



# SECURITY INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

## FEB 2022



# 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	16
Demonstrations held / planned	19
Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News	20

## About Us

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

## Intelligence led security

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

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



## Disclaimer

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



## United Kingdom's National Security Threat



### Introduction

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

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

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

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

### UK terrorism threat level lowered to 'Substantial'

The UK's terrorism threat level has been downgraded from "severe" to "substantial". Home Secretary Priti Patel said the move followed a "significant reduction" in the momentum of attacks in Europe - since those seen in Austria and France between September and November 2020.

But she stressed that it was kept under constant review and was always subject to change. A "substantial" threat level means a terrorist attack is still likely.

The threat level was raised to severe by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) in November following the attacks last year, which saw four people shot dead in Vienna, three others die in a knife attack in Nice, and a teacher murdered in Paris.

### Duo convicted in wake of boiler room investment fraud



Two men have been imprisoned for defrauding multiple elderly victims out of £2,469,620.48 in a boiler room investment fraud. David Shivmangal, 48, and Glenn Ward, 52, were found guilty at Southwark Crown Court on 15 December 2021 of fraud and money laundering offences. They were sentenced to three years and nine months and

three years respectively. The defendants were part of an organised criminal group which has been sentenced after a series of four separate trials involving two separate frauds. One arose from the Capitol Finance Group which sold investments in a non-existent scheme to lend money to payday loan companies. The other involved the fraudulent selling of diamonds as investments which were worth only a fraction of their sale price. Both frauds were organised by the same individuals and operated from the same offices in Birmingham and London.

## Victims of crooked security boss win pay-out from ill-gotten gains

A jailed security boss has been ordered to pay tens of thousands of pounds in compensation to the vulnerable security operatives whom he threatened and defrauded. John Gaines, 72, of Leamington Spa, who swindled his workers while operating under four assumed identities, was ordered to pay £91,934.21 under the Proceeds of Crime Act at Warwick Crown Court.

## Paramilitary Crime Task Force seizes two properties



National Crime Agency officers working as part of the Paramilitary Crime Task Force (PCTF) have seized two properties with a combined value of £150,000 from a man with alleged links to the West Belfast Ulster Defence Association. The High Court in Belfast granted a Civil Recovery Order by consent under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 against Steven

Raymond Kidd, 48, of west Belfast.

## Gold bars seized from money laundering network

The National Crime Agency has obtained a forfeiture order for 15 gold bars worth £650,000 that are linked to an international money laundering network. NCA financial investigators took up the case after a Singaporean national was stopped at Heathrow Airport in March 2020, having arrived on a flight from Singapore. The woman was transiting through the airport to catch a plane to Chennai, India, and Border Force officers found she was carrying the bars in her hand luggage.



## Two dead and one injured as teen arrested over triple knife attack



A murder probe is under way in Doncaster after a 17-year-old boy and a 21-year-old man were stabbed to death in the town centre. Detectives said an 18-year-old man was also stabbed in the incident, which outside a licensed premises in Silver Street. He remains in hospital with minor injuries.

Officers from South Yorkshire Police were called to reports that two men and a teenager had been stabbed following a fight in the town centre.

## Fury as police solve only one in 20 cases

Police in England and Wales solved just over five per cent of burglaries last year, compared with nearly 9.4 per cent in 2015, an analysis of official statistics has revealed. There were 268,000 burglaries between April 2020 and April 2021, of which only 14,000 were solved.



## Driver who crashed into Maida Vale knifeman as he attacked woman released by police

The driver of a car who crashed into a knifeman as he stabbed a woman to death in Maida Vale has been released by police with no further action. The 26-year-old was allowed to go after officers reviewed self-defence laws, CCTV and statements from bystanders, the Metropolitan Police said. Yasmin Chkaifi, 43, a mother-of-two, was stabbed to death by her ex-partner Leon McCaskre in front of horrified bystanders in Chippenham Road, West London, on January 24. McCaskre was hit by the car after the 26-year-old intervened by driving at the knifeman. Both Ms Chkaifi and McCaskre were pronounced dead at the scene.



Police then arrested the driver on suspicion of murder, despite calls to let him go, with many describing him as a hero. More than 75,000 people signed an online petition calling for him to avoid a charge of murder.

## KP Snacks hack prompts crisp and nut supplies warning



Shops have been warned deliveries of nuts and crisps could be at risk, after KP Snacks was hit by ransomware. In a letter to retailers, first reported by Better Retailing, the company said it "cannot safely process orders or dispatch goods". The producer of McCoy's, Hula Hoops and various varieties of nuts apologised for any disruption. In a message quoted by Better Retailing, one wholesaler warned problems could last into March. "Initial discussions have highlighted that no orders will be being placed or delivered for a couple of weeks at least and service could be affected until the end of March at the earliest," the wholesaler wrote.



## 'Bankrupt' Tommy Robinson faces High Court questioning over finances



English Defence League founder Tommy Robinson will be quizzed about his finances after he failed to pay legal bills for a libel case he lost. The 39-year-old, whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, was sued by Jamal Hijazi after defaming him online. In response to a video of the then 16-year-old schoolboy being attacked, Mr Yaxley-Lennon claimed he had attacked "young English girls". A High Court judge ordered him to court to answer questions on his finances. Mr Yaxley-Lennon was

sued by Mr Hijazi after he made the accusations following a viral video clip of him being attacked at Almondbrury School in Huddersfield in 2018.

## Man remanded on death threat charge

A man accused of making an online threat to kill Health Minister Robin Swann has been remanded in custody. William Herbert Hawkes, 44, appeared before Newtownards court. He is charged with making a threat to kill, harassment and improper use of a telecommunications network. Mr Hawkes, from Ardmillan Crescent, Newtownards, is already involved in ongoing proceedings for similar alleged offences targeting Mr Swann, the court heard. The fresh allegations date from 22 January 2022.



The court heard that they constituted a breach of the conditions of High Court bail granted to Mr Hawkes last year in respect of previous charges.

## UK organisations urged to boost cyber-attack defences amid Ukraine tensions

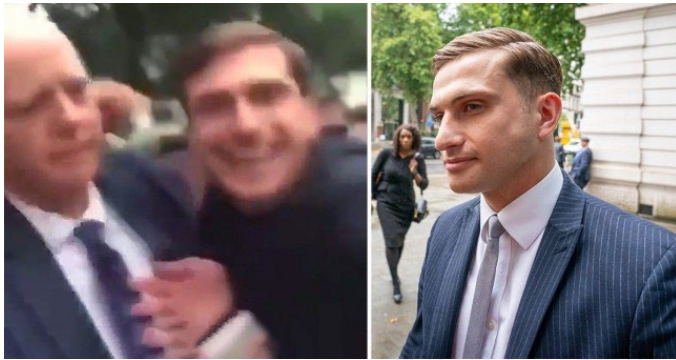
British organisations have been warned to bolster their digital defences due to "malicious" cyber incidents in Ukraine. The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has updated its guidance to UK firms and groups and said it is investigating the recent reports of "malicious cyber incidents in Ukraine".

## Teen accused of Jewish hate crime remanded in custody



A teenager accused of hitting a Jewish man with a smashed glass bottle in an anti-Semitic attack in north London has been remanded in custody. Malachi Thorpe, 18, is alleged to have targeted two people as they closed their shop in Haringey on Wednesday. He is accused of stamping on a yarmulke - a religious skullcap - and using the bottle as a weapon. The pair, described in court as both "visibly Orthodox Jewish", were treated in hospital for injuries.

## Chris Whitty assault: Man jailed for eight weeks over attack



A man has been jailed for eight weeks after he accosted Prof Sir Chris Whitty in a central London park. Jonathan Chew, 24, and Lewis Hughes, 24, approached England's chief medical officer in St James's Park in June 2021. Appearing at Westminster Magistrates' Court, Chew, from Chelmsford, Essex, pleaded guilty to a charge of intending to cause harassment, alarm or distress.

## Asda security guard hailed hero after saving man who collapsed at store



A security guard at an Asda store in West Lothian has been hailed a "hero" after his quick actions helped save the life of a customer who collapsed with a bleed on the brain. Iain Mowbray administered first aid to the man who took ill outside the supermarket in Livingston at the end of last year. The "courageous" 61-year-old sprang into action when the stricken customer's wife approached the security

podium asking for help and told him her husband had collapsed. As soon as Mr Mowbray saw the customer on the ground, he knew he had to act quickly, and he instructed her to phone an ambulance as he administered first aid.

## Kits that test for spiked drinks given to Newcastle students

Free kits are being given out to students to check if their drinks have been spiked. Newcastle University Students' Union society It Happens Here, Newcastle - which campaigns against sexual violence - is giving out the kits following concerns about spiking across the UK. When a drop from a drink is put on a patch, the test, which checks for GBH and ketamine, changes colour.

## Texas synagogue siege: Teens held in UK released without charge



Two teenagers arrested in England as part of the investigation into a hostage-taking at a synagogue in Texas have been released without charge, police say. British citizen Malik Faisal Akram, 44, was shot dead after a standoff with police on Saturday. The siege at the synagogue in Colleyville near Dallas ended after 10 hours, with all four hostages unharmed. Details of the ages and genders of the teenagers were not released.



## Bouncer attacked mother-of-one, 39, and robbed her of mobile phone



Two doormen attacked a full-time mother and stole her mobile phone after she began recording them for saying she was 'too ugly' to be let into a nightclub. Claire Sidebottom, 39, was grabbed by her handbag strap and dragged into a safety barrier by the bouncers when she threatened to report their behaviour as they laughed at her. During the assault in Manchester city centre, Miss Sidebottom fell to the ground and dropped the phone, before

hearing one of the doormen shout: 'Grab it and run.' She never saw the £800 device again. The incident occurred on February 7 last year - five weeks before the UK lockdown. Police who investigated the robbery found Christopher Cash, 33, from Edgeley, Stockport, in possession of two kubotans - a weapon used in martial arts to place targeted force into pressure points on the body. He has since resigned from his job on the doors of Bar Rogue in Piccadilly Gardens.

At Minshull Street Crown Court in Manchester, Cash admitted robbery, common assault and possession of an offensive weapon and was ordered to pay Miss Sidebottom £1,000 compensation.

## Boy arrested on 'extreme right-wing' terrorism charge

A 15-year-old boy has been arrested on a far-right terrorism charge. The Met's Counter Terrorism Command arrested the teenager and searched the property he was at in south London on Friday morning. He was held on suspicion of engaging in preparation for terrorist acts linked to "extreme right-wing ideology". The boy has since been bailed and the Met said there was not believed to be any imminent threat to the public.



## Son of hate cleric Abu Hamza jailed for money-laundering plot

The son of notorious hate cleric Abu Hamza has been jailed for his involvement in a money-laundering plot. Ti-to Ibn-Sheikh created false identities for HSBC bank account holders using information passed to him by an insider at the bank. Southwark Crown Court heard those accounts were used to launder nearly £350,000 from thefts and frauds. The 35-year-old, from Shepherd's Bush in west London, was jailed for three years and nine months.





## Crook teacher banned over terrorist funding

A woman who supported terrorism has been banned from teaching for life. Miriam Sebbagh, who worked at Hunwick Primary School in Crook, County Durham, was found to have given money to people she knew were involved in terrorism. A teacher misconduct panel also heard she tried to radicalise a friend.



Ms Sebbagh was arrested in 2017 and investigated by police but the Crown Prosecution Service concluded there was insufficient evidence to bring criminal charges,

the panel heard.

Counter Terrorism Policing North East (CTPNE) "maintained a high level of concern regarding Ms Sebbagh's state of mind, the opinions which she espoused and her actions within the teaching arena", its report said.

The panel heard CTPNE had received information that Ms Sebbagh had given £2,500 to an individual linked to a proscribed terrorist organisation. She had made "numerous" other payments to individuals, charities, overseas accounts, and crowd-funded donation sites. She was also ordered to pay costs of £12,654. The teacher was found guilty of unacceptable professional conduct and conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute and was prohibited from teaching indefinitely.

## Stopping terror attacks is 'more difficult than ever', police chief warns



Preventing terror attacks is "more difficult than it's ever been", one of Britain's most senior counterterrorism police officers has warned in an exclusive interview. Dean Haydon, the senior national coordinator for Counter Terrorism Policing, said changes to the way attacks are planned, targeted, and carried out had made them harder to spot, while the profile of terrorists has

"completely changed". "The main threat we currently see is from people within this country that are being self-radicalised," he added. "The timelines have been shortened. You can go out and buy a kitchen knife in a supermarket and decide, 'This afternoon I'm going to commit an attack at X location'. In the name of whatever ideology, and it's a terrorist attack. Almost every terror attack launched in Britain since 2017 has been carried out by a lone attacker, including the recent Liverpool bombing. The security services say 32 plots have been foiled in the same period – 18 jihadist, 12 far-right and two from other ideologies.

The extreme right-wing threat has grown significantly in recent years, and now makes up around 13 per cent of cases currently being handled by counterterrorism police, while the bulk remain jihadist.

## Racist shoplifter ends up in Tesco tussle with police officer



A suspected shoplifter screamed 'abhorrent' racial abuse at a Tesco security guard and spat in the face of a police officer during the height of the pandemic. Mark Finlay was approached by the security worker at a Tesco supermarket in Bolton, after he was 'suspected of stealing items from the shop'. The defendant, of Moss Side Avenue, Bolton, then 'became abusive' and shouted 'get away from me P\*\*\*'. The security guard then had to 'take hold of him' to try to move him out of the shop. But during this time the 35-year-old continued to use 'racial language', John

Kennelly, prosecuting, told Bolton Crown Court. And his 'aggressive behaviour' continued when a Tesco employee told him that police were on the way. Finlay, who is already in custody, was sentenced to 26 weeks in prison for each offence - totalling a year.

## Woman assaulted security guard at Carlisle Morrison's

A shoplifter attacked a security guard at Carlisle's Morrisons after he spotted her pushing a trolley full of stolen goods out of the store. At the city's crown court, a judge remarked that Kazeem Ogunsanya had shown impressive restraint while trying to tackle thief Leanne Cassidy.

Cassidy, 42, had gone to the Kingstown Road outlet on August 1 last year. "He was just going off on a break," said prosecutor Brendan Burke, "so wouldn't at that stage have been wearing clothing to indicate what his job was." Mr Ogunsanya saw Cassidy pushing a trolley full of goods from the inside of the store the "opposite way", through an entrance barrier. He immediately went to collect his high-visibility vest prominently displaying the word "security". When Mr Ogunsanya returned, Cassidy was leaving the store. "He ran after her and asked for receipts for what was in the trolley," said Mr Burke. "She said her friend had it. He tried to usher her back into the door, placing his hand on her arm, at which point she kicked him to the groin.

## Tredegar terror convict jailed after beheading threats

A convicted terror offender has been jailed for 16 months after threatening teenagers with a knife and telling them: "We cut people's heads off." Nathan Saunders, 28, shouted "Allahu akbar" and made Islamic State salutes at the youths on 15 September 2021. Saunders, of Tredegar, Blaenau Gwent, who was convicted of downloading terror documents in 2017, is believed to have radicalised himself online. He admitted possession of an offensive weapon at Cardiff Crown Court.

## Terror threat teen wanted to attack mosque and kill 10,000

A 17-year-old boy who wanted to "shoot up a mosque" and kill 10,000 people has been given a rehabilitation order. The teenager, from Wiltshire, was given the 24-month order at Southampton Youth Court. He had pleaded guilty to possessing material likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism. Counter-terror police said they were having

to deal with an increase in right-wing terror threats. A spokesman for Counter Terrorism Policing South East (CTPSE) said "concerned" members of the public had reported the boy after he had made "numerous racist comments" in online forums.





## Security Industry News

### SIA offers grants for good causes using cash confiscated from criminals

Organisations will be eligible to apply if they are a registered charity or not for profit organisation and are able to clearly demonstrate the positive impact of the grant to public protection. The grants will come from a special fund that uses ill-gotten cash confiscated from individuals convicted of criminal offences within the private security industry.

### Cyber Essentials set to adopt tiered pricing structure



# CYBER ESSENTIALS

The environment in which today's cyber professionals operate has altered dramatically since the Cyber Essentials certification scheme was launched seven years ago, but the costs associated with that scheme haven't changed. To reflect the increasingly complex nature of assessments for larger organisations, the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has announced that, from Monday 24 January, Cyber Essentials will adopt a new tiered pricing structure. While micro businesses and organisations will continue to pay the current £300 assessment charge, small, medium and larger organisations will now be required to pay a little more on a sliding scale that aims to better reflect the complexity involved in assessing larger organisations.

Currently, all assessments are charged at £300. However, the bigger and more complex the organisation, the longer it takes to review and feedback on the assessment. The new structure – which adopts the internationally recognised definition for micro, small, medium and large enterprises – is as follows:

- \*Micro organisations (0-9 employees): £300 +VAT
- \*Small organisations (10-49 employees): £400 +VAT
- \*Medium organisations (50-249 employees): £450 +VAT
- \*Large organisations (250+ employees): £500 +VAT



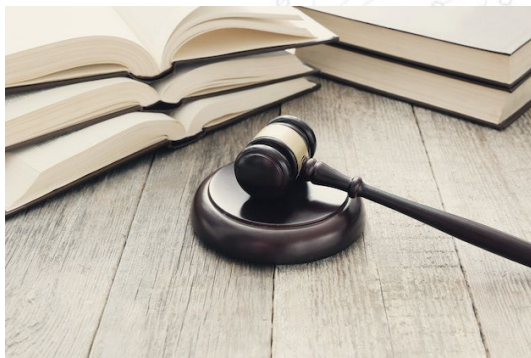


## Government publishes Protect Duty consultation findings

The Government has published its response to the Protect Duty public consultation, which ran from 26 February to 2 July last year. The Protect Duty has been championed by victims' groups and the Martyn's Law campaign, which was established by Figen Murray following the tragic loss of her son, Martyn, in the Manchester Arena terror attack in 2017. A total of 2,755 responses were received from a variety of organisations, sectors and campaigners, with the majority supporting the Government's proposals to introduce stronger measures, including a legal requirement for some public places to ensure preparedness for and protection from, terrorist attacks.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protect-duty>

## New laws to strengthen UK's national security come into effect

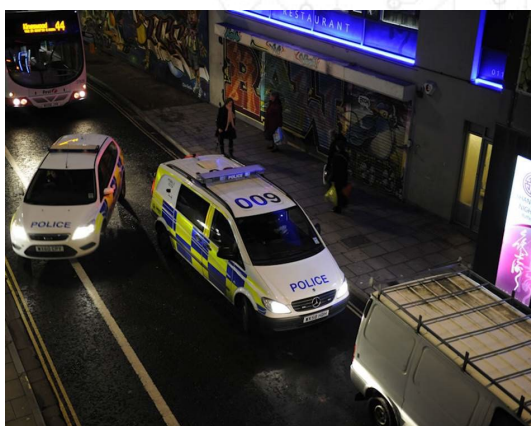


The National Security and Investment Act – which represents the biggest shake-up of the UK's national security regime for two decades – has fully commenced from Tuesday 4 January 2022. The Government will now be able to scrutinise and intervene in certain acquisitions made by anyone, including businesses and investors, that could harm the UK's national security, better reflecting the threats of the modern era.

The Government will also be able to impose certain conditions on an acquisition or, if necessary, unwind or block it, although it's fully expected this will happen pretty rarely and that the majority of deals will require no intervention and be able to proceed without delay.

The National Security and Investment Act will afford investors additional certainty and clarity and cement the UK's world-leading reputation as a global champion of free trade and investment as well as an attractive place to invest, with more transparency and more simple and efficient clearance processes for relevant acquisitions.

## 600-plus organised crime groups disrupted by ADDER projects



Upwards of 600 organised crime groups have been disrupted and more than 13,000 people supported in drug treatment interventions delivered by outreach workers just one year on from the launch of the Project ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery) programme, which was set up to cut drug-related crime and harm in England and Wales. The Home Office revealed some early successes of the trailblazing project as Kit Malthouse, the Minister for Crime, Policing and Probation, gathered Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) representing

ADDER areas from across England and Wales at a meeting to underline the importance of cracking down on drug misuse and ensuring that this particular crime threat receives the resource and focus it needs at the local level.

## Venues must have anti-terror measures under government plans



Venues would have a legal duty to put in place security measures to protect the public from terror attacks under government plans. It comes in the wake of the 2017 Manchester Arena bombing, when 22 people were killed as they left an Ariana Grande concert.

Home Secretary Priti Patel will set out the proposals, following an 18-week consultation. The so-called Protect Duty has been championed by victims' groups. These include the Martyn's Law campaign, which was started by Figen Murray, after the loss of her son, 29-year-old Martyn Hett, in the attack.

## Firearms and hundreds of knives among weapons seized at crown courts during pandemic



Details of the seized weapons follow concerns about court security after the death of a criminal who managed to sneak acid into a dock before swallowing it. Weapons including firearms and hundreds of knives have been seized at crown courts during the pandemic.

Since April 2020 more than 1,000 knives and other blades have been confiscated at the buildings, which deal with the most serious criminal cases, according to official data.

A total of 73 "other weapons" and two firearms were also discovered, but Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS) declined to provide further details about those weapons.

## 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-7th-january-2022>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-14th-january-2022>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-21st-january-2022>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-28th-january-2022>





## Demonstrations held / planned

### Huge protest hits capital as fury erupts at NHS Covid vaccine mandate



Thousands of protesters flocked to central London to remonstrate against mandatory coronavirus vaccination for NHS staff. Dramatic footage shows protesters dancing to Pink Floyd's Another Brick in the Wall, suggesting the Government's measures go too far and encroach on civil liberties. With the new rules coming into effect on April 1, there are serious question marks over what the future holds for up to

70,000 health care workers unless they get jabbed in the next 67 days. Today furious NHS staff and their supporters tried to raise awareness about the issue in a bid to overturn the new Covid mandate passed in Parliament.

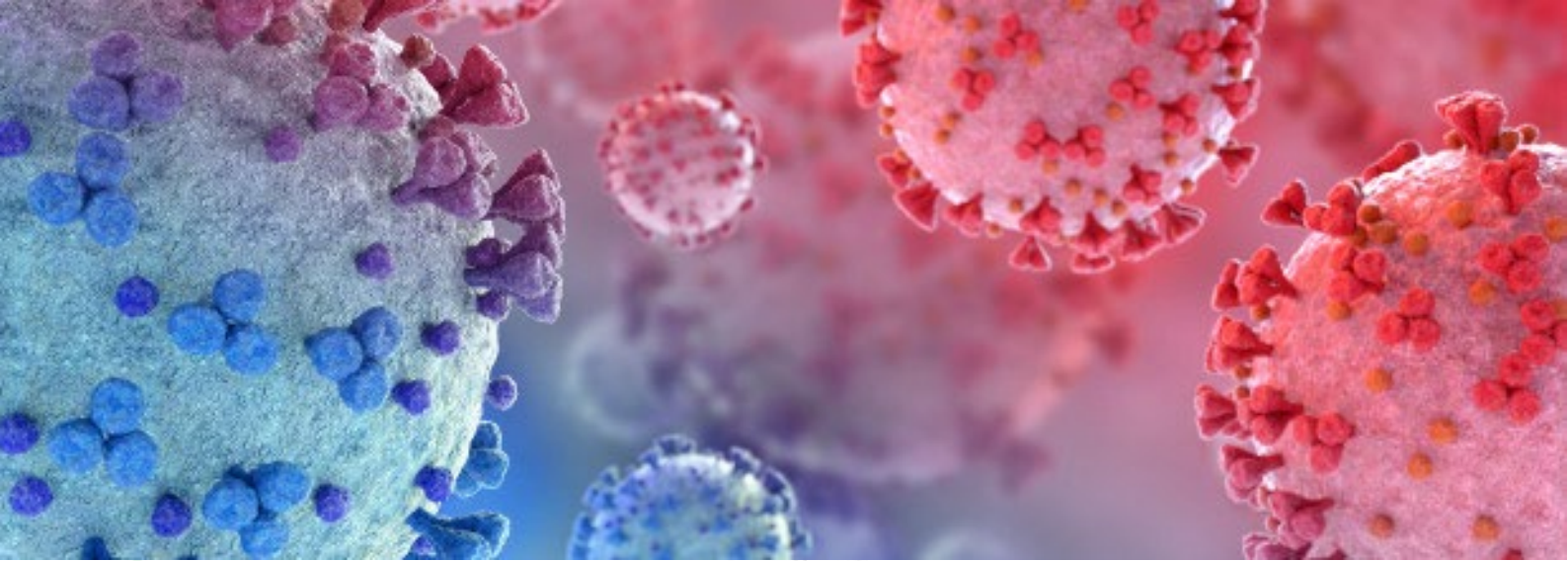
### Protesters rally across UK against police and crime bill



Protesters have taken to the streets in cities across the UK to rally against the police and crime bill, which is reaching its final stages in parliament. The police, crime, sentencing and courts bill, sections of which have been condemned by human rights activists as an attack on the right to protest, will be voted on in the House of Lords. Hundreds of "kill the bill" protesters rallied in

London on Saturday, while demonstrations also took place in cities including Bristol, Cardiff, Coventry, Newcastle, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield and Plymouth.





## Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News

### International SOS rolls out COVID Trip Planner to support business travel

In order to support a safe and sustainable return to business travel and enable organisations to navigate the ever-changing landscape of COVID-19 restrictions, International SOS has rolled out a new risk management tool. Designated the COVID Trip Planner, it provides personalised information and advice on how to organise and schedule business trips and is now accessible via the International SOS ManagerView and Assistance App.

### Concern for UK security as anti-vaxxer groups evolve towards US-style militias

Counter-terrorism officials and police are increasingly concerned over the trajectory of the UK's anti-vaxxer movement as it evolves towards violent extremism and the formation of US-style militias. Boris Johnson is among those receiving direct security updates on individuals prepared to "undermine national health security".



The movement's more extreme elements are recruiting and strategising over the encrypted social media messaging app Telegram, with one UK anti-vaxxer channel asking for "men of integrity" to "fight for our children's future". Anti-vaxxers have targeted scores of schools and recently stormed a Covid testing site. They were led by Britain's most visible activist, Piers Corbyn, who subsequently urged people to burn down the offices of MPs who backed new restrictions.

### Sharing pictures of your Covid tests online

People are being urged not to post pictures of lateral flow tests returning negative results for Covid-19 on social media because criminals are using them



to make fake passes. Some venues in the UK such as nightclubs require customers to provide a negative test or prove their vaccination status before entering. Security experts are now warning that an illegal trade is developing whereby fraudsters use details of tests posted online to provide others with false negatives, enabling them to lie their way into venues. They warn that those who post these images could inadvertently pose a

threat to public health measures.

