

**SECURITY
INTELLIGENCE
UPDATE**
NOV 2021

UK Threat Level: **SEVERE**



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	20
Demonstrations held / planned	24
Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News	25

About Us

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

Intelligence led security

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

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



Disclaimer

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

United Kingdom's National Security Threat



Introduction

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

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

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

The exception is transport which continues to face enduringly high levels of threat from international terrorism. In addition, the emergency services and defence sectors, specifically police and military personnel, also face a high level of threat from both international terrorism and dissident republic groups

in Northern Ireland, for whom they are a priority target for attack.

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

United Kingdom's Threat Definitions

International terrorism



Northern Ireland-related terrorism

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

Domestic extremism

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

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

Cyber

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

Cyberspace lies at the heart of modern society; it impacts our personal lives, our businesses



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

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

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

Espionage

The potential impact of successful State-sponsored espionage against the UK is both wide reaching and significant. The threat of espionage (spying) did not end with the collapse of Soviet communism in the early 1990s. Espionage against UK interests continues and is potentially very damaging. Several foreign intelligence services (FIS) seek to gather intelligence on a broad range of subjects, including foreign policy, defence, financial, technological, industrial and commercial interests.

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

Serious and Organised Crime

Serious and organised crime is defined in the 2018 Serious and Organised Crime Strategy as individuals planning, coordinating, and committing serious offences, whether individually, in groups and/or as part of transnational networks.

The main categories of serious offences covered by the term are:

- child sexual abuse
- modern slavery and human trafficking
- organised immigration crime
- illegal drugs
- illegal firearms
- organised acquisitive crime
- cybercrime
- fraud
- money laundering, bribery, corruption and sanctions evasion.

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/>



United Kingdom Current Threat Levels

Introduction

Members of the public should always remain alert to the danger of terrorism and **report any suspicious activity to the police on 999** or the **anti-terrorist hotline: 0800 789 321**. If your information does not relate to an imminent threat, you can also contact them at <https://www.mi5.gov.uk/contact-us>

What the threat levels mean

Threat levels are designed to give a broad indication of the likelihood of a terrorist attack.

LOW

- Means an attack is unlikely

MODERATE

- Means an attack is possible, but not likely

SUBSTANTIAL

- Means an attack is likely

SEVERE

- Means an attack is highly likely in the near future

CRITICAL

- Means an attack is highly likely in the near future

Current national terrorism threat levels

The threat to the UK (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) from terrorism is **SEVERE**.

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

mained consistently extremely high.



Open-Source Security Incident News

Derbyshire company director fined for security licence infringement

Mark Longden from the High Peaks area pleaded guilty to a criminal offence at Derby Magistrates' Court for failing to provide information to the Security Industry Authority (SIA) when requested. The court fined Longden £200. He must also pay £500 court costs and a victim surcharge of £34.60. The SIA brought the prosecution, which took place after Longden failed to appear in court in May when a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Terrorists who plan mass killings to face tougher sentences under new guidance



Terrorists who plan attacks that could lead to many deaths may face at least 14 years in prison under new sentencing guidelines. The Sentencing Council set out proposed guidance to judges on how they should apply the new mandatory minimum jail term which became law earlier this year. The Counterterrorism and Sentencing Act 2021 created a new category of "serious terrorist offences" amid concerns offenders convicted of planning attacks were receiving relatively light sentences.

Police must now check medical history before issuing firearms licences

Medical history will now need to be checked before someone gets a gun licence, as the Government looks to tighten laws following the Plymouth shooting. Five people were killed as Jake Davison launched his rampage before turning the gun on himself. The killing led to questions about how the 22-year-old was allowed to get a licence after he received mental health support during lockdown, and easy-to-find social media posts suggested an obsession with "incel" culture and firearms. All applications will need a medical document from November 1, signed by a registered, practising doctor.



Police probe multiple reports of 'injection spiking' in Brighton



Six reports of women being injected while on nights out in Brighton are being investigated by detectives.

Brighton's police chief said the reports are being taken "incredibly seriously" and called for any possible victims of spiking to let police or bar staff know as soon as possible. The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) said there have been 198 confirmed reports of drink spiking in September and October across various parts of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, plus 24 reports of some form of injection.

Molly-Mae Hague and Tommy Fury 'victims of £800k burglary at Manchester flat'

Love Island stars Molly-Mae Hague and Tommy Fury were reportedly victims of a burglary after an "experienced gang" robbed their Manchester home of £800,000 worth of goods. The reality stars, who rose to fame after coming second on ITV's Love Island in 2019, were at an event in London when the alleged burglary took place.

Man sentenced for sending threatening email to Labour deputy leader Angela Rayner



A man has been handed a suspended sentence for sending deputy Labour leader Angela Rayner a threatening email. Benjamin Iliffe, 36, from Cambridgeshire, was sentenced at Huntingdon Magistrates' Court to 15 weeks in prison suspended for 18 months after admitting sending the email. Ms Rayner has received numerous abusive and threatening phone calls, emails, and letters in recent weeks.

Met detective charged with multiple child sex offences



A serving Metropolitan Police officer has been charged with multiple child sex offences, including grooming, and meeting a girl under the age of 16. Detective Constable Francois Olwage, 51, who is attached to Specialist Operations, was arrested at an address in Basingstoke. He was charged with four offences including attempting to engage in sexual communication with a child, attempting

to incite a girl aged 13 to 15 to engage in sexual activity, arranging/facilitating the commission of a child sex offence and meeting a girl under 16 years of age following grooming. Appearing at Basingstoke Magistrates' Court, Olwage spoke only to confirm his name and date of birth. Prosecutors say the alleged offences occurred between October 14 and 28 this year and not guilty pleas have been indicated on all counts. A further hearing will take place at Winchester Crown Court on December 1.

Teenager arrested after swastikas sprayed on walls near London synagogue

A 16-year-old boy has been arrested after swastikas were sprayed on the walls near a synagogue. The teenager is in police custody on suspicion of religiously aggravated criminal damage after the incident in north-west London. The Metropolitan Police said officers were alerted to reports of someone spraying the symbols near a synagogue in Belsize Square, Camden.

Nine arrested after five men stabbed in street brawl



Labour Party members' data hit by cyber incident



The Labour Party has been affected by a "cyber incident" involving its members' data. Labour said it was told that it had been affected by the event by a third-party firm that handled membership data on its behalf. As a result, "a significant quantity" of party data was "rendered inaccessible on their systems". The Information Commissioner's Office and National Cyber Security Centre are both looking into the incident.

COP26 security warning

More than 800 potential terrorists are being closely monitored for any sign they could attack COP26, a military intelligence expert has warned. Former colonel Philip Ingram says the Glasgow climate change conference will be a "very ripe target" for terrorists with "high potential" for an attack.

Major security alert sparked after gun and knife found in guard's belongings



A major security alert was sparked at COP26 after a gun and knife were found stashed in a security guard's belongings. The weapons were seized by cops on Tuesday close to a cruise liner housing hundreds of staff recruited to help protect world leaders. The discovery comes on the eve of the global summit and raises serious questions over vetting of security staff. The weapons were found hidden in the belongings of civilian staff recruited to guard the summit's key

locations in Glasgow.

Up to 1,700 have been drafted in for the climate talks which will be attended by 120 world leaders. A shocked insider said police had carried out further searches of security staff and recovered other items, including knuckle-dusters and drugs. The former military man was among 30 who walked in protest at the "shocking" lapses and discovery of the gun and knife.

Teen thugs jailed for 42 years after unleashing drug gang terror



Four teens have been jailed for a total of 42 years after unleashing a campaign of terror that included cutting off the nose and two fingers of a rival. Isaac Wallace Greaves and Kai Henry Smith, both 18, Kobi Nelson, 19, and 17-year-old Harley Kavanagh robbed other dealers of their drugs and money over a nine-month period, often in front of families and children.

Asda security guard tells how he tackled 'knifeman'



An Asda security guard has today told how he tackled a knifeman who "threatened to kill shoppers". Danny Anderson, 32, knocked the alleged attacker out cold before dragging him from the store and dumping him outside as horrified shoppers watched. Danny was only two hours into his shift which earns him £9-an-hour when the drama unfolded in front of horrified shoppers.

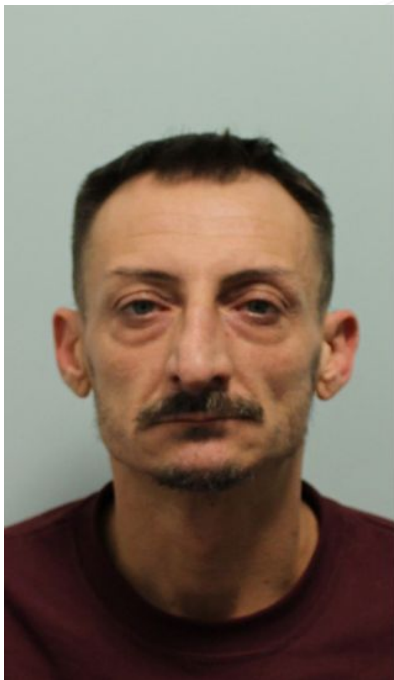
Man who 'idolised mass murderers' convicted of terrorism offences



A 24-year-old man who idolised mass murderers in Norway and New Zealand has been convicted of two terrorism offences by a Scottish court after a two-week trial.

Sam Imrie, a recluse from Glenrothes, posted messages on social media which glorified the terrorist attacks carried out in Christchurch in 2019 and on the Norwegian island of Utoya in 2011.

Man admits full role in £26m celebrity heists



An Italian man has pleaded guilty to all charges relating to a £26m series of burglaries that targeted the luxury homes of celebrities in west London. Jugoslav Jovanovic previously admitted to conspiring to burgle the homes of Frank Lampard, F1 heiress Tamara Ecclestone and the family of the late Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, in 2019. Jovanovic was due to go on trial at Isleworth Crown Court over conspiracy to launder stolen goods out of the UK. He has now changed his plea to guilty. The Crown Prosecution Service said the £25m burglary alone on Ms Ecclestone's Kensington mansion was believed to be the biggest of its kind in English legal history.

Manchester Arena bombing: MI5 officer accepts 'different actions could have stopped plot'

A senior MI5 officer has accepted that stopping and questioning the Manchester Arena terrorist, Salman Abedi, when he returned to the UK from Libya could have led police to the bomb. The inquiry being held into the atrocity, which killed 22 concertgoers and injured hundreds of others, was hearing evidence from an intelligence officer given the pseudonym Witness J. Visible only to lawyers and inquiry chair Sir John Saunders, Witness J said it was conceivable that different actions would have prevented Abedi carrying out the plot.

Lincolnshire boy has £2m of cryptocurrency seized by police



A boy who set up a fake website as part of a "sophisticated cyber fraud" has had more than £2m of cryptocurrency seized by police. The 17-year-old, who cannot be named for legal reasons, used it to dupe users of a digital gift voucher site into entering their personal details. He stole £6,500 worth of vouchers and used the proceeds to buy Bitcoins, Lincoln Crown Court heard. The teenager was handed a 12-month rehabilitation order.

SEPA cyber attack

Hackers responsible for a cyber-attack on Scotland's environmental watchdog tried to sabotage efforts to fix the problem, a new report has revealed. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) had more than 4,000 digital files stolen in the incident. A review said the Christmas Eve attack displayed "significant stealth and malicious sophistication". But it has also been revealed SEPA's cyber incident response plan was inaccessible during the incident.



This was because the report - along with the watchdog's disaster recovery plan - was stored on the servers affected by the attack and there was no offline version or hard copy available, according to independent consultants Azets.

Gloucestershire Police 'failing' at investigation and victim support



A police force has been graded "inadequate" in five out of 10 key performance indicators in a new report. Gloucestershire Police was found to be failing in victim support and how it investigates crimes. Domestic abuse crimes were also "of particular concern" with 77% of a sample of 30 cases closed due to lack of evidence or victims withdrawing.

Chief Constable Rod Hansen said the report was only a "partial picture" of its work. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and

Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) said other areas of concern were the force's recording of crime data and spending.

In the year ending 30 September 2020, Gloucestershire Police flagged repeat callers in 412 incidents - equivalent to less than three in every 1,000 incidents and below the average across other forces, inspectors found.

Manchester Arena attack: Man arrested at airport is bailed

A man who was arrested on suspicion of terror offences in connection with the Manchester Arena attack has been released on bail. Twenty-two people were killed when Salman Abedi detonated a suicide bomb at the end of a concert on 22 May 2017.



A 24-year-old man, from Manchester, was arrested at the city's airport after he arrived back in the UK. He was held on suspicion of engaging in the preparation of acts of terrorism or assisting others to prepare. Greater Manchester Police said the man, from Fallowfield, has been since been released on bail pending further enquiries.

Ofcom asks phone networks to block foreign scam calls



Major phone networks have agreed to automatically block almost all internet calls coming from abroad if they pretend to be from UK numbers, Ofcom has confirmed. Criminals have been using internet-based calling technology to make it look like a phone call or text is coming from a real telephone number.

Almost 45 million consumers were targeted by phone scams this summer. Ofcom said it expected the measures to be introduced at pace as a "priority".

So far, only one operator - TalkTalk - has implemented the new plans. Other phone networks are still exploring methods of making it work.

Black Country Bouncer shortage as Brexit and recruitment problems hit

A nationwide shortage of bouncers and security staff has affected businesses in the Black Country. The lack of security personnel comes at a time when hospitality businesses are being hit by rising costs alongside trying to recover from premises being forced to close during the pandemic. Pete Jordan, director of Sandwell's MADE Festival, said because of security shortages and a historic rise in coronavirus cases, he could only allow 15,000 people to attend, rather than the usual 30,000.

Threat against MPs raised to substantial

The terror threat level currently facing MPs has been raised from "moderate" to "substantial" following a review, the government has announced. Home Secretary Priti Patel told the Commons that police and intelligence services would "properly" reflect the change in their security arrangements. But she added there was no information on "any credible or specific threat". The announcement comes after Conservative MP Sir David Amess was killed in his constituency.

Nearly 1,500 arrests in county lines drug dealing crackdown

Nearly 1,500 people have been arrested in England and Wales in a week-long operation against so-called county lines drug dealing networks. Police say they have started focusing on senior figures controlling phone numbers used to sell drugs. Officers are also using modern slavery and human trafficking laws to prosecute gangs exploiting vulnerable children. Some 139 county lines were closed, and almost £2m of Class A drugs, including cocaine and heroin, seized. County line gangs are urban drug dealers who sell to customers in more rural areas via dedicated phone lines.



They have become central to the trade in illegal substances across Britain and the way they operate is often accompanied by serious violence. Gangs in cities operate phone lines advertised in other towns and rural areas to supply drugs, while remaining at arm's length to reduce the risk of arrest.

Man, critical after attack on east London night bus



A man is being treated in hospital with life-threatening injuries after being stabbed on a night bus in east London. The 34-year-old victim was found suffering stab wounds on board a Route N25 bus outside Mile End Tube station. The Met Police said he remains in a critical condition. Two other men, aged 34 and 22, were treated for slash injuries which are not thought to be life-threatening. All three men were taken to hospital, London Ambulance Service said. A 34-year-old man was arrested at

the scene on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm, the Met said.

Calls for nightclub searches after Nottingham needle spiking reports



A petition calling for compulsory searches at nightclubs has been signed by more than 100,000 people after a number of reported spikings by needle. One student, who believes she was injected in a Nottingham club, said she felt "vulnerable" and "violated".

Nottinghamshire Police confirmed it was looking into reports of people being "spiked physically". About 130,000 people have signed a petition asking the government to make searching guests a legal requirement. The area

with the highest number of signatures is Nottingham, particularly the parts of the city popular with students.

NI MPs contacted by police over security after Sir David Amess killing



MPs in Northern Ireland have been contacted by the Police Service of Northern Ireland's chief constable following the killing of Sir David Amess. The Conservative MP died after being stabbed at his constituency surgery in Essex. His death has raised fresh concerns over the safety of politicians.

Justice Minister Naomi Long said Simon Byrne had contacted MPs to discuss their security. Meanwhile police confirmed they were contacted after a group of anti-vaccine protestors turned up at Infrastructure Minister Nichola Mallon's constituency office, as first reported by the Sunday Independent. The SDLP deputy leader told BBC News NI her staff were "harassed".

Residents evacuated from homes after security alert

A security alert in Carrickfergus, County Antrim saw a number of homes being evacuated after a suspicious object was discovered on Hawthorne Avenue, in the Woodburn Road area, close to the town centre. The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) attended the scene but "nothing untoward was located".

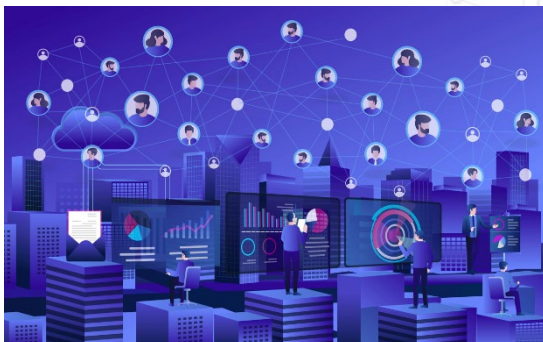
Cambridge University pauses £400m UAE deal over spyware claim



The University of Cambridge has paused a proposed £400m partnership with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) due to the alleged use of Pegasus spyware, its vice-chancellor said. Last week, the High Court found the ruler of Dubai ordered the hacking of the phone of his ex-wife. In July, the university said it was in talks with the UAE about a potential partnership. Prof Stephen Toope, Cambridge's vice-chancellor, said it was now "on hold".

Speaking into the university's student newspaper Varsity, he said: "The revelations about Pegasus caused us to decide that it's not the right time to be pursuing these kinds of really ambitious plans with the UAE."

New database launched to counter extremism



A new global counter-extremism database has been launched in London.

The EMAN Network, standing for Extremist Monitoring Analysis Network aims to "combat hate speech and extremist ideologies by profiling radical individuals and organisations of all faiths".

Far-right extremists, anti-Semitic tweeters and those who propagate a violent interpretation of

Islam and other religions, are all profiled in EMAN's database which currently holds around 150 entries.

Each entry lists the actions or words of the alleged disseminators of hate speech that has brought them to the attention of the researchers, backed up in some cases with videos of their sermons. Even the former LBC broadcaster Katie Hopkins is included for her defamatory remarks about Muslims. So too are some obscure Sri Lankan and Burmese Buddhists.

Tesco trialling security barriers on booze aisle to cut down on thefts

Security barriers are being trialled in a Tesco booze aisle to cut down on thefts. The doors can be set to retract automatically as customers approach or require staff with a key card to open them. It means any suspect shoppers would be supervised buying their goods. And the barriers can be left locked when it's quiet or there are fewer staff to monitor the aisle. A supermarket source told The Sun: "It is quite an extreme method to cut down on theft but a very effective one. "They are a bleak sign of the times but will save Tesco a fortune."



The barriers are only in the Tesco Extra store in Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, but could be rolled out further. Sources said shoplifters have taken advantage of the store's lower staffing levels at night to steal.

Right-wing terrorism suspects deny 3D-printed firearm charges



Two men and a woman who were arrested as part of an investigation into right-wing terrorism have denied possessing components of a 3D-printed firearm. The three people, from Keighley, West Yorkshire, appeared at the Old Bailey charged with terror offences along with a fourth defendant from Anglesey. The four were arrested at homes in West Yorkshire, North Wales, and Wiltshire. Appearing in

court via video link, they entered not guilty pleas.

Daniel Wright, 29, Liam Hall, 30, and Stacey Salmon, 28, deny possession of components of a 3D-printed firearm for terrorist purposes.

All the offences are alleged to have taken place between January and May, with all three, plus fourth defendant Samuel Whibley, 28, remanded in custody. They are due to go on trial in January at Sheffield Crown Court. On firearms charges.

Man charged with Crawley kidnap and police impersonation



A chef has been charged after a teenage girl was approached by a stranger in a Hi-Viz jacket who stopped and searched her before cycling off. It happened in Three Bridges, Crawley, West Sussex, when the 14-year-old was on her way to school.

David Peter Young, 32, of Garton Close, Ifield, faces charges including kidnap and impersonating a police officer. He was remanded in custody and was due to appear at

Brighton Magistrates' Court. Mr Young has been charged with kidnap with intent to commit a relevant sexual offence, kidnap, impersonating a police officer and two breaches of a sexual harm prevention order. Sussex Police said the girl was unharmed and receiving support.

Shocking moment teens hack each other with machetes at Manchester tram station

Three hooded thugs were seen attacking a teenager on the ground as they swing their weapons and rain blows on their victim in Radcliffe, Greater Manchester. A 15-year-old boy was rushed to hospital suffering a deep cut to his head following the chilling assault. Cops had been called to reports of two gangs of youths fighting in Radcliffe Metrolink station.

Police said the attackers wearing grey hoodies carried out the terrifying assault with a "sharp weapon" during a "targeted incident".

Shocking footage posted on social media shows them chopping, kicking, and punching the teen as he lay helpless on the ground. Three 15-year-old boys were arrested nearby on Belgrave Street a short time later on suspicion of assault and remain in custody for questioning.

Ali Harbi Ali charged with murder of MP



A 25-year-old man has been charged with murder and the preparation of terrorist acts after the fatal stabbing of MP Sir David Amess.

Ali Harbi Ali was arrested following the attack at a constituency surgery in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. Sir David, a Conservative MP since 1983, suffered multiple stab wounds and died at the scene.

Mr Ali is a British man whose father is a former adviser to Somalia's prime minister. Nick Price, from the Crown Prosecution Service, said: "We will submit to the court that this murder has a terrorist connection, namely that it had both religious and ideological motivations."

Drink spiking at house parties 'big concern' for police

Drink spiking incidents at house parties have become the "biggest concern" for lead police officers tackling the crime in England. "You naturally assume everybody there knows everybody so you can wrongly think it's a safe environment," says Sgt Dave Moore.

A charity says it's seeing an anecdotal rise of cases in spiking in places that don't have CCTV or security staff. The symptoms of drink spiking are often similar to being drunk, and include slurred speech, dizziness, drowsiness, sickness, headaches, confusion and passing out.



Shoppers start to use new £100 contactless payment limit



The spending limit on each use of a contactless card has now risen from £45 to £100. But not every shop will accept the new payment threshold. Retailers say it could take months to update terminals before every shopper can spend up to £100, without the need to enter a four-digit Pin. The move aims to make purchases such as grocery shopping more convenient. But some warn it could lead to a rise in theft and one bank boss questioned whether shoppers want a higher limit.

Some 60% of debit and credit card transactions in the UK were contactless in the first seven months of the year. These accounted for a total of 6.6 billion payments with a value of £81bn.

Arrests over 'lookalike' fraudulent passports



Ten people in London and Kent have been arrested on suspicion of supplying fraudulent passports to more than 100 high-level organised criminals. Early-morning raids in South London, Kent, Essex, and Merseyside followed an international police investigation. The gang is accused of supplying passports to clients including jailed drug dealer Jamie Acourt, a suspect in the murder of Stephen Lawrence. Those arrested are suspected of using paid "lookalikes" to obtain passports.

The National Crime Agency (NCA) said the gang used the "lookalikes" to apply for legitimate replacement passports, but using a criminal's photo, rather than their own.



Security Industry News

The Scottish Business Resilience Centre (SBRC) App

The Scottish Business Resilience Centre (SBRC) has launched an app. It's to provide advice for businesses to do all they can to stay safe – online and offline. Through targeted push notifications, businesses that download the app will be informed of threats to their operations whether from cyber threats, traffic, and protestor activity, and be given sector-specific guidance.

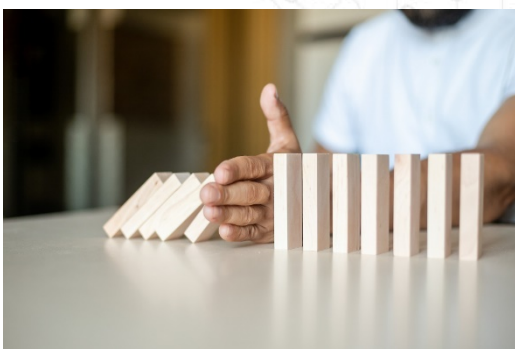


The app, as developed with support from the Scottish Government, will be especially beneficial says SBRC for businesses which have heightened concerns around cyber-attacks and other threats to business, as the COP26 climate change summit in Glasgow approaches. It will provide notifications coded into red, amber, and green levels of priority to better inform businesses and allow them to distinguish which alerts will require immediate

action and those that will require monitoring.

Role of business continuity managers “becoming more strategic”

According to the new Business Continuity Institute (BCI) report entitled ‘The Future of Business Continuity and Resilience’, the role of the business continuity manager has now become more strategic than operational within today’s organisations. While continuity of operations remains the core focus for professionals, senior management have been showcased the knowledge and expertise of business continuity teams throughout the pandemic and are now seen as the cornerstone of building a more resilient organisation post-pandemic. Read the BCI’s report entitled ‘The



Future of Business Continuity and Resilience’ <https://www.thebci.org/resource/bci-the-future-of-business-continuity-and-resilience--the-emerging-landscape-report-2021-.html>



SIA on Manchester Arena Inquiry

manchester arena inquiry

While the Manchester Arena Inquiry, that began in September 2020, has yet to finish and public a final report, in the summer its wide-ranging first report covered security at the Arena on and before the night of May 22, 2017. The report took in the Arena itself, its crowd management and stewarding contractor Showsec, and police (British Transport and Greater Manchester forces), and the regulator the Security Industry Authority.

The SIA has published an interim update on its work on the points raised by that first report. Consec, the annual conference of the Association of Security Consultants (coincidentally hosted by a retired SIA chief, Bill Butler), is due to devote its afternoon to the Inquiry, and the Protect duty that is likely to become law after the Inquiry ends, as the Home Office's response. Consec on Thursday will hear from Paul Greaney QC, counsel to the Inquiry.

Safer Streets cash



Some £23.5m has been given out by the Home Office in the third round of its Safer Streets Fund, covering England and Wales. The Government sought bids slanted towards women's and girls' safety, after the outcry over the murder of Sarah Everard in March, and other high-profile cases of violence. For a list of the winning, mainly high six-figure, bids, visit the Home

Office website. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/police-local-authoritiesgiven-extra-235m-for-safer-streets>

Door staff shortages 'becoming critical'

Door security staff shortages in the night-time economy are becoming critical, says Michael Kill, CEO of the trade body the Night Time Industries Association (NTIA). He said that the association carried out a survey a few months ago which found that security resource in the sector was only at 70 per cent, 'and I am afraid that the situation has only deteriorated further'. He said: "Whether it is through acting as a first line of defence against a terrorist attack, or intervening to break up violent incidents, licensed security staff are fundamental to public safety. The current shortages are beginning to put the public in real jeopardy."

Drink spiking advice

All pub and club staff should be aware of their responsibility for customers, who should stay alert, look after each other and not leave drinks unattended. That's the advice after concerns over drink spiking and customers being injected with muscle relaxants at venues.

Former policeman Mark Morgan runs the new Licensing Security and Vulnerability Initiative, covering England and Wales, at the request of the Home Office by Police Crime Prevention Initiatives (Police CPI), a police-owned body. The Licensing SAVI self-assessment includes drink spiking and the use of 'date rape drugs' in licensed venues and gives advice on reducing risk. <https://licensingssavi.com/>

CPNI guidance on deterring hostile reconnaissance

Places of worship offer support to the vulnerable and a place for the community. The very spirit of religious venues and events make them open and welcoming. However, this spirit and the beliefs that these venues and events represent make them attractive targets for people seeking to undertake crime, says the UK official CPNI (Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure) in its new guidance for 'religious establishments'.



Religious groups regularly publish detailed information about their venues and events which, while useful for their congregation and community, can also be useful for another audience – those wishing to undertake a hostile act against their venue, event, or people. These acts could range from petty crime, such as theft, to ideologically, religiously, or politically motivated acts, such as terrorism.

The new guidance is for all those who have contact with the public; the more interaction a member of clergy, staff or volunteer has with the public, the more opportunity they have to inadvertently provide information that would be useful to a hostile, says CPNI. Small changes to noticeboards, social media posts, leaflets and posters can make a big difference to the security of an organisation, venue, or event, it suggests.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-for-religious-establishments>

National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC)

The NCSC supports the most critical organisations in the UK, the wider public sector, industry,



National Cyber Security Centre

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-1st-october-2021>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-8th-october-2021>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-15th-october-2021>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-22nd-october-2021>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-29th-october-2021>



Demonstrations held / planned

Insulate Britain declares M25 'site of non-violent civil resistance'



Insulate Britain has declared the M25 a "site of non-violent civil resistance" and called for motorists to keep to 20mph on the motorway or avoid it altogether, after a new injunction banned the group from major roads across England. It comes after Grant Shapps, the transport secretary, announced that England's roads agency, National Highways, had obtained an injunction banning the group

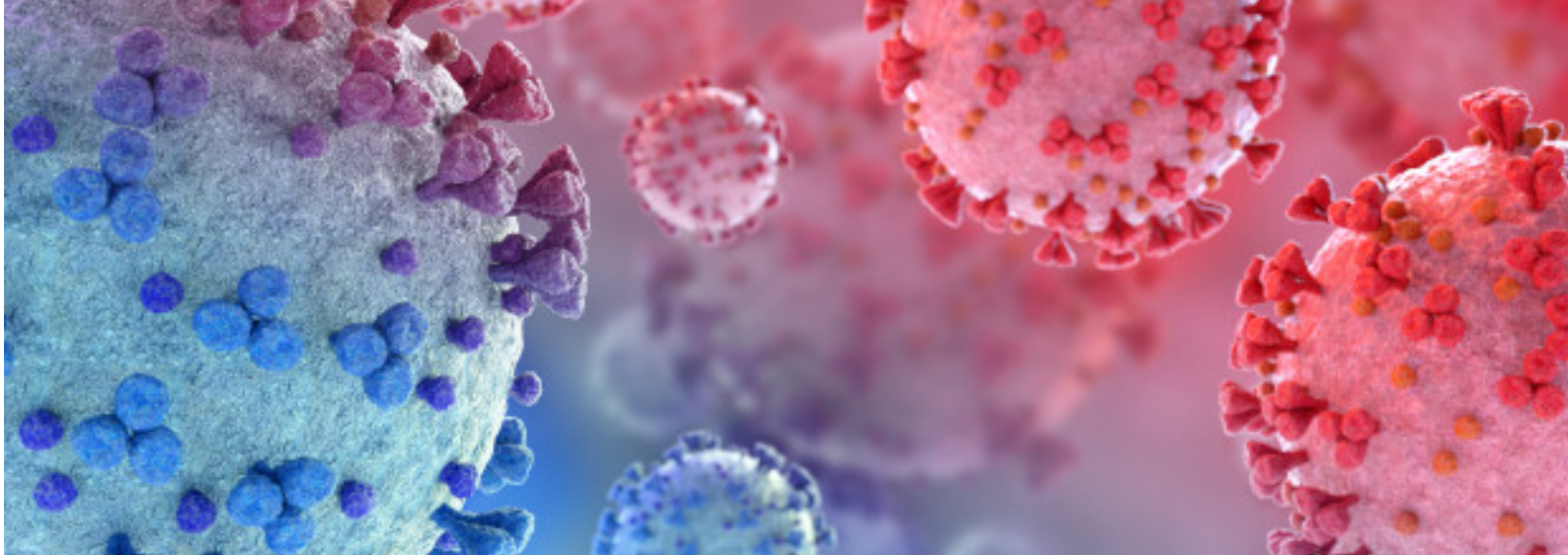
from protesting across England's "entire strategic road network".

Climate activists 'occupy' Science Museum over fossil fuel sponsorship



Youth climate activists have "occupied" London's Science Museum in protest at its sponsorship deals with fossil fuel companies. Members of the London branch of the UK Student Climate Network (UKSCN London) said they were holding a candlelight vigil at the famous landmark on Tuesday evening for "the victims of the museum's fossil fuel sponsors: Shell, BP, Equinor and Adani".

The group planned to stay overnight, sharing photos on Twitter showing sleeping bags rolled out in the museum's Kensington building. The Metropolitan police said officers were in attendance and that no arrests had been made.



Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News

SRI on security and Covid-19

Security has performed well during the Covid-19 pandemic since spring 2020: the sector has adapted, been flexible, learnt new skills, and has been recognised as 'essential'. That's among the findings of the latest piece of research by Prof Martin Gill's consultancy Perpetuity Research under the SRI (Security Research Initiative) banner.

As with previous SRI studies over the years, the study of a topic of current interest included an industry survey and more detailed interviews. The 80-page report, 'Covid-19 and the implications for the security sector: what happened and what has been and is being learned?', suggests that the status of security may have increased during the pandemic, but not necessarily in comparison with other functions. And that appreciation for security may start to fade when we enter a 'new normal'.

