their fleet for any signs that the vehicles have been tampered with.

### Sixteen-year-old boy among five arrested in right-wing terror raids

A 16-year-old boy is among five people arrested as part of a police investigation into right-wing terrorism. He was arrested at an address in Swindon on suspicion of being concerned in the commission, preparation, or instigation of acts of terrorism. Also held by police on the same allegation were a 28-year-old woman and two men, aged 29 and 30, from Keighley, West Yorkshire, and a 28-year-old man from Anglesey in Wales. All five have been taken to a police station in West Yorkshire to be questioned. Counter Terrorism Policing Northeast said a number of properties had been searched in connection with the arrests, which are part of an ongoing investigation into right-wing terrorism.

## Security scare at Royal Lodge in Windsor; two intruders arrested



Two intruders have been arrested from the grounds of Prince Andrew's residence Royal Lodge in Windsor, just days after a woman claiming to be his fiancée duped security guards into entering the castle. The latest security breach took place when a 31-year-old man and his 29-year-old girlfriend scaled fences in the lodge grounds, which includes Prince Andrew's home as well as the All-Saints Chapel where the Queen attends Sunday service. The ground is also close to where Queen Elizabeth II goes for walks with her corgis and rides horses. The 95-year-old has been staying at nearby Windsor Castle since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic last year. A spokesman for Thames Valley Police told the Mirror that both the intruders have been released under investigation while enquiries continue, noting that there was no risk to any individual on the site.



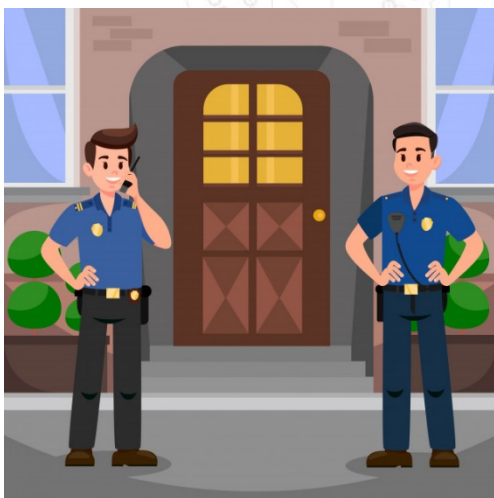
## Security Industry News

### “Online is new front line in fight against organised crime” observes NCA

Criminals are exploiting advances in technology to drive serious and organised crime. That is the considered view of the National Crime Agency (NCA) as outlined in the 2021 National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime, with increased online usage leading to a rise in offending. The 55-page report see link below uses intelligence from across law enforcement, Government, the third sector and private industry to set out the UK’s understanding of the threat posed by organised criminals.

<https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications/533-national-strategic-assessment-of-serious-and-organised-crime-2021/file>

### Government warned that lack of door staff could stop nightclubs from reopening



The Night Time Industries Association (NTIA) has warned that a shortage of door staff could hamper the reopening of hospitality and nightlife venues in June. While nightclubs will be provisionally allowed to return in England from June 21, the NTIA says that 6 in 10 door positions are at risk of being unfilled and that the UK Government is deepening the crisis with new training requirements, which has seen initial course pass rates drop from 90 per cent to under 50 per cent. They also warn that the cost of becoming a licensed supervisor has become a further barrier to entering the industry, while tough exams have

resulted in less than 50 percent of participants passing.





## Drive Off incidents rise



The industry body BOSS, the British Oil Security Syndicate, is warning forecourt operators about a significant rise it has seen in motorists driving off without making payment for fuel. BOSS has recorded a 38 per cent increase in Drive Off incidents during the third lockdown months (January to April 2021). The average value of each Drive Off incident was £38.75, which is lower than the £61.77 average value of incidents where motorists claim to have 'No Means of Payment'.

Bruce Nichol, operations director at BOSS, said: "We're recommending that forecourt retailers remain vigilant and consider tightening procedures when authorising pumps for fuel to be drawn. When a Drive-Off incident takes place, forecourt retailers should collect incident information from CCTV and report vehicle details as soon as possible, ideally using our Payment Watch service.

As BOSS says, common warning signals when a vehicle is parked at a pump and a crime might be about to occur include:

- Driver still at the wheel; passenger filling up
- Open doors or open boot
- Number plates hidden or appear altered
- Lights of the vehicle still switched on
- Vehicle parked facing away from the kiosk towards an exit
- Customer trying to hide behind their own or another vehicle when filling up.

## 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-7th-may-2021>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/acd-report-year-four>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-14th-may-2021>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-21st-may-2021>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-28th-may-2021>



## Demonstrations held / planned

### **Kill the Bill protests: Another man charged over riot in Bristol**

Police have charged another man and arrested six others in connection to the Kill the Bill protests in Bristol Dylan Dunne, 22, of Coalpit Heath, South Gloucestershire, has been charged with violent disorder and theft of police equipment. Nine others, who were also charged following the events of the protest. The Kill the Bill protest began peacefully and saw a turnout of 500 people marching on Bridewell police station, which was where the rioting allegedly began.

### **Animal rights protesters blockade four McDonald's depots which supply 1,300 UK branches**



Animal rights protesters have blockaded four McDonald's UK depots which could see supply shortages to around 1,300 of its restaurants. Activists from Animal Rebellion have stopped lorries leaving the distribution centres using trucks and bamboo structures and say they are staying there for at least 24 hours. The group says it has around 50 people at the McDonald's sites in Hemel Hempstead, Basingstoke, Coventry and Heywood, Greater Manchester.

In a video put on social media by the campaigners, some of the protesters can be seen to have climbed up the bamboo scaffolding and used ropes to tie themselves to it.

### **Swansea rioters injure seven police officers**

Seven police officers were injured when rioters threw bricks at houses and torched cars in Swansea. A major clean-up is under way after cars were burnt out and windows smashed during the violence in the Mayhill area. Families spoke of being trapped in houses, with police "pelted with rocks" as they tried to break up the violence. South Wales Police said seven officers suffered minor injuries when they were hit by missiles. Officers believe the disorder in Waun-Wen Road, which saw groups roll a car down the middle of the street into a burning

car, started as a vigil for 19-year-old Ethan Powell who collapsed and died suddenly on Wednesday.

## Bristol protesters blocked from motorway



Protesters have been prevented from marching onto a motorway by dozens of police officers, dogs, and horses. The latest Kill the Bill protest in Bristol saw campaigners peacefully march from College Green in the city centre to the start of the M32. But police officers blocked their path, and the group cleared a short time later. Traffic was stopped while the route was cleared. It was estimated some 200 protesters were involved. More than 40 people have been arrested at previous protests. This march is the twelfth in the city in recent weeks. The protesters object to the government's proposed Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, which is making its way through Parliament.

## 12 arrested as crowd marches through Newcastle in 'Kill the Bill' demonstration

Crowds of people gathered in Newcastle to take part in another 'Kill the Bill' protest. They arrived at Grey's Monument to protest against the Police, Crime and Sentencing Bill, similar to a number of protests which have taken place in the city in recent weeks. A total of 12 people were arrested as protesters left their base at Grey's Monument and marched through the city, eventually facing a line of police officers close to the Forth Banks Police Station. The demonstration ended after the crowd processed back to Grey Street, gradually dispersing.

## Climate protesters halt traffic with 'sit in' protests in streets around the UK

Protesters from Extinction Rebellion halted traffic in streets across the UK today as part of "individual action in disruptive locations" to raise the issue of climate change. The protesters

want the PM to present a roadmap for how he aims to achieve the planned cut in emissions by 78% by 2035.

The protest group said "individual disruptive actions" took place in Scarborough, Weymouth, Birmingham, Oxford, Bradford, Ipswich, Lincoln, Canterbury, Newcastle, Portishead, London, Newquay, Swansea, and Bangor in Northern Ireland.

## Manchester United protests



Violence that broke out at Manchester United was "completely unacceptable" and should be condemned in "the strongest possible terms", police leaders have said. Two officers were injured including one who needed emergency treatment for a "significant slash wound to his face" after being attacked with a bottle at Old Trafford, Greater Manchester Police (GMP) said. The violence happened during protests before United's scheduled game against Liverpool, which eventually had to be postponed for safety reasons.

## Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News

### Scammer who sent fake NHS vaccine texts is jailed for four years

A scammer who sent fake NHS texts to people waiting for their vaccine offer so he could steal their personal details has been jailed for more than four years. Teige Gallagher, 21, from north London, sent fraudulent messages claiming to be from a wide range of organisations including banks and mobile phone providers. His 'phishing' scam used links directing potential victims to imitation websites designed to trick them into entering their account details and personal information that could later be used to commit fraud. The texts claiming to be from the NHS told recipients the details were needed to determine whether they qualified for the Covid jab.