



**SECURITY
INTELLIGENCE
UPDATE**
DEC 2021

UK Threat Level: **SEVERE**



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About Us

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

Intelligence led security

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

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



Disclaimer

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

United Kingdom's National Security Threat



Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

United Kingdom's Threat Definitions

International terrorism



International terrorism from groups such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al Qaida present a threat from many others. They hold territory in places without functioning governments, making it easier for them to train recruits and plan complex, sophisticated attacks. Drawing on extreme interpretations of Islam to justify their actions, these groups often have the desire and capability to direct terrorist attacks against the West, and to inspire those already living there to carry out attacks of their own.

Northern Ireland-related terrorism

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

Domestic extremism

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

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

Cyber

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



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

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

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

Espionage

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

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

Serious and Organised Crime

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

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

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

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



United Kingdom Current Threat Levels

Introduction

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

What the threat levels mean

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

LOW

- Means an attack is unlikely

MODERATE

- Means an attack is possible, but not likely

SUBSTANTIAL

- Means an attack is likely

SEVERE

- Means an attack is highly likely in the near future

CRITICAL

- Means an attack is highly likely in the near future

Current national terrorism threat levels

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

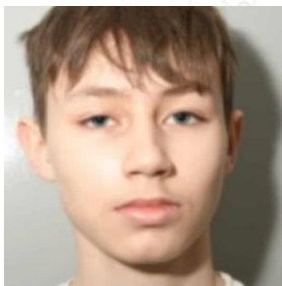
The threat to Northern Ireland from Northern Ireland-related terrorism is **SEVERE**.

remained consistently extremely high.



Open-Source Security Incident News

Teenager stabbed and tried to behead 12-year-old friend in 'brutal and horrific' murder



Marcel Grzeszcz Photo:
Lincolnshire police/PA

A teenager who murdered and tried to behead his 12-year-old friend after luring him to woodland has been jailed. Marcel Grzeszcz, 15, was given a minimum of 16 years and 36 days after stabbing Roberts Buncis "in excess of 70 times" in Fishtoft, near Boston in Lincolnshire. One of Roberts' wounds was "consistent with a decapitation attempt" and attempts had been made to amputate his hand, Lincoln Crown Court heard.

Man, smashes car into police station and starts fire in road



Adam Pawlowski, of Bury Street, Enfield, trying to light Edmonton Police Station on fire. Picture: Met Police.

A major police incident was declared after Adam Pawlowski, 46, of Bury Street, Enfield, drove his car into the doors of Edmonton Police Station. He then deliberately revved the engine and filled the front office with smoke. After that, Pawlowski got out of the car and threw petrol on the front office, as well as the pavement and road behind. The police arrived as he set it alight, and he was arrested shortly after a member of the public apprehended him. Officers from the Metropolitan Police extinguished the fire. No one

was injured and the damage to the building was not serious, according to police, although it was evacuated as a precaution.

Lorry driver jailed after £1.6 million of cocaine found in reels of cord

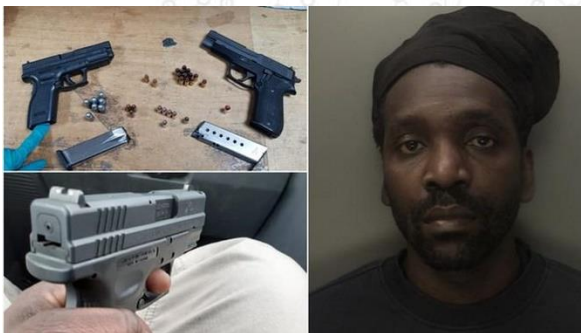


anomaly in the load.

A Croatian lorry driver has been jailed for six years after attempting to smuggle 20 kilos of cocaine into the UK. The National Crime Agency launched an investigation into Predrag Gogic, 53, from Vukovar, Croatia, after he was stopped at Dover's Eastern Docks in May 2021. Border Force officers scanned his HGV, which had arrived from Belgium, and detected an

Within the trailer, they discovered blue and green shrink-wrapped packages in the centre of reels of paper cord. This was found to be a total of 20 packages of cocaine. NCA forensic experts believe the drugs would have been worth an estimated £1.6 million once cut and sold on the streets of the UK. He was sentenced to six years in prison at Canterbury Crown Court after pleading guilty to attempting to import Class A drugs at an earlier hearing.

Midlands trio jailed for launching mail order gun service



which had been concealed in an electronic safe in a package labelled as car parts, sent from Orlando, Florida.

Three men have been jailed for a total of 35 years for importing illegal firearms and ammunition into the UK in the post, before trying to sell them to organised criminals. The National Crime Agency launched an investigation after two semi-automatic pistols and hollow-point bullets were intercepted at a parcel hub in the Midlands on 24 January 2020. Border Force officers recovered the weapons,

Drug smugglers end up with prison sentences totalling 40 years



Officers watched as the trio had a series of clandestine meetings as the planned to import class A drugs utilising Rolls Royce-driving Wright's legitimate removals company.

Three men have been jailed for a combined 40 years, after being found guilty of plotting a £4.5 million drug smuggling venture. National Crime Agency conducted a covert investigation into the activities of Mark Youell, 64, from Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, conspired along with Alfred Rumbold, aged 65, from Orpington, Kent, and removal driver Brian Wright, 73, from Folkestone, Kent, throughout spring and summer 2020, tracing their movements and recording their

Gunman jailed as Merseyside Organised Crime Partnership marks six months of successes

A gunman who once shot himself in the foot has been jailed for four years as a specialist crime team marks six months of successes. Paul While, 32, had only been out of prison for just 30 days in September this year when he was arrested by officers from the Merseyside Organised Crime Partnership – a specialist unit comprising National Crime Agency and Merseyside Police officers. While, of Glen Way, Tower Hill, Kirkby, Liverpool, left prison where he'd been recalled after being arrested over a firearms discharge.

Huge fines and a ban on default passwords in new UK law



The government has introduced new legislation to protect smart devices in people's homes from being hacked. Recent research from consumer watchdog Which? suggested homes filled with smart devices could be exposed to more than 12,000 attacks in a single week. Default passwords for internet-connected devices will be banned, and firms which do not comply will face huge fines.

Cyber-criminals are increasingly targeting products from phones and smart TVs to home speakers and internet-connected dishwashers. Hackers who can access one vulnerable device can then go on to access entire home networks and steal personal data.

Man arrested in Essex on suspicion of terror offences



A man has been arrested on suspicion of offences linked to extreme right-wing terrorism. The 37-year-old was held in Harwich, Essex, on suspicion of the preparation or instigation of terrorist acts, police said. His arrest is part of a joint operation by the Met's Counter Terrorism Command and the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit. Police said it is not linked to the death of Sir David Amess MP. Officers are searching a house in Harwich and the man is being held at an Essex police station. There is no imminent threat to the public, police said.

MI6 must adapt to new technology to survive, says spy chief

Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, better known as MI6, must become more open in order to do its secret work effectively. That's according to its chief, Richard Moore, in his first major public speech since taking on the role in October 2020.

- Artificial Intelligence (AI), quantum computing and digital technology have combined to completely transform the way human intelligence is gathered by spies, presenting MI6 with major challenges in the digital age.

- Biometric data and facial recognition, for example, have made it far harder for intelligence officers to assume false identities in hostile countries without being recognised and exposed.

It was revealed in September that inside MI6 headquarters at Vauxhall Cross there is a real-life Q Section that works to provide Britain's spies with the latest gadgets to keep them safe and secret.

City's anti-terror 'ring of steel' could be expanded



Plans for a second, expanded, counterterrorism "ring of steel" around a World Heritage city have been revealed. The wider secure zone around Bath would be controlled by the police and cover much of the city. Last July, the council approved measures in a central, smaller, area to prevent vehicles being used as weapons. Police said the new controls would only be used in the event of a heightened threat, as a result of an incident, or during crowded events.

The proposals came to light through correspondence published by Bath and Northeast Somerset Council and a freedom of information request to Avon and Somerset Police, according to the Local Democracy Reporting Service.

Stampede at the O2



A crowd of revellers last night forced their way through the security gates smashing down security scanners and pushing past guards to watch Nigerian singer Wizkid at one of three sold-out concerts. The O2 said they are reviewing their security procedures and advised fans coming to shows this week to arrive early for security checks. People who go to watch gigs at the former Millennium Dome in North Greenwich are required to show a Covid pass to enter.

The chaotic scenes come three weeks after the deadly crush at rapper Travis Scott's two-day Astroworld festival in Texas.

Man charged over couple's murder



A man has been charged with the murders of a couple who were killed in their home as their children slept upstairs. Jennifer and Stephen Chapple were found seriously injured at the house on Dragon Rise in Norton Fitzwarren, Somerset.

Collin Reeves, 34, also of Dragon Rise, is due to appear at Taunton Magistrates' Court. A post-mortem examination confirmed the couple died from multiple stab wounds. The children, aged five and six, were unhurt and are being looked after by family members.

Londoners urged to be vigilant in crowded spaces as festive season begins



As police across London step up patrols - including dedicated counter terrorism deployments - across the Capital this festive season, officers are calling on the public to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious to them.

Following the increase in the UK's terrorism threat level last week, additional patrols are being carried out by officers from the Met, City of London Police and British Transport Police, which include both unarmed and armed police patrols focused on busy and crowded locations across London.

Hamas to be declared a terrorist group by UK

Home Secretary Priti Patel has announced she is seeking to declare the whole of Palestinian militant group Hamas a terrorist organisation. The military wing of the group which controls Gaza is already proscribed a terrorist organisation by the UK. However, the change will also cover the Islamist movement's political wing. It is a criminal offence to belong to or invite support for a proscribed organisation or wear clothing which could be seen to support the group. The penalty is a maximum of 14 years in prison and/or a fine.

A proscription order laid before Parliament will now be debated and, subject to approval, will come into force.

York's Shambles anti-terror barriers to be replaced after trader outcry



Anti-terror barriers on York's historic Shambles will be replaced following an outcry from traders. Large metal bollards, designed to protect visitors from attacks by terrorists, were put up temporarily on the street last week. Business owners on the narrow street said the barriers hindered deliveries.

New barriers, which will be easier for people with disabilities to navigate and allow for deliveries, will be installed, the council confirmed. The barriers were put in to protect pedestrians over the Christmas period when York will be most busy. However, traders criticised the council for installing barriers that are difficult to navigate and would limit their trading.

Culture secretary says social media has been hijacked



Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries has said people have become afraid to say what they think for fear of being "cancelled", and that left-wing activists have "hijacked" social media. In her first TV interview since taking the job, she said she does not plan "to charge out on a culture war battle". She criticised online campaigners for frightening young people "who actually do want to engage" in serious debate.

Gun seized 'may be linked to attacks'

A home-made gun and ammunition found by police are similar to those used in recent shooting attacks in north Antrim. Five people were arrested during searches in the Ballymoney, Limavady and Coleraine areas. Police said the searches were part of an investigation into "violent criminal activity" linked to the north Antrim UDA. A woman, aged 52, and four men, aged 38, 43, 47 and 50, remain in custody. Cash, several mobile devices, suspected illegal cigarettes, more than 50 balaclava masks and a vehicle were also seized.

UK Terror threat level raised

Following the incident in Liverpool, the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) has on (15 November) taken the decision to raise the UK National Threat Level from SUBSTANTIAL, meaning an attack is likely, to SEVERE, meaning an attack is highly likely. The decision has been driven by two terrorist incidents in the past month, reflecting the diverse, complex, and volatile nature of the terrorist threat in the UK.

Tamara Ecclestone targeted by 'ghost' gang who stole £26m of loot from celebrities



Three members of a gang who stole £26m worth of valuables from socialite Tamara Ecclestone and other celebrities have been jailed after admitting the UK's biggest-ever house burglary. Most of the loot, including diamonds, jewellery, and cash, is still missing - and so is a fourth suspect who is the subject of an international manhunt. The thieves also raided the luxury homes of retired England and Chelsea footballer Frank Lampard and the late Leicester City club owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha in the weeks before Christmas 2019.

Italians Jugoslav Jovanovic, 24, Alessandro Maltese, 45, and Alessandro Donati, 44, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to burgle. Jovanovic was jailed for 11 years, while Maltese and Donati were handed sentences of eight years and nine months.

Liverpool explosion Terrorism Act after car blast at hospital

A man who was killed outside Liverpool Women's Hospital on Remembrance Sunday when his homemade bomb went off has been identified as 32-year-old Emad Al Swealmeen. He was an asylum seeker born in Iraq who is understood to have converted to Christianity in 2017. Al Swealmeen was the passenger of the taxi destroyed in the blast. The driver, David Perry, did not suffer life-threatening injuries.

Number of migrants crossing Channel to UK tops 1,000 in new daily record



A further 1,185 people crossed the English Channel by boat to reach the UK, a new record for migrant crossings in a single day - as mild weather made the journey less risky. Four Border Force vessels intercepted boats that were spotted off the coast and escorted them into Dover. Three people are feared lost at sea as two kayaks were found adrift near Calais, French authorities said.

A Whitehall source accused France of losing control of the situation.

More than 23,000 people have made the crossing from France to the UK by boat so far this year, a sharp rise on the 8,404 in 2020 - and far more than in years before the pandemic, when most asylum seekers arrived by plane, ferry, or train.

McDonald's security guard caught on camera shouting vile racist abuse at teenager



A pair of McDonald's security guards allegedly hurled racial abuse at a man at the end of a night out in Leeds city centre. The Indian American man, 19, claims that he was called a "p****" by one of the security guards, during the fracas outside the McDonald's in Briggate. Shocking footage appears to show one of the security guards shouting at the man:

The young man from North Carolina, who wanted to remain anonymous, was left "confused and shocked" by the confrontation.

McDonald's is "fully investigating" the matter. The security guard seen shouting on camera, who works for an external company, will not be on duty at any of their restaurants during the proceedings.

Bus hijacked and set on fire by gang



A bus has been destroyed after it was hijacked and set on fire in Newtownabbey, County Antrim. It happened near Valley Leisure Centre on Church Road. Police said four men got on to the bus, ordered the passengers and the driver to get off and then set it alight. No one was injured, police said.

It is the second time in a week that a bus has been hijacked and burnt in Northern Ireland. Last Monday morning two armed, masked men boarded a bus in Newtownards, County Down, ordered the driver to leave and then set it on fire.

Walsall retail park visitors threatened by children with fake gun



Two children have been arrested after reports that visitors to a retail park were being threatened with a gun. West Midlands Police said one motorist at Reedswood Retail Park, Walsall, said he was told, "stop, give me your van". Armed officers recovered a toy gun, painted black, and a kitchen knife, which was

being carried in a rucksack. The two boys were aged 11 and 12 and the police also escorted home two other children, aged 11 and seven. West Midlands Police said there had also been a report of stones being thrown at vehicles and staff being threatened. One of the boys was arrested for possessing an imitation gun and the other for knife possession. The force said it would be speaking to their parents and referrals would be made to the local authority's children's services.

Washington teenager charged with right-wing terror attack plan



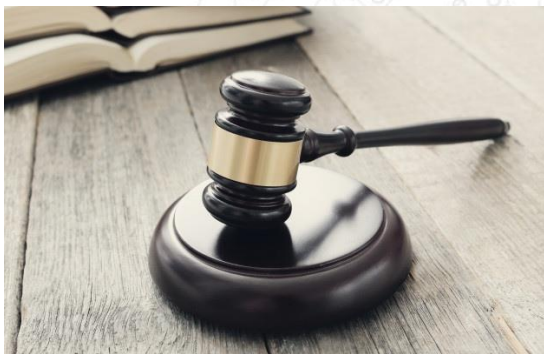
A teenager has been charged with planning an extreme right-wing terrorist attack. Luke Aaron Skelton, 18, from Washington, Sunderland, will appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court. Counter Terrorism Policing Northeast said it had charged him with preparing an act of terrorism Mr Skelton was arrested as part of a pre-planned operation against "extreme right-wing terrorism", police said.

A trial date has been set for a man accused of a far-right terror plot to target police stations and attack drag queens and Muslim sex offenders. Luke Skelton, 18, is charged with preparing to commit acts of terrorism. Mr Skelton of Oxclose, Washington, Tyne and Wear, appeared at the Old Bailey earlier and a provisional trial date was set for 3 May.



Security Industry News

North London man with a history of violence handed suspended jail sentence



Khaled Hamed of Northwest London was handed a six- month prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, at Westminster Magistrates' Court for committing fraud. The Security Industry Authority (SIA), regulator of the private security industry, brought the prosecution.

Hamed originally pleaded guilty to committing three counts of fraud at Westminster Magistrates' Court, the court ordered him to pay £500 court costs plus a victim surcharge of £115 in addition to his suspended sentence. Hamed is also subject to a three-month curfew between the hours of 7am and 7pm daily and he must wear an electronic tag. Any non-compliance will mean that Hamed will serve a jail sentence. The court heard that this was Hamed's first offence for fraud, he had convictions for three previous offences, two of which were for violence.

Hamed joined SIA approved contractor Paragon Security Group as a security guard on 01 February 2019. During the company's selection process Hamed provided a number of items to support his job application. These included a copy of a front-line door supervisor licence in his own name. When Hamed subsequently presented himself for work in Covent Garden the site supervisor realised that the licence was a counterfeit. He refused Hamed permission to enter the site and notified Paragon.

SIA and HMRC operation to check on illegal working practices in the security industry

The Security Industry Authority (SIA) and HMRC carried out joint operations in London, Bradford, and Glasgow to ensure that security staff were employed legitimately and treated fairly. Teams attended a number of venues and spoke to security operatives to check the correct taxes were being paid and to ensure they were not victims of any labour abuse.



During the course of the targeted operation 29 venues were visited and 55 checks on operatives were carried out across the three cities. Further enquiries will be made to check on payments made in cash and any further taxes due.

120-hours community service for convicted Manchester fraudster

Christopher Ogochukwu Ejime of Manchester pleaded guilty at Chester Crown Court to two counts of fraud. The court handed Ejime two concurrent 12-month Community Orders of 60 hours unpaid work and a requirement to pay a victim surcharge of £85. Ejime had pleaded not guilty to the charges at an earlier hearing at Manchester Magistrates' Court. The case follows the prosecution by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) in January of Ejime's brother-in-law, Muyiwa John Adegbola.

Ejime was found to be fraudulently using Adegbola's licence on 07 June 2019. He was discovered by SIA investigators who were carrying out routine licence checks with Cheshire Constabulary at Winslow's Resolution Bar. Ejime was working for Radius DS Ltd despite being unlicensed. Ejime told the investigators that the licence belonged to his wife's brother Muyiwa John Adegbola, and that Adegbola had given him the licence to use. He further added that he had worked on four occasions as a door supervisor using the licence.

Repeat offence by Louth security boss



Grimsby Crown Court has ordered a Lincolnshire security boss to pay more than £30,000 as the proceeds of crime after he was convicted for a second time of offences against the Private Security Industry Act (PSIA). Louth company director Trevor Frater originally pleaded guilty to supplying unlicensed security staff, while being unlicensed himself, at Grimsby Magistrates' Court in May 2021. Frater was previously convicted for supplying

unlicensed security guards in 2018 and as a result had his Security Industry Authority (SIA) licence revoked. The SIA brought both prosecutions.

On 11 November Grimsby Crown Court ordered Frater to pay £33,979.51 under a Proceeds of Crime Act confiscation order. Frater has eight weeks to pay the available amount or face a prison sentence.

The confiscation is in addition to the penalty ordered by the Crown Court at a previous hearing on 11 October. The judge sentenced Trevor Frater to a 12-month community order with an unpaid work requirement of 120 hours.

Michelle Russell appointed CEO at Security Industry Authority

Heather Baily QPM, chair of the Security Industry Authority (SIA), has announced the appointment of Michelle Russell as the private security industry regulator's full-time CEO. Russell has been serving as acting CEO of the SIA since October 2020 having joined the organisation as director of partnerships and interventions in January of the same year, subsequently leading the criminal enforcement and regulatory inspection functions.

Russell harbours over 25 years' experience of working in regulation and regulatory environments in both the public and private sectors.

Julie Barker joins AUCSO as chief operating officer



Julie Barker has been appointed to the role chief operating officer for the Association of University Chief Security Officers (AUCSO). AUCSO is the leading organisation for security professionals working in higher and further education around the world. As the former director of hospitality and accommodation services at the University of Brighton for over 25 years, lead sustainability non-executive director for CUBO and chair of The University Caterers Organisation (TUCO) for six years, Barker is a two-time winner of the highly coveted Catey Awards.

Barker also featured prominently within the Public Sector Top 20 'Most Influential' listings from 2011 through to 2016 and is a highly respected consultant to the sector.

Duo of companies fined in wake of security officer's death

Two companies have been fined following an incident where a security officer died after being found lying face down and hypothermic, in deep snow, at a remote hillside in Ayrshire.

Ayr Sheriff Court heard that, just after midnight on 22 January 2018, Ronald Alexander, a 74-year-old security officer employed by Corporate Service Management Limited, was found by Police Scotland's Mountain Rescue Team at Afton Windfarm, a remote site near New Cumnock. Alexander died later that day having never regained consciousness.



Corporate Service Management Limited's emergency plan relied on there being effective communication between the security officers and the Control Room. However, the company failed to provide this or to make sure that Northstone (NI) Ltd had provided this at the site.

Northstone (NI) Limited of Kingsway, Dunmurry in Belfast pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work, etc Act 1974 and was fined £768,000.

Corporate Service Management Limited, based at MacLellan Street in Glasgow, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work, etc Act 1974 and was fined £100,800.

UK business leaders “expect cyber threat to increase”



Almost two-thirds (i.e., 66%) of UK business leaders expect the threat from cyber criminals to increase over the next 12 months. That’s according to the latest PwC cyber security survey of business and technology executives. The findings reinforce the concerns of UK businesses about different cyber threats, as well as the potential vulnerability of their supply chains.

Over the past year, a number of prominent ransomware attacks have caused a significant impact on organisations already dealing with the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. There’s also now the added threat of Ransomware-as-a-Service in which ransomware developers lease out their malware in exchange for a share of the criminal profits. PwC’s research has discovered that 61% of UK respondents expect to see an increase in reportable ransomware incidents during the course of 2022.

Metropolitan Police Service invests £11 million in digital forensics



The Metropolitan Police Service is investing the substantial sum of £11 million in digital forensics to help front line officers tackle and investigate serious crime more effectively and efficiently. An extra 100 specially trained digital forensic examiners will increase the Met’s capacity to access all digital devices on every Basic Command Unit across London, in turn speeding up the process for examination and

analysis of any given device.

Over the next three years, the investment will provide an enhanced operational service to officers on three levels. The first level is an increase in the number of ‘self-serve’ kiosks where officers trained in basic skills can download and secure vital evidence. There are currently 93 such kiosks across 39 police buildings already in place. The extra money will see this uplift to 125.

Cyber skills gap

The cybersecurity skills shortage and gap are well-documented issues that are having an impact on labour markets worldwide, says a report by the EU’s cyber agency, ENISA. The agency has several recommendations: higher education should diversify its courses; government, industry and higher education should take a unified approach; the members of the EU should do more collaborations; and there’s a need for more metrics showing the extent of the problem before knowing how to combat it. As the report points out, the field of cybersecurity has grown substantially over the last decade. Cybersecurity solutions and technologies are widely

available from industry and open-source communities, and security processes, standards, and laws (whether the international standard for information security management, ISO 27000, or the NIST Cybersecurity Framework, or the EU's own NIS Directive) continue to develop.

<https://www.enisa.europa.eu/publications/addressing-skills-shortage-and-gap-through-higher-education>

Hereford Door Supervisors to start Spraying Troublemakers

Door Supervisors at Hereford's pubs, bars and clubs will soon be spraying troublemakers so police can identify them easier. West Mercia Police has launched the new SmartTag initiative at Saxty's Bar in Widemarsh Street, showing how the spray should help make Hereford's nightlife safer. SmartTag is a water-based solution, created by Smart Water, which can be deployed by trained door staff.

Each bouncer's spray has a unique forensic code. When an offender is sprayed, police will be able to use the code to link the offender back to a specific criminal incident. Offenders can be identified by police officers and SmartTag trained door staff at other venues, using an ultraviolet (UV) torch.

While the smart water is invisible to the naked eye, it will glow red when a UV torch is shone on an offender's clothing.

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-5th-november-2021>

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

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

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



Demonstrations held / planned

Amazon protests: 31 arrested as Extinction Rebellion targets retailer

More than 30 people have been arrested after climate change activists blocked UK Amazon warehouses on Black Friday, the retailer's busiest day of the year. Extinction Rebellion targeted 13 UK sites, including the retail giant's largest distribution centre in Dunfermline, Fife. It said it was to draw attention to alleged exploitation of Amazon workers and wasteful business practices. Amazon said it took its "responsibilities very seriously".

Insulate Britain: Police arrest 30 in climate protest at bridge



Police have arrested 30 climate activists after a central London bridge was closed by a sit-down protest. The Lambeth Bridge demonstration was held in support of nine Insulate Britain campaigners who were jailed this week for defying an injunction on road blockades. Up to 250 people took part in the sit-in, shutting the bridge for hours. Police made the arrests after imposing

Public Order Act conditions on the protest.

COP26: Activists deflate tyres on 'luxury' cars in Glasgow

Climate activists say they have deflated tyres on "luxury" vehicles parked in Glasgow, to raise awareness of carbon emissions during COP26. A number of SUVs in the city's upmarket West End were left with flyers that branded them a "climate violation". Police Scotland said it was aware of the incidents and it had upped patrols in the area. Insulate Britain take eco protest to Parliament, mounting police vans & gluing themselves to vehicles



Environmental activists from Insulate Britain have blocked roads around Parliament Square in

Westminster to draw attention to their cause, after weeks of disrupting traffic on London's M25 orbital road and other key arteries.

More than 60 activists descended on Bridge Street and the peers' entrance to the Houses of Parliament, with many deploying their now-familiar tactic of gluing their hands to the road to block traffic.

COP26: Thousands march for Glasgow's biggest protest



About 100,000 people marched in Glasgow to demand more action on the climate crisis, organisers have said. The protest was the biggest so far during the COP26 summit and took place alongside hundreds of similar events around the world. Greta Thunberg joined the march but did not speak, leaving activists such as Vanessa Nakate to address a rally.

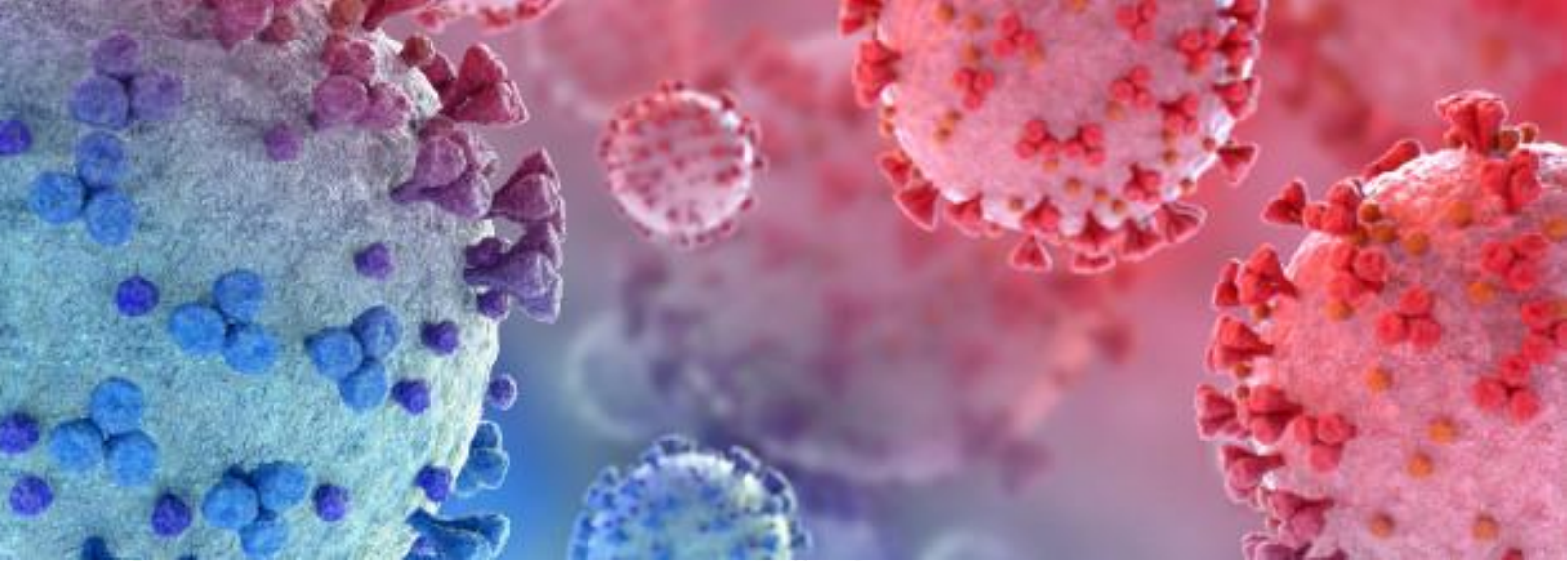
Police arrested 21 scientists who chained themselves together and blocked a road bridge over the River Clyde. Officers also contained a group of socialist activists after pyrotechnics were set off during the march - one person was then arrested.

Parliament Square: Protesters clash with police on Bonfire Night



*Police clash with protesters as they take part in the Million Mask March 2021 in Parliament Square
Credit: PA*

Hundreds of anti-establishment activists have clashed with police in central London on Bonfire Night. Eight officers were injured and 12 people arrested on Friday, the Metropolitan Police said. Protesters wearing Guy Fawkes-style masks gathered at Trafalgar Square, with some throwing fireworks at police. A crowd watched an effigy of Prime Minister Boris Johnson being burned, with one member shouting "burn, Boris, burn". The rally, which is known as the Million Mask March, then moved to Parliament Square where they faced police wearing protective gear.



Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News

Pandemic realises significant decrease in Prevent referrals

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the number of referrals into the counter radicalisation programme Prevent to fall to their lowest level for five years at a time when extremist grooming presents a growing risk to the nation's youngsters. Counter-Terrorism Policing (CTP) is therefore calling on parents, friends, family, and young people to ACT Early and report any concerns.

According to new Prevent statistics published by the Home Office, the number of people being supported through the Government's anti-radicalisation programme fell to 4,915 in the year ending 31 March 2021. That figure represents a drop of 22% compared to the previous year. This is largely due to school and college closures caused by the COVID-19 lockdowns, with the proportion of referrals received from the education sector (at 25%) having fallen to its lowest level since 2016.

Covid-19: Road closed at Belfast City Hall and buses diverted during protest

An anti-vaccine mandate protest outside Belfast City Hall led to a road closure and buses being diverted on Saturday. A large crowd gathered outside the gates of city hall with many carrying anti-vaccine and anti-Covid certification placards and banners. Inside the city hall grounds, the Christmas Market had opened for the first time since 2019.

Police closed Donegall Square North due to a "large gathering" but the road has since reopened.

Bomb hoaxer jailed after sending suspicious package to Covid vaccine factory

Anthony Collins briefly halted the manufacturing of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine at a Wrexham factory in January 2021, after sending a package to the plant. A within a 100-metre radius was implemented at the factory on Wednesday January 27, after security staff alerted police that they had received a "suspicious" parcel.

Explosive ordnance disposal experts were called to the scene and X-ray images revealed the parcel contained equipment which could be used to make a viable explosive, including electrical wiring. In custody, Collins admitted sending but denied that he had intended to create a bomb

scare and instead claimed he believed the items he posted would be useful to people working at the factory.

After at Maidstone Crown Court he was found guilty and today he was sentenced to two years and three months behind bars.

