



**SECURITY
INTELLIGENCE
UPDATE**
SEP 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**.

remained consistently extremely high.



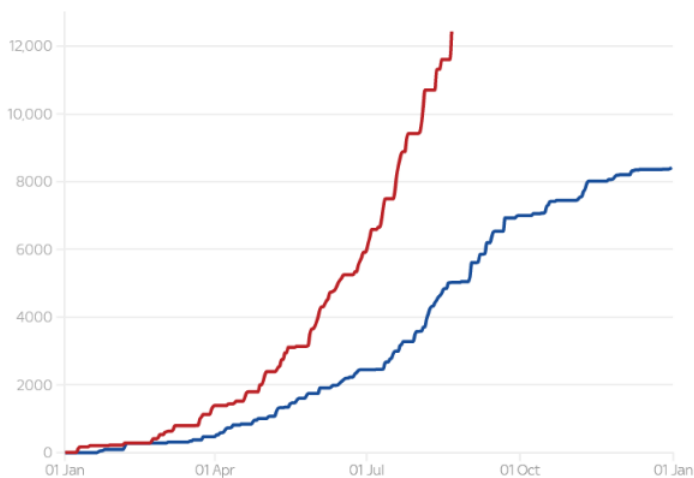
Open-Source Security Incident News

Over 800 migrants intercepted crossing English Channel in new daily record

A total of 828 migrants were intercepted or rescued crossing the English Channel on Saturday, the Home Office has said. The figure supersedes the previous daily record of 592, which was recorded on August 12. Dan O'Mahoney, Clandestine Channel Threat Commander, said the

Migrant boat arrivals are already higher in 2021 than they were in 2020

Number of people crossing the English Channel. Cumulative figures.



SOURCE: Data collection completed by PA news agency from Home Office records

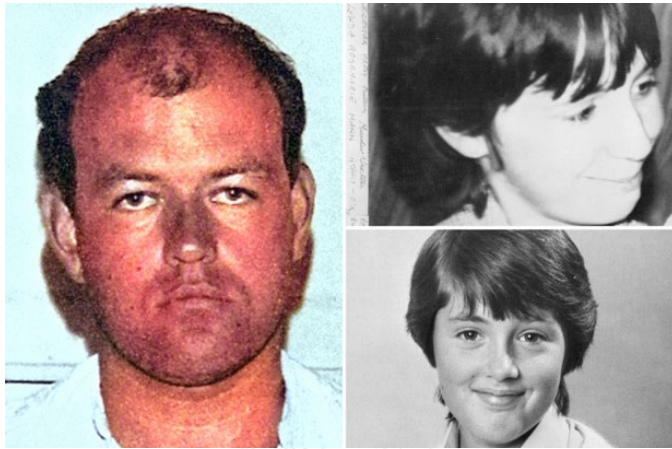
crossings were "dangerous" and "completely unnecessary" and said the Government's new immigration plan would prevent the system from being "exploited". "These dangerous crossings from safe EU countries are completely unnecessary and we are determined to take down the evil criminal gangs behind them," said Mr O'Mahoney. "We're working across Government as well as with French and International partners to tackle this issue. "We have doubled the number of police officers on French beaches, prevented more than 10,000 attempts, secured nearly 300

arrests and 65 prosecutions.

London bus driver spat at after asking passenger to wear mask

A London bus driver was spat at after he asked a passenger to wear a mask. An image of a man officers want to speak to has been released after the incident on a number 83 bus near Wembley. A male passenger had agreed to put on a mask when the driver asked him to as he boarded, but then failed to do so when he sat down on the upper level. When the bus stopped at Lakeside Way, the driver told the man he would have to get off if he refused to wear a mask, the man then shouted at the driver and spat in his direction, hitting the glass on the front door.

Double child killer and rapist Colin Pitchfork has been released from prison after attempts to keep him in jail for longer failed.



The newly freed man, now in his early 60s, was jailed for life after raping and strangling 15-year-olds Lynda Mann and Dawn Ashworth in Leicestershire in 1983 and 1986. He was the first person to be convicted of murder thanks to DNA evidence in 1988 as he admitted two murders, two rapes, two indecent assaults and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. Pitchfork had two years shaved off his 30-year minimum in 2009 and he was moved to an open

prison three years ago, before being released.

White supremacist avoids jail after being told to read Jane Austen instead

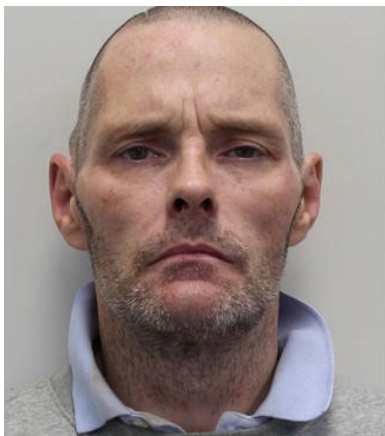
A white supremacist has avoided jail after being told to read classics like *Pride and Prejudice* by a judge. Ben John accessed instructions to make explosives and nearly 70,000 documents including anti-Semitic material.

The 21-year-old former De Montfort University student was found guilty of possessing a record of information likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism in August. As he avoided being sent to prison, he was given a reading list including Charles Dickens and Shakespeare and told to return into court in January to check on his progress, Leicestershire Live reported.

Lincolnshire Police said John, who is originally from Lincoln but studied in Leicester, had gathered 67,788 documents onto computer hard drives including white supremacist and anti-Semitic material. Satanist-related material was also found.

Lee Peacock accused of slashing partner's neck in alleged London attacks

A 49-year-old man killed his girlfriend and an associate by slashing their necks before being found with self-inflicted wounds. Lee Peacock is accused of attacking Sharon Pickles and Clinton Ashmore in different locations in London. Mere hours separated both alleged attacks, prosecutors say.



Peacock is said to have self-harmed after police tracked him to a houseboat on the Grand Union Canal in Ealing and was taken to hospital. Peacock, of West London, did not enter pleas to two counts of murder at a hearing at the Old Bailey. He was remanded in custody and is due to appear at the same court for a plea hearing on November 12.

'Topshop terrorist' who shared IS execution videos on social media jailed



A Muslim convert who told an undercover police officer he wanted to see London under the Islamic State flag has been jailed for posting extremist videos on social media. Ibrahim Roger Anderson spoke to the woman on Facebook and Telegram, sharing videos which depicted "extremely graphic" footage of IS executions and suicide bombings, the Old Bailey heard. He was unaware he was speaking to a covert officer. The 44-year-old, a car mechanic of Luton in Bedfordshire, was sentenced to seven years in prison after admitting a string of terror offences.

Lorry driver jailed after trying to smuggle ketamine

A lorry driver who attempted to smuggle ketamine and mephedrone worth £2 million into the UK by hiding it in his mattress has been jailed. The National Crime Agency investigated Alessio Giovannetti (36), from Italy, after his HGV was stopped at Dover on 29 May 2021. His truck, carrying lettuce, was searched by Border Force officers and packages containing 70 kilos of ketamine and 20 kilos of mephedrone were found in voids hidden around the cab.

Further amounts were discovered in Giovannetti's mattress, with NCA forensic experts estimating the drugs to have been worth £2 million at street level. He pleaded guilty at Canterbury Crown Court on 19 August and was sentenced to five years and seven months imprisonment.



Cocaine hidden in dog food leads to jail for West Lothian man



A lorry driver from West Lothian has been handed a seven-and-a-half-year jail sentence following the seizure of cocaine worth almost £900,000 in Bathgate. National Crime Agency and Police Scotland Organised Crime Partnership arrested John Neilson, aged 44, at a vehicle repair yard on Easton Road, Bathgate, on 22 June 2020. During a search of the van, he had been driving 15 kilo blocks of cocaine were found, each hidden inside bags of dried dog food which had been

transported to the location from a supplier in Staffordshire.

Neilson plead guilty at Glasgow High Court, to being concerned in the supply of Cocaine, aggravated by a connection with serious organised crime. He was jailed for seven and a half years.

Self-loading pistol and ammunition seized on motorway



A man has been charged with firearms offences after a loaded handgun and bullets were seized from the car he was travelling. A joint NCA and Metropolitan Police Service unit – supported by West Midlands Police, stopped 22-year-old Klejdi Kazani between junctions 12 and 13 of the M1. Officers discovered a self-loading pistol with four rounds of ammunition in the magazine hidden under the front passenger seat of the car. A further 7 rounds of ammunition were also seized during the search. Kazani, an Albanian national, was arrested at the scene and charged with possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life.

Drug dealing crime group planned to torture and rob 82-year-old businessman



Six men have been convicted after an investigation uncovered their role in the supply of cocaine and a separate plot to torture and rob a Manchester man’s home and business. The group, from Manchester, Warrington and Hertfordshire were all involved in supplying drugs worth almost a quarter of a million pounds. Five of the men also conspired to commit a robbery that would include

threatening to tie up the victims and cut off the ear of one of them. Captured covert recordings of Gary Betts, 57, of Rye Bank Road, Firswood, Manchester, last year, as he told associates that he had a ‘nice job’ that would be ‘plenty of dough’. He was joined by Gerard Boyle, 57, of Eleanor Road, Manchester, brothers Chris and John Sammon, ages 32 and 35 of Moorcroft Drive and Dudley Road, Manchester, and Wayne Simmonds, 39, of Oakwood Road, Bricket wood, Hertfordshire.

The gang believed the victims to be holding a substantial cash sum at their home in Greater Manchester and discussed logistics of the robbery at the office of Boyle – who was the registered director of a plastics recycling firm.

Rhondda security company fined for false claim of approved contractor status

A Rhondda security company pleaded guilty at Cardiff Magistrates' Court to illegally branding their business as an SIA approved contractor. Dragon Event Security Ltd and its two directors, Darrel Baldwin and Anthony Stone, were sentenced on the same day. Dragon Event Security Ltd was fined £390 and required to pay a victim surcharge of £39. Darrel Baldwin was fined £390 required to pay £480 court costs and a victim surcharge of £39. Fellow director Anthony Stone was also fined £390 and required to pay costs of £480 and a victim surcharge of £39. The former directors claimed to be dissolving Dragon Event Security Ltd which was founded on 20 January 2020.

The prosecution started with an SIA investigation into Darrel Baldwin's former business, Stay Safe Events Support Ltd, for the alleged supply of illegal security. By the time the investigation gathered momentum the business had become Dragon Event Security Ltd.

Northern Ireland Brexit tensions spark fear over rise of new 'extremist' loyalist groups



Northern Ireland's faces a dangerous escalation in Brexit tensions as a leading academic warns of new extremist Loyalist paramilitary factions coming to the fore. Dr Aaron Edwards, the author of 'UVF: Behind the Mask', has expressed concern that ongoing Brexit tensions over the Northern Ireland protocol could forge dangerous new paramilitary factions. Northern Ireland was rocked by a series of violent riots earlier in the year, fuelled in part by

anger from Loyalists over new customs barriers in the Irish Sea. Dr Edwards warned that continued "radicalization" over the Protocol may draw more young people into paramilitary groups, as well as spark the fracture of the UVF and UDA into new splinter groups.

Man detained in Coalville on suspicion of terror offences

A man has been arrested in Leicestershire on suspicion of terrorism offences. West Midlands Police said the 37-year-old was detained in Coalville under Section 5 of the Terrorism Act 2006 earlier. The force said detectives from its counter-terrorism unit made the arrest with the assistance of officers in Leicestershire. The suspect remains in custody at a police station in the West Midlands. West Midlands Police added the arrest was intelligence-led and there was no threat to the public.



Belfast: Police car hit by breeze block thrown from tower



Police officers on patrol in north Belfast have been attacked with a breeze block thrown from a high-rise flat on to the roof of their car. It happened at Cuchulainn House in the New Lodge. The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) said it was a "deliberate and reckless attack" on the officers. It said it was the second attack on a police vehicle in north Belfast within three days - a missile

was thrown from a block of flats on Saturday evening.

Fulham supermarkets targeted by man with syringes

A solicitor has appeared in court accused of injecting blood into food items at three west London stores. Leoaai Elghareeb, 37, from Fulham, did not enter a plea at Westminster Magistrates' Court to a charge of contaminating goods with intent. The case relates to incidents at a Sainsbury's Local, Tesco Express and Little Waitrose on Fulham Palace Road, Fulham. He is in custody and will appear at Isleworth Crown Court on 24 September. Both food and non-food products were injected with an unknown substance, police said. Police believe the man was acting alone.

Meat cleaver terror video-maker jailed

A man who shared clips of himself brandishing a meat cleaver and spouting extremist ideology has been jailed for terror offences. Mohammed Shakeel Yasin, 49, made a string of "disturbing" videos imploring others to attack so-called infidels. The clips, shared on WhatsApp, were found on seized mobile phones despite his attempts to delete them. He was jailed for six years after a Leeds Crown Court jury found him guilty of three charges.

Four injured after group of men 'shot indiscriminately' at people enjoying BBQ

A group of men fired a weapon "indiscriminately" into a large crowd and injured four people in North London, police have said. Gunshots were aimed at people enjoying a communal barbecue in a space at Clarence Gardens.



Two teenagers - a 19-year-old woman and 17-year-old girl - were injured alongside a 28-year-old man and 73-year-old woman. Their conditions are not thought to be life threatening. The Met said up to five men turned up at the barbecue and "indiscriminately discharged a firearm injuring four people".

Police lockdown roads after gunman opens fire outside row of shops



Shots were fired in Longview Shops, on Hillside Road, Liverpool. In a statement, Merseyside Police said Hillside Road is closed off in both directions while police continue the investigation. Evidence has been found to confirm shots were fired however enquiries are still ongoing to confirm if anyone was injured. Merseyside Police cordoned off more roads in the areas as enquiries continue. Lyme Grove,

behind Longview Shops on Hillside Road, is also closed off by police.

Men hurt in homophobic attack at Birmingham's Gay Village

Two men have been attacked with bottles and had homophobic abuse shouted at them in Birmingham, police have said. Rob and Patrick, in their 30s, were outside the Missing Bar in the city's Gay Village on Sunday. West Midlands Police said the abuse came from a group of four men in a black SUV, who then got out and assaulted the victims. Patrick was knocked unconscious in the attack and his partner said it was "shocking that would happen in 2021".

How Plymouth shooter delved into violent 'incel' subculture before massacre

In a video posted online before he shot dead five people in Plymouth, Jake Davison reflected on how some men his age had wives and children. "Does an incel, a virgin, get that?" he asks, apparently referring to himself. "No." Why exactly this 22-year-old crane operator went on his deadly rampage – which included killing a three-year-old girl – remains, for now, unknown.



Six arrests after Manchester United and Leeds fans clash in street brawl

Six arrests were made after scuffles broke out ahead of Manchester United's opening match of the Premier League season against visitors Leeds United, police said. Fans were filmed hitting each other with chairs and bins on the streets of Manchester city centre before the lunchtime kick-off, videos posted on social media showed.





Security Industry News

National Fraud Initiative safeguards £2 billion-plus of taxpayers' money

An anti-fraud scheme run by the Cabinet Office has detected or prevented more than £2 billion of fraud since it was launched 25 years ago, in turn helping to protect public money and put fraudsters behind bars. The National Fraud Initiative plays a critical role in identifying people trying to defraud the public sector, ensuring taxpayers' money goes towards delivering vital services instead of ending up in the wrong hands.

Lord Toby Harris appointed to review London's terror preparedness



Sadiq Khan, The Mayor of London, has appointed Lord Toby Harris to complete a new and wide-ranging independent review and report focused on what could be done to improve London's preparedness for a major terrorist incident. The new review will consider the changing threat of terrorism facing London and any implications of the pandemic for London's immediate and long-term preparedness for an attack.

Back in 2016, when Lord Harris published his Preparedness Review commissioned by the mayor, the backdrop of terrorism was shaped by marauding firearms attacks such as the terrible attacks at the Bataclan in Paris, as well as those in Brussels and Nice.

SIA announces a change to the launch date for the new Close Protection qualification



The Security Industry Authority (SIA) has extended the introduction of the updated close protection qualification to 01 April 2022. The new implementation date will allow for full testing of the new skills before they are introduced. The SIA will run a pilot in early 2022 with selected training centres. This will enable those delivering the qualification to provide feedback on the new bespoke physical intervention unit and make any required adjustments to the course before it goes live in April 2022.

Probation and drug addicts – report



Drug-related crime causes widespread misery and costs the public purse more than £9bn a year. Yet focus and funding are lacking across the criminal justice system to tackle drug use and supply. The system is not working well.

So said the Chief Inspector of Probation Justin Russell after his inspectorate published a report on drug treatment and recovery work with people on probation. He said: “Probation services have an important role to play in supporting positive change for individuals caught up in drugs and their supply. The report can be found here:

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/inspections/drug-treatment/>

New police CCTV use rules criticised as bare bones

A proposed code of practice covering police use of live facial recognition in England and Wales has been criticised by human rights groups. Live facial-recognition systems compare faces captured on closed-circuit television with those on a watch-list, alerting officers to a match.



Former CCTV watchdog Tony Porter said the new rules were "bare bones" and offered unclear guidance. And two campaign groups have called for the practice to be ended entirely.

The Home Office said the new guidelines, included in the first update to the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice in eight years, empowered police and maintained public trust.

SIA runs a pilot Actions Counter Terrorism for security operatives

The SIA are running a pilot in August with security businesses and operatives to trial new dedicated counter-terrorism training for the security industry.

Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) Security is specialised training for front line security operatives. This free course was designed by government counter-terrorism experts from the National Counter Terrorism Security Office and the Centre for Protection of National Infrastructure. The custom-built training will provide up-to date counter- terrorism knowledge to help operatives prevent terrorist attacks whilst on duty. Content includes videos from security operatives in the UK. The five modules cover:

- The role of a security operative in counter terrorism
- Current terrorist attack methods
- Identifying and responding to suspicious activity
- Incident response planning
- Responding to a terrorist incident

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-6th-august-2021>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-13th-august-2021>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-20th-august-2021>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-27th-august-2021>





Demonstrations held / planned

Over 300 arrests made in first week of Extinction Rebellion protests



More than 300 arrests were made during the first week of Extinction Rebellion's mass protests in London, police have said.

It is the fifth wave of the group's demonstrations, which have so far seen events such as the blocking of a road in central London with a large pink table, the floor outside the HM Revenue & Customs headquarters being spray painted and

the famous Guildhall in the City of London being daubed in red paint.

A total of 367 arrests were made up to 5:30pm on 30 August, in the group's latest round of action - dubbed the Impossible Rebellion - the Metropolitan Police confirmed. It came after 11 more activists were arrested on bank holiday Monday for blocking Tower Bridge with a van and caravan.

Cumbrians join Extinction Rebellion protests in London due to climate fears

Activists from Cumbria have taken part in two weeks of protests in London and the Woodhouse Colliery coal mine planned for Whitehaven is amongst the climate concerns sparking the action.

The two weeks of civil disobedience currently taking place in London have been titled "The Impossible Rebellion" by environmental activist group Extinction Rebellion. Protests are underpinned by



the message that “the government and finance industries (should) stop funding fossil fuel extraction immediately to prevent catastrophic climate breakdown.” A public inquiry into the West Cumbria Mine Plan is set to begin on September 7.

Manchester Pride: Protest held over festival management



More than a thousand protesters have marched over concerns about the management of the Manchester Pride festival. The annual event returned this weekend after it went online last August due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Demonstrators were complaining about changes to funding by Manchester Pride regarding two charities, the LGBT Foundation and George House Trust. Pride organisers have said they will conduct a review in autumn. Protesters said they believed Pride had moved away from its campaigning roots and become too commercialised.

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Extinction Rebellion London protests: Demonstrators block Oxford Circus as pink table re-erected

Extinction Rebellion protesters descended on Oxford Circus, where they blocked traffic with a giant pink table, danced peacefully and heard speeches, as climate demonstrations in London continue. Earlier, the environmental movement gathered outside the Brazilian embassy to protest deforestation and attacks on indigenous people on the third day of its Impossible Rebellion protests in the capital, due to last for two weeks. XR is aiming to disrupt “business as usual” in London with its latest set of demonstrations as the climate crisis unfolds

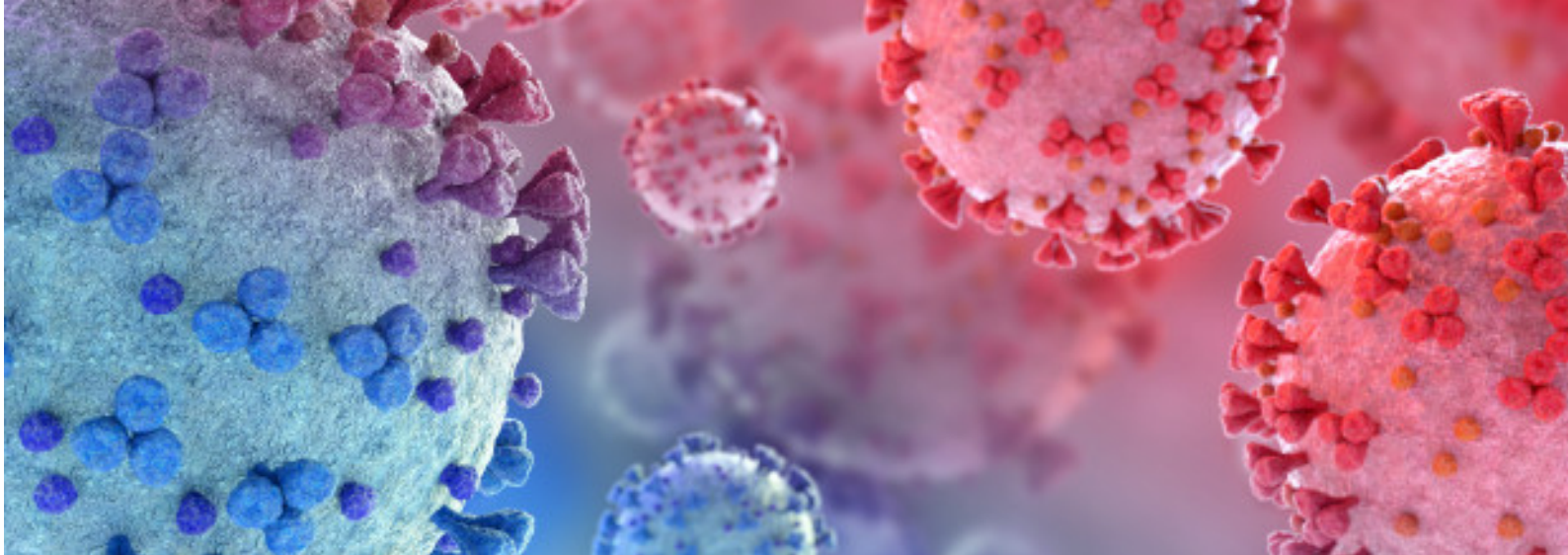


Morrisons employee leads nationwide protests claiming supermarket sells ‘Frankenchickens’



Protests have been held at more than a dozen Morrisons stores amid allegations the supermarket chain sells “Frankenchickens”. The demonstrations were spearheaded by one of the supermarket’s own employees, Doug Maw, who says he is facing disciplinary action for taking part in the animal welfare campaign.

It comes after charity Open Cages earlier this month released video footage claiming to show images of fast-growing birds deformed and dying on four intensive chicken farms run by one of Morrisons’ main suppliers.



Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News

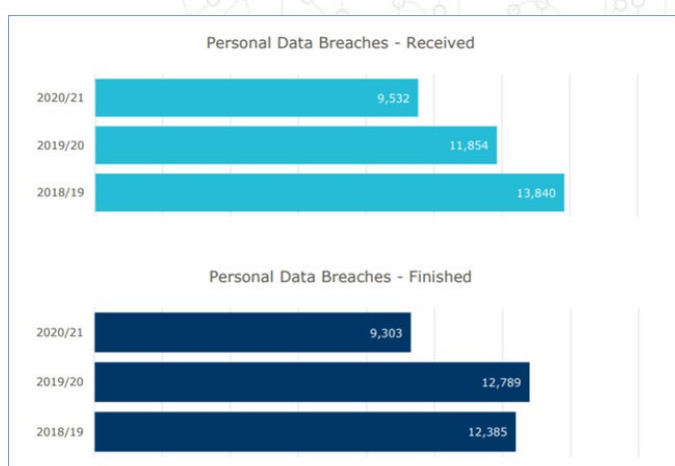
COVID-19 fraudster jailed for 22 months over cyber scam

A COVID-19 text scammer has been jailed for 22 months for using fake digital messages to trick people into providing personal banking details. Abdisalaam Dahir, aged 20, previously pleaded guilty at the Inner London Crown Court to charges of fraud by false representation, possessing articles for use in fraud and money laundering. Based on the average loss to victims of phishing fraud and the number of victims' personal details found in the defendant's possession, the estimated potential loss was £185,265.76.



Dahir had been sending out bulk text messages to members of the public claiming to be from various well-known organisations. The victims were directed to fake websites where they were then asked for personal financial information, including their banking details.

Data breaches reported to ICO fall by 20% due to COVID-19



The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has reported a 20% drop in personal data breach reports from 11,854 in the 2019-2020 financial year down to 9,532 in the most recent financial year (FY 2020-2021). These figures have been published in the ICO's Annual Report and subsequently analysed by the Parliament Street Think Tank. The report cites the COVID-19 pandemic as the primary reason for this tailing off, while also mentioning that the introduction of mandatory breach

reporting in sectors that handle large volumes of personal data has also contributed to the downward trend in personal data breaches reported to the ICO.



Furloughed port and airport staff “could be exploited by crime gangs”



The National Crime Agency has issued an alert to furloughed port and airport workers warning that 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-enforced restrictions.

Assaults on police officers top 100 per day during COVID pandemic

A sharp rise in the number of assaults on police officers over the pandemic has been



condemned by the Police Federation of England and Wales. The Home Office recently released its latest set of assault figures covering the period from March last year (when the pandemic began) up to March 2021. It appears that the number of attacks against police officers has soared by 22%. Across the 43 forces serving England and Wales, there were almost 37,000 assaults. That figure equates to just over 100 episodes per day. More than half of these (ie 25,734) were crimes of “assault without

injury on a constable” which is thought to be due to offenders ‘weaponising’ COVID-19 by spitting and coughing.

