



**SECURITY  
INTELLIGENCE  
UPDATE**  
AUG 2021



# TABLE OF CONTENT

CONTENT	PAGE
About Us: Sentinel Group Security	2
Intelligence led security	2
Disclaimer	2
United Kingdom's National Security Threat	3
Introduction	3
United Kingdom's Threat Definitions	3
United Kingdom Current Threat Levels	7
Introduction	7
What the threat levels mean	7
Current national threat level	7
Open Source Security Incident News	8
Security Industry News	13
Demonstrations held / planned	18
Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News	20

## 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

### Man admits sharing Islamic State videos

A British man who went to Syria to join the Islamic State (IS) group has admitted sharing beheading videos. Stefan Aristidou, 27, entered guilty pleas to four terrorism offences at the Old Bailey and will be sentenced in September. Research reveals he is the 14th person convicted of terror charges out of hundreds who returned from Syria after joining jihadist groups. The research shows only 3% of returnees have been convicted of such offences.

### Gloucestershire teenager sentenced for far-right terrorism offences

A teenager who downloaded manuals on how to make bombs and poisons has been sentenced to a 12-month referral order. The 17-year-old from Gloucestershire, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, was arrested by counter-terrorism police in December 2019. Far-right symbols such as swastikas were found scratched into a desk in his bedroom, Bristol Youth Court was told.



### Seven arrests in Albanian people smuggling network

Seven people have been arrested as part of a National Crime Agency operation aimed at dismantling an organised crime group involved in transporting hundreds of Albanian migrants to the UK illegally. Among those detained by NCA officers in a series of raids in south London, Surrey, Oxfordshire and Hartlepool was the alleged ringleader of the people smuggling network, which investigators believe used lorries and hired vans to transport individuals from northern France.



## Man who 'accosted' Chris Whitty in video loses job and says 'I wanted a selfie'



A man who was criticised after being filmed apparently accosting Professor Chris Whitty says he has lost his job as an estate agent. Lewis Hughes, 24, has apologised for "any upset I caused", adding if he made England's chief medical officer feel "uncomfortable" then "I am sorry to him for that".

## Man, 41, arrested after police officer punched

### outside Parliament

41-year-old man has been arrested after a police officer was punched outside the Houses of Parliament in central London. The alleged attacker was arrested for assault near St Stephen's Gate, Westminster and is being held in custody. Scotland Yard said the officer was not seriously injured and the incident is not being treated as terrorism. The man was known to officers and had been spoken to earlier for causing a verbal nuisance near Parliament. He did not try gaining entry to the building, the police said.

## Brigg company fined for supplying illegal security

A security company and its manager pleaded guilty at Bradford and Keighley Magistrates' Court to supplying unlicensed security to a Bradford nightclub. The court fined Liberty Security Solutions £540 plus a victim surcharge of £54 and court costs of £1050 payable within 28 days. The court also fined the company's acting manager Basharat Bashir £176. He is additionally required to pay a victim surcharge of £30 plus court costs of £1050.



## Fugitive guilty of working illegally in Cardiff homeless shelter

A security guard who worked illegally at a Cardiff shelter housing vulnerable women has been convicted after failing to attend court for a second time. Dale Lusty was found guilty in his absence at Cardiff Magistrates' Court of working without a Security Industry Authority (SIA)



licence at the Wallich Clifford Community Hostel. Lusty was handed a reduced sentence due to his financial circumstances as he is in receipt of benefits. He is already paying off £2,500 in fines. The court ordered him to pay £180, as well as court costs of £467.50 and a victim surcharge of £34.



## Thief jailed for vile racist tirade at Perth Primark security guard



A shoplifter has been jailed for a horrific racist tirade against a Pakistani security guard at Primark in Perth. Daniel Cahill flew into a bigoted rage when the employee at the High Street store asked to check his backpack. The foul-mouthed thug subjected the guard to a series of racial slurs and told him: "Go back to your own country." He left the shop but returned a short time later, threatening to "slash" the security officer.

He told the store's manager: "Why don't you employ security guards from the UK?" Cahill, 31, appeared via video link at Perth Sheriff Court and sighed loudly, holding his head in his hands, as details of his crime were read out. He was jailed for 180 days.

## UK and France sign new Channel security treaty



Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab and Home Secretary Priti Patel have agreed a new maritime security treaty between the UK and France. Under the UK-France Maritime Security Treaty, negotiated between the UK Home Office and French Secrétariat général de la Défense et de la Sécurité nationale, UK emergency responders will have more power to deal with terrorist incidents in the Channel.

Representatives from both countries have said that the arrangement is the foundation for seamless joint and coordinated action to be taken by UK and French forces in response to an incident, such as a terrorist attack on board a ferry or other large vessel in the Channel.



## Police arrest woman, 31, and two men, 41 and 37, for attempted murder after two officers are 'repeatedly slashed' with knives in shopping centre horror

Police arrested a woman and two men for attempted murder after two officers were 'repeatedly slashed' with knives in a horrific attack inside a shopping centre. The men had been seen 'acting suspiciously' and turned violent after being confronted by two beat officers at just before midday. Dramatic footage then showed the suspects being pinned down by police and passers-by on a pavement outside. Two men aged 41 and 37, and a 31-year-old woman were arrested on suspicion of attempted murder as police put in place a dispersal order allowing them to search passers-by for weapons.



The officers were left 'shaken' but only received minor injuries, for which they were treated at the scene and then taken to hospital, a police statement said.

## Man, who turned up at court with a knife told he could be jailed

A man had a knife in his pocket as he made his way into Hamilton Sheriff Court. Samuel Deakin told a security guard he didn't realise he was breaking the law when the blade was discovered. Deakin, 29, of McCulloch Avenue, Viewpark, appeared at the same court on Friday. He admitted unlawful possession of a lockback knife last November. Mairi-Clare McMillan, prosecuting, said it was discovered during a routine search as Deakin entered the building.



## Racism fuelling far-right threat in UK - MI5's Ken McCallum warns

The "toxic" issue of racism is fuelling a growing threat from the far right, the head of MI5 has warned. Ken McCallum said MI5 was seeing teenagers as young as 13 drawn into extremist activity, often online. But there was no sign of foreign states trying to sow divisions over race and the UK had to look closer to home to understand the problem, he said. He also urged the public to be as vigilant about threats from "hostile states" as from terrorism.



## Neo-Nazi Andrew Dymock jailed for terror and hate crimes

A neo-Nazi student who created two extremist groups and promoted a "distorted and wicked cause" has been jailed.

Andrew Dymock, 24, from Bath, led the outlawed groups System Resistance Network (SRN) and Sonnenkrieg Division. A judge said Dymock was "driven by an extremist mindset" and had taken the path of "total hatred and bigotry". He was convicted of 15 offences and jailed for seven years, with a further three years on extended licence.

## UK and France agree deal to tackle rise in Channel crossings



France will double the number of police patrolling its beaches as part of a deal with the UK to stem the number of migrants crossing the English Channel. It comes as the number of people crossing the Channel this year has now overtaken 2020's total. The UK will pay more than £54m as part of the deal, which will also improve intelligence sharing. But Calais MP

Pierre-Henri Dumont suggested it would not have an impact as the French coastline is too big.

## Consultant guilty of Bitcoin Islamic State terrorism funding

A sales consultant has been found guilty of using Bitcoin to fund the Islamic State (IS) group. Hisham Chaudhary had denied using the cryptocurrency to back the organisation's terrorism and spreading propaganda online.

The 28-year-old of Chestnut Drive, Oadby, Leicestershire, was found guilty of seven offences under the Terrorism Act by a jury at Birmingham Crown Court. During the trial, the court heard Chaudhary produced a "jihad" video - described as a sinister "call to arms" - that was then spread through the internet. Chaudhary posted some videos online using the name "John Smith", the court was told. Counter Terrorism Policing Northeast said he raised thousands of pounds and converted it to Bitcoin, which he used to send IS money to free supporters of the group from detention camps in Syria.

## UK bans fifth neo-Nazi group under terror laws

An American neo-Nazi group which is led from Russia is to be banned as a terrorist organisation, the Home Secretary has said. Priti Patel condemned "evil white supremacist groups, who target vulnerable people across the world".

The Base will be the fifth extreme right-wing group to be proscribed in the UK under anti-terror laws. Last year BBC Panorama exposed the organisation's recruitments efforts in the UK. A BBC investigation also exposed the group's American founder Rinaldo Nazaro and revealed how he was directing The Base from his St Petersburg home. The Base, formed in 2018, seeks to create terrorist cells in the US and other countries in an attempt to establish fascist, white ethno-states through a "race war".





## Security Industry News

### “Demand for security workers up 400% since March” states Orka



According to job vacancy data from Orka, demand for security workers has soared by 400% in the last three months. The figures emerge amid growing concerns around staff shortages across the UK, particularly so in the hospitality and night-time economy sectors as they prepared to full operations on 19 July in the wake of Government COVID restrictions being lifted. The job

vacancy data is taken from Orka’s temporary work platform, Orka Works, which is used by 60,000 workers operating in the security and FM sectors, and by some of the world’s biggest employers (among them G4S and ISS). Orka’s data follows recent estimates from the Night-Time Industries Association that 60% of security roles for pubs, nightclubs and festivals risk being unfilled when such business finally reopen.

In addition to highlighting potential staff shortages in the security sector, the data also indicates that large-scale employers are increasingly opting to hire temporary workers over permanent staff, allowing for more flexibility in case of further restrictions or lockdowns.

### SIA publishes profile focused on recruitment in door supervision sector



The Security Industry Authority (SIA) has published a ‘snapshot’ profile of the door supervision sector. The report looks at employment issues in the sector, drawing on findings from recent surveys and past research conducted by the organisation. It also makes use of data from the SIA’s licensing system. On that note, data from the SIA’s licensing system shows that the number of door supervisor licences and licence

applications is currently at its highest level across the last decade. Responses to surveys undertaken by the SIA suggest that some companies within the sector have found it difficult



to recruit and retain door supervisors. Responses indicated that the main barriers to retention are that some door supervisors have found alternative work during the pandemic and are reluctant to return to the sector and also that some individuals who have previously worked as door supervisors are reluctant to leave furlough pay. The full findings and data from this research can be found in the six-page report online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recruitment-and-retention-in-the-door-supervision-sector>

## Demand on policing increases as Government confirms pay freeze



In his annual assessment of policing in England and Wales, Sir Thomas Winsor has described how crime patterns have changed over the last year during the COVID-19 pandemic, with more crime now being committed online. Winsor also believes there is a strong case for greater sanctions in the Online Safety Bill to protect vulnerable people in the cyber domain. Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary feels the COVID-19 pandemic has also increased vulnerability in other ways, such as the lockdown leading to more calls for help from those suffering from domestic abuse.

In his 2020 report, Sir Thomas Winsor has outlined that some public services, including mental health, keep on failing. "Unless the health and social care system is fixed and people can access the support they need, more people will continue to be vulnerable and enter the criminal justice system unnecessarily," he commented.

The Chief Inspector recognises that the chronic backlog in court cases has increased as a result of the pandemic, but also moves to question why waiting times have become inexcusably long when the number of cases going into the system is at its lowest level for decades.

"The pandemic has provided new opportunities for criminals and showed how essential it is that our public services work well together," asserted the Chief Inspector. "It is highly regrettable that new legislation and lockdown restrictions made certain people more vulnerable and limited access to support services. As a result, many more people may have been suffering and this will have led to an increased demand on the police."

## Government unveils plan to "protect victims and make streets safer"

The Government has unveiled the fine detail behind a new plan designed to reduce crime, protect victims, and make the country safer. The measures build on progress to date around toughening sentences to keep the most dangerous offenders behind bars and the delivery of almost 9,000 of the 20,000 extra police officers promised by 2023 (one of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's first commitments in office). According to politicians and officials at Westminster, the plan will ensure the public is better protected across all parts of the country, with each

neighbourhood having contactable, named police officers who know their area and are best placed to ensure that persistent crime and anti-social behaviour is tackled.

The Government's promise to the public through this plan is that every crime matters, every victim matters and every neighbourhood matters. That's why, alongside more police officers being out on the beat and making local forces more easily contactable, the public will be given more opportunity to scrutinise the end results, with league tables for 101 and 999 call answering times to be introduced for each police service.

## Police forces across country unite in action designed to tackle knife crime



Police forces across the country are united in action to tackle knife crime. Operation Sceptre will see intensified efforts through operations carried out with partner agencies. As part of these operations, police forces will target habitual knife carriers and engage with children, young people and parents alike to educate them about the risks of carrying a knife and signpost them to

relevant support services. In addition, Operation Sceptre will highlight ongoing work with schools, charities, retailers, the health service and communities that's all about reducing knife crime and keeping people safe.

## Security Industry Authority annual report and accounts 2020 to 2021

The Security Industry Authority's (SIA's) annual report and accounts 2020 to 2021 sets out the SIA's key achievements during the year and provides an overview of their financial position. The report can be found using the link below: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1004898/sia\\_annual\\_report\\_20-21.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1004898/sia_annual_report_20-21.pdf)

## How to protect yourself and others: guidance for door supervisors

The SIA have produced guidance on good practice that can help door supervisors protect the public and keep themselves safe. The private security industry plays an important role in the protection of the public. The advice for security operatives includes:

- Guide to safer physical intervention for door supervisors
- Safer physical intervention for door supervisor's poster
- A guide to safer restraint

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advice-for-security-operatives>

## SIA prosecutions

A list of the people and companies prosecuted by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) over the last 12 months can be found using the link below. This table provides information on the prosecutions we have completed within the last 12 months. This does not include prosecutions brought by the police or other government agencies.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sia-prosecutions/sia-prosecutions-over-the-last-12-months>

## Google promises new security polices



Google has committed to fortifying its cloud-based smart home devices, offering a minimum of five years for Cyber Security support and bug fixes. The tech giant promised additional support for its current Nest smart home products, which includes devices ranging from thermostats and smoke detectors to smart speakers and Security Cameras. The changes will include updates to Google's privacy commitments with the aim being to make

security more straightforward for Nest device users.

## Transgender charity fined for data breach



A transgender charity has been fined £25,000 by the UK data protection watchdog, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The regulator received a data breach report from the charity about an internal email group it set up and used from August 2016 until July 2017 when it was decommissioned. The charity only became aware

of the breach in June 2019.

The ICO found that the group was created with insufficiently secure settings, leading to about 780 pages of confidential emails being viewable online for nearly three years. This led to personal information, such as names and email addresses, of 550 people being searchable online. The personal data of 24 of those people was sensitive as it revealed how the person was coping and feeling, with a further 15 classified as special category data as mental and physical health and sexual orientation were exposed.



## MI5 head on 'disguised approaches from foreign spies'



On professional networking sites the Security Service has seen over 10,000 disguised approaches from foreign spies to regular people around the UK, seeking to manipulate them, MI5 Director General Ken McCallum said in an annual threat update, filmed at MI5 headquarters at Thames House, central London. He said:

"To speak directly: if you are working in a high-tech business; or engaged in cutting-edge scientific research; or exporting into certain markets, you will be of interest – more interest than you might think – to foreign spies. You don't have to be scared; but be switched on. The 'Think Before You Link' campaign really means what it says. As a nation, we need – and we want – to trade and to collaborate internationally; but to do so on a level playing field, we need to have our eyes open."

## 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-2nd-july-2021>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-9th-july-2021>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-16th-july-2021>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-23rd-july-2021>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-30th-july-2021>



## Demonstrations held / planned

### Eleven arrests at London anti-lockdown protest on day restrictions lifted

Eleven people have been arrested at an anti-lockdown protest in Westminster, which saw demonstrators block a road and force traffic to a standstill on so-called "Freedom Day". Protesters held signs and chanted "freedom" as they gathered in Parliament Square after all remaining coronavirus restrictions were lifted in England, including an end to social distancing rules. The demonstration moved from Parliament Square to spread onto the road and up to the gates of the Palace of Westminster, leading Metropolitan Police officers to urge protesters to move out of the road.

### Thousands of anti-vaccine protesters gather in London



Thousands of anti-lockdown and anti-vaccine protesters gathered in central London for a "Worldwide rally for freedom" - five days after restrictions were lifted in England. Conspiracy theorists David Icke, Gillian McKeith and Piers Corbyn, the brother of former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, were among the speakers at the demonstration in Trafalgar Square.



## Extinction Rebellion activists stage sit-in in Somerset McDonald's

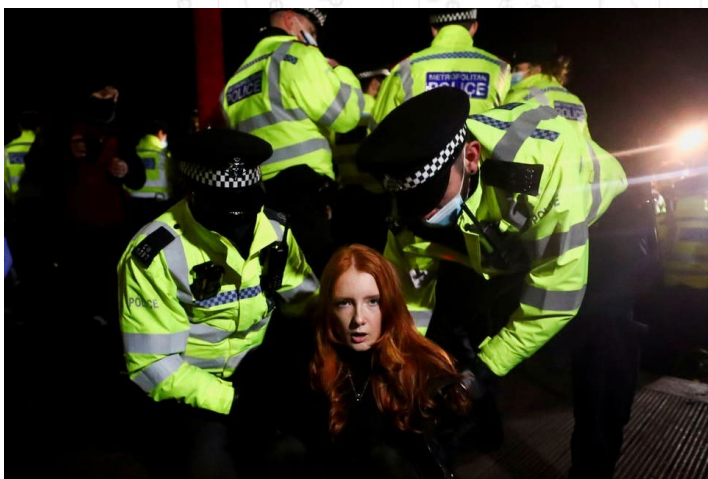


Activists from Animal Rebellion and local groups of Extinction Rebellion held a peaceful sit-in protest in the Yeovil branch of McDonald's. Called a 'McSit-in', protesters staged the event and they brought their own lunches and occupied areas of the restaurant for two hours, demanding that the fast-food chain goes plant-based by 2025. The protest follows a similar sit-in held in the Weymouth McDonald's.

## Extinction Rebellion's attempt to blockade Farnborough Airport stopped by Hampshire Police

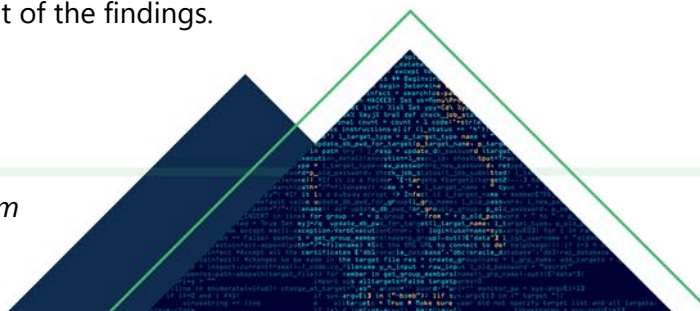
Plans by Extinction Rebellion to shut down Farnborough Airport with a blockade have been stopped by Hampshire Constabulary. The environmental activists had said they were going to block all entrances to the airport on Friday (July 16). They were going to protest against the high levels of CO2 that private flights emit per passenger. However, the plans did not go ahead due to a "large police presence" at the airport when activists arrived. The climate activists had planned to block each entrance with a stretch limousine, fuel barrels and a 4-metre high steel tripod. Protesters dressed as flight attendants, pilots and air marshals were going to protest at the gates and on a major roundabout next to the airport.

## Police handling of Sarah Everard vigil and Bristol protests breached 'fundamental rights'

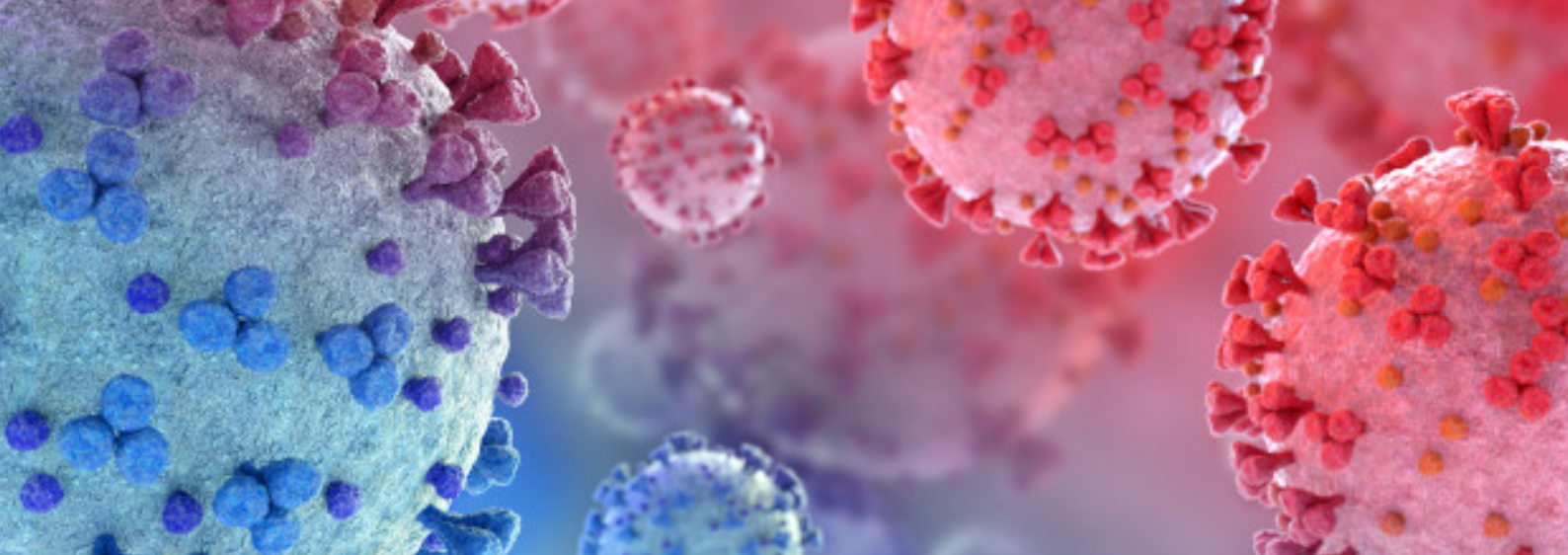


Police breached "fundamental rights" at a vigil for Sarah Everard and Kill the Bill protests, a parliamentary inquiry has found. A group of MPs and peers found there were "multiple failings" by the Metropolitan Police and Avon and Somerset Police in the way they handled events at Clapham Common, south-west London, and in Bristol in March. The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Democracy

and the Constitution has proposed amendments to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, which is due to be debated on Monday, as a result of the findings.







## Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News

### NCA warns furloughed port and airport workers could be exploited by organised criminal groups



The National Crime Agency has issued an alert to furloughed port and airport workers warning they may be vulnerable to organised crime groups seeking to exploit the Covid crisis. As global restrictions on the movement of people and goods are further relaxed, the alert warns that staff who have a detailed knowledge of controls and processes around the border could be targeted.

The warning has been issued to companies at the border, including port and airport operators, contractors, couriers, and freight operators, as their furloughed staff return to work following the easing of Covid restrictions.

### Covid-19 and the private security industry – FAQs

The SIA have produced a FAQ about 'Covid-19 and the Private Security Industry. The document looks at how the SIA are responding to the covid-19 pandemic. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1005296/sia-covid-19-faq.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005296/sia-covid-19-faq.pdf)

### Daily tests not self-isolation for police, fire, borders, transport, and freight staff

A scheme allowing key workers to avoid Covid self-isolation in England has been significantly expanded following criticism it did not go far enough. Police, fire, Border Force, transport, and freight staff will now be able to join a daily workplace test scheme, whether they are vaccinated or not.

Some 10,000-supermarket depot and food factory workers will also be eligible. Testing is expected to start next week. Several sectors have warned of staff shortages in recent days. Transport for London warned of line closures and cancellations this weekend as more than 300 members of staff are self-isolating.



## Lone women in Covid quarantine hotels to get female guards



Women quarantining in UK hotels will now have female guards, when possible, after allegations of sexual harassment. The Department of Health and Social Care made the change after a BBC report in which women said one male guard had mimed having sex in a lift, and another had asked for a hug. If female guards are unavailable, women should be escorted by two male guards.

## Officers told not to check green and amber arrivals, union says



Travellers to England from green and amber list countries may no longer face Covid checks on arrival - according to a union representing border staff. Officers will no longer routinely verify arrivals have tested negative before departure or completed a passenger locator form, the ISU said. The government said carriers were checking all necessary requirements including forms and test bookings.

A spokesperson added: "This legal requirement on carriers is underpinned by a robust compliance regime, which is overseen by regulators.

"Compliance with these rules is essential in order to protect the population from new variants of Covid-19, and so there will be tough fines for those who do not follow the rules."

Airlines UK, which represents easyJet, Tui and British Airways among others, said: "Carriers are committed to working with Border Force on these requirements, which is why compliance has remained consistently extremely high.