



# SECURITY INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

## JAN 2022



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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**.

maintained consistently extremely high.



## Open-Source Security Incident News

### Crossbow ownership laws to be reviewed after Christmas Day incident



Priti Patel has ordered a review of the current rules surrounding crossbow ownership in the UK after an armed intruder was arrested at Windsor Castle on Christmas Day. The Home Secretary has instructed the Home Office to look at possible ways to "strengthen controls" on the weapons.

### Police officer sacked after taking murder scene selfie while on duty

A police officer who took a selfie at a murder scene and photographed vulnerable people while on duty has been sacked. Pc Ryan Connolly, who worked for Merseyside Police, was also found to have pictures on his phone of men who were in hospital - detained under the Mental Health Act - as well as racist and homophobic images. The force confirmed he took the images on his personal phone while on duty - a breach of professional standards.

### Nearly 100 terrorists up for release from jail

Several of the 92 active and ongoing terror cases could be brought before parole judges next year. It comes after the Government passed laws to stop the automatic early release of terrorists from prison, forcing them to serve two-thirds of their initial jail term before they can be considered for release. Previously, they would need to serve half. The move was triggered after extremists who had been let out of prison carried out two attacks in three months.



Cases under review include Nazam Hussain, who planned attacks alongside Usman Khan, the terrorist who killed two people at a criminal rehabilitation conference during the London Bridge assault in 2019.

## Bouncer at Westminster club assaulted



Police have released an image of a man they would like to speak to after a member security of security staff at a West London club was punched in the face twice – meaning he could lose sight in one eye. Police were called to a report that a member of security staff working at Wyld Club, Hertford Street, had been assaulted. The attack left him with serious facial injuries which may mean he will lose sight in one eye.

Detective Constable Ryan Wilson, who is investigating the attack, said: "This was a cowardly attack on a member of security staff who has been left with a significant injury that could have an impact on the rest of his life.

## Liverpool bomber made device with murderous intent

Emad Al Swealmeen was killed when his bomb went off while he was inside a taxi at Liverpool Women's Hospital. Senior coroner Andre Rebello said it was unclear whether he intended the device to detonate when it did. The inquest heard Al Swealmeen rang his brother two days before he died and suggested he might do "something bad".

Iraqi-born Al Swealmeen, 32, was a passenger in the taxi when the bomb went off at 10:59 GMT on 14 November. The driver, David Perry, was taken to hospital but did not suffer life-threatening injuries.



Recording a narrative conclusion at Liverpool and Wirral Coroner's Court, Mr Rebello said Al Swealmeen made the bomb at a flat he had rented in Rutland Avenue, near Sefton Park in Liverpool. "It is found he manufactured the improvised explosive device, designed to project shrapnel, with murderous intent," he added.

## Drug dealer who ran county lines network jailed



A dealer has been jailed for operating a county lines network supplying drugs in Birmingham and Warwickshire. West Midlands Police said Aaqib Ali was the "key player" in supplying cocaine and heroin. The 29-year-old was sentenced to 10 years at Birmingham Crown Court on 23 December, after admitting two charges of supplying Class A drugs. The force said there was "no doubt Ali was the one

running this significant drugs supply chain".

County lines gangs are urban drug dealers who sell to customers in more rural areas. West Midlands Police said its Regional Organised Crime Unit had executed warrants at two Birmingham addresses linked to Ali, in Aston and Erdington, in August.

## Boy, 15, killed in London Park

A 15-year-old boy has been stabbed to death in a park in south London. The teenager was found fatally injured after police were called to Ashburton Park in Croydon. He was treated by paramedics but died at the scene. No arrests have been made and a crime scene remains in place. The death is the 29th killing of a teenager in London in 2021 - the highest number of teenage homicides in the capital since 2008.



## Police shoot man dead near Kensington Palace



Officers were dispatched to Marloes Road in the central London borough of Kensington to investigate reports of an armed man entering a bank and a bookmakers. According to a police statement, the man left the scene in a vehicle and was stopped at Palace Gate shortly afterwards. Police say shots were fired and the man "sustained gunshot wounds" before being pronounced dead at the scene shortly afterwards. The shooting took place a short walk from Kensington Palace, home of Prince William and his wife, the Duchess of Cambridge. Though police are still making efforts to identify the gunman, the incident is not being treated as terrorism.

## More than 900 migrants cross Channel in two days

More than 900 people have crossed the Channel in small boats over two days, the Home Office has confirmed. 559 people were picked up off the Kent coast after making the crossing in 19 boats, and 358 people crossed in 10 boats. Over the two days the French authorities stopped 564 people from setting off.



More than 27,700 people have made the crossing in small boats so far this year, compared to 8,400 in 2020. Last month 27 people including 17 men, seven women - one of whom was pregnant - and three children, drowned when their boat sank near Calais.

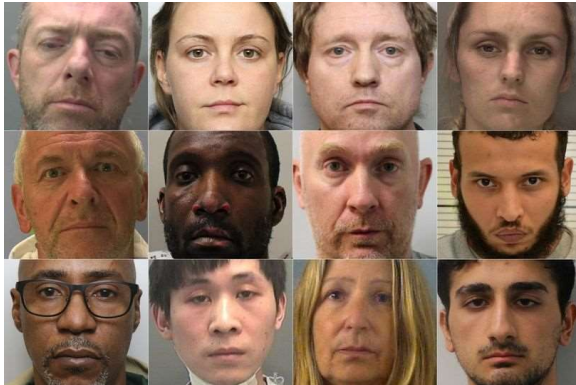
## Oxford woman arrested for encouraging terrorism online



A woman in her 20s from Oxford has been arrested on suspicion of encouraging terrorism online. Counter terrorism officers arrested the woman at a property in Blackbird Leys. She remains in custody. The pre-planned arrest was in connection with statements that had been made on the internet.

Thames Valley Police said people might notice an increased presence in the area while officers continue a search.

## Man bailed after arrest on suspicion of funding terrorism following NE raids



Counter terrorism police have confirmed that a man from the Northeast has been released on bail after being arrested on suspicion of funding terrorism. Last week, authorities raided two properties on Earnshaw Way, Whitley Bay as well as in Brentwood Grove in Wallsend where police vehicles were seen by neighbours. Suspicions were initially roused when a 61-year-old man from Turkey was arrested at the Port of Dover on suspicion of money laundering. Authorities conducted a stop and search of a

lorry and found a large quantity of cash. He was arrested on suspicion of funding terrorism and was subsequently released on police bail. A 38-year-old man from Tyne and Wear was arrested under Section 17 of the Terrorism Act 2000 on suspicion of funding terrorism.

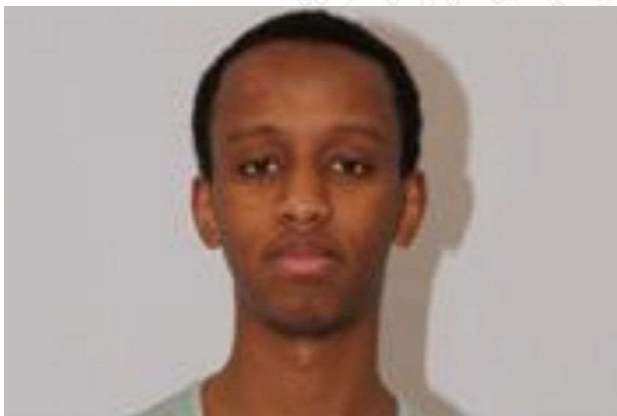
## Louise Minchin: Stalker Carl Davies jailed

A man who admitted stalking former BBC Breakfast presenter Louise Minchin and her daughter has been sentenced to two years and eight months in jail. Carl Davies, 44, was due to stand trial but later changed his plea. Davies, of Flint, Flintshire, admitted causing alarm or distress to both Louise and her daughter Mia in July 2020 by posting intimidating comments on Instagram. He was sentenced at Mold Crown Court.



In a statement posted on Twitter, Ms Minchin said: "Today marks the end of what has been a very distressing time for both of us. "I hope it sends a clear message that people who make violent threats via social media can be found, can be prosecuted and can expect a prison sentence."

## Convicted terrorist given five-month sentence for prison attack



A convicted terrorist who punched a prison officer has been sentenced to an extra five months behind bars. Abdullah Ahmed Jama Farah was being returned to his cell at HMP Long Lartin in Worcestershire when he assaulted the officer on 8 April. Worcester Crown Court heard Jama Farah punched him in the neck and face.

The 26-year-old, from Manchester, is currently serving a seven-year sentence after being found guilty of preparing for

terrorist acts. He was jailed at the Old Bailey in 2016 after creating a communications hub to help extremists linked to the so-called Islamic State in Syria.

## Government announces major change after Liverpool terror attack

The Home Office announced major proposals weeks after the Liverpool bomb attack. Suspected terrorist Emad Al Swealmeen died when a bomb exploded in the back of a taxi outside Liverpool Women's Hospital shortly before 11am on Sunday, November 14. Investigators found evidence that suspected bomber Al Swealmeen had been buying components of the explosive device since at least April 2021. On Thursday, December 16, the government announced new planned measures that they say will protect the public by "reducing the threat posed by the illicit use of explosives precursors and poisons".



They published a consultation on proposals to strengthen the controls under the Poisons Act 1972, which sets out controls of explosives precursors and poisons, and restricts access to the most dangerous materials.

Explosive precursors are chemical substances that can be used both for legitimate purposes and in the production of explosives.

The Poisons Act 1972 permits a licensing regime for the purchase and use of regulated substances by the general public for legitimate purposes when there is a legitimate need and no safer alternative.

Shops and businesses are required to report any suspicious transactions and any significant losses or thefts of regulated substances.

## Youths charged over alleged assault and disorder at Wishaw supermarket

Three youths have been charged regarding an alleged assault at a Wishaw supermarket. Police confirmed to Lanarkshire Live they were following "a positive line of enquiry" following a spike in antisocial behaviour at Tesco Extra in Belhaven Road. And this week officers confirmed three boys - aged just 13 and 14 - have been charged regarding an alleged assault and disorderly conduct.



## Machete-wielding burglars steal £50k savings from victim

Machete-wielding burglars stole a woman's life savings which was being kept for her vulnerable son during a terrifying robbery in Wigan. The incident happened on Beacon Road in the Bickershaw area. Three men armed with pepper spray and a machete entered a home and demanded the victim - a woman in her 60s - hand over cash from a safe.

## Man found with crossbow at Windsor Castle sectioned



A man has been sectioned under the Mental Health Act after being found in the grounds of Windsor Castle with a crossbow, police have said. The Metropolitan Police said a 19-year-old man from Southampton was arrested at about 08:30 GMT on Christmas Day. It said the man was stopped "within moments" of entering the grounds and he did not enter any buildings.

He was searched and a crossbow was found, police said. The man is now "in the care of medical professionals". He had initially been arrested on suspicion of breach or trespass of a protected site, and possession of an offensive weapon.

## Gun found near scene in London where man was shot dead by police

A gun has been found at the scene in west London where a man was shot and killed by armed police. Officers received reports that a man with a firearm had been seen in a bank and bookmakers near Marloes Road in Kensington before the shooting. Eyewitnesses reported seeing a man being shot three times in a taxi before being "dragged out" and arrested in Kensington Road. The Independent Office for Police Conduct has launched an investigation into what happened during the incident.



## Fears private phone data could be weaponized



Sweeping new powers for immigration officers to extract mobile phone data are being introduced as hundreds of asylum seekers report having their phones confiscated, prompting fears that private data could be weaponised against asylum claims. Rights groups have raised alarm over a clause in the Police, Crimes, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Bill.

## Handsworth woman Aminah Amatullah convicted of distributing videos encouraging acts of terrorism

A woman from Handsworth has been convicted of distributing videos online which encouraged acts of terrorism. Aminah Amatullah, of Livingstone Road, was arrested and charged in November last year with two offences under section 2 of the Terrorism Act 2006.



The jury was told that the 38-year-old shared extremist mindset material online over several social platforms. She will be sentenced on January 27 at Birmingham Crown Court after a jury found her guilty of distributing a terrorist publication following a trial.

## Terror awareness warning ahead of Christmas in Bedfordshire



Christmas shoppers and people attending festive events are being urged to be vigilant to the threat of terrorism. Bedfordshire Police said the warning followed the recent increase in the UK's terrorism threat level. More uniformed officers are expected to be on the streets.

Assistant Chief Constable Sharn Basra said: "It is essential that the public play their part in helping us to protect the UK. We need you to be vigilant, and we need you to be alert." On 15 November the UK National Threat Level was raised from substantial to severe, meaning an attack was highly likely.

## Record number of children in UK held over terror crimes

Twenty-five children were detained over terror crimes in the year to September - a record high, figures show. This was up from 17 the year before, Home Office figures showed. Police are concerned about the numbers and are urging parents to seek support if they fear their child could be on a path towards extremism. It comes as Counter Terror Policing said seven late-stage terror plots had been foiled in the UK since the pandemic began.

The latest figures take the total number of thwarted late-stage terrorism attacks in the UK over the last four years to 32. It is an increase of one since September.



## Police hunt three men over 'anti-Semitic abuse hurled at Hannukah bus'



Police have issued pictures of three men they want to identify over a "bigoted anti-Semitic attack" during Hannukah celebrations in Oxford Street. Around 40 young Jewish people were on board a bus when a group of men swore at them, made obscene gestures, and threw a shopping basket at them. The Met have asked for help in finding who the men are, after a group approached a hired bus and

allegedly abused the passengers on board.

## Man jailed for spiking drink in London pub with Viagra with intention of sexual assault

A 58-year-old man has been jailed after he spiked a pubgoer's drink with the intention of sexually assaulting him. Eamon Kelly, of Bramber Court, Ealing, was sentenced to two years and

four months' imprisonment at Harrow Crown Court on Tuesday, after pleading guilty to administering a substance with the intent to stupefy to allow sexual gain.

## Evil stepmother who murdered little Arthur, 6, jailed for life and his dad given 21 years



An "evil" stepmother has been jailed for life for murdering six-year-old Arthur Labinjo-Hughes following months of horrific abuse. Emma Tustin was told to serve a minimum of 29 years for killing her stepson. The boy's father, Thomas Hughes, was sentenced to 21 years in prison for manslaughter and cruelty to his boy. He tragically died in Solihull last year after being left with an unsurvivable

brain injury after a campaign of "cruel and inhuman" abuse.

## Passports to be seized from middle class cocaine users in bid to 'smash' drug gangs

Boris Johnson is set to launch a 10-year plan to clamp down on drug-related crime, which will include confiscating passports and driving licences from drug takers. The crackdown will reportedly include football-style travel bans, as well as harsher sentences for dealers and tougher measures on County Lines gangs.



## Police officers who took pictures of murdered sisters jailed for two years and nine months



Two police officers who took pictures of murdered sisters Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman have been sentenced to two years and nine months each. Pc Deniz Jaffer and Pc Jamie Lewis both pleaded guilty to misconduct in a public office. Last month, a tribunal found the officers committed gross misconduct.

## Airport-style security and addiction assessments under Govt prison drugs clampdown

All new prisons will be installed with "airport-style security" and every inmate will be assessed for addiction on arrival under plans to clamp down on the movement of drugs behind bars. Body scanners, biometric identification and drug dogs are among a raft of measures proposed to stem the flow of dangerous substances that "wreak havoc" in prisons and "scupper the work of frontline staff" in reforming offenders, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) said.



## Two men from Scotland arrested at Dover on terror charges



Two men have been arrested over terrorism offences after they were stopped at the port of Dover. The 44-year-old from Glasgow and a 40-year-old from Clydebank were stopped by counter terror officers while trying to leave the UK. After a search of the vehicle, they were in, the pair were detained on suspicion of preparing acts of terrorism.

Counter Terrorism Policing Southeast said a vehicle and several digital devices were seized. Searches of properties in Glasgow and Clydebank have taken place. The men have been bailed pending further inquiries.

## Man charged over Mark Cavendish burglary

A man has been charged as part of an investigation into a burglary at the home of Olympic cyclist Mark Cavendish and has been remanded in custody. Romario Henry, 30, appeared at Colchester Magistrates' Court charged with two counts of robbery. A court official said he did not enter pleas and is next due to appear at Chelmsford Crown Court on January 14.



Olympic cyclist Mark Cavendish was "violently attacked" at home while recovering from serious injuries. Police said his home in the Ongar area of Essex was entered by four men, who threatened his wife, while his children witnessed the events. Cavendish said in an Instagram post: "At knifepoint, they proceeded to ransack our belongings." The 36-year-old crashed last month suffering two broken ribs and a collapsed lung in a crash in Belgium. The group stole a Louis Vuitton suitcase and two high-value watches. None of the family sustained any serious injuries, the force said.



## Security Industry News

### Government publishes blueprint to protect UK from cyber threats

The Government has published its new National Cyber Strategy, which sets out how the UK will solidify its position as a global cyber power. This is the first major milestone following the publication of the Government's Integrated Review earlier this year.

The National Cyber Strategy builds on the significant progress made on cyber over the last five years which has seen the UK cyber security sector grow rapidly, with over 1,400 businesses generating revenues of £8.9 billion last year, in turn supporting 46,700 skilled jobs and attracting significant amounts of overseas investment.

Through the National Cyber Strategy, the Government is calling on all parts of society to play their role in reinforcing the UK's economic and strategic strengths in cyber space. In practice, this means more diversity in the workforce, levelling up the cyber sector across all UK regions, expanding offensive and defensive cyber capabilities and prioritising cyber security in the workplace, Boardrooms, and digital supply chains. The new National Cyber Strategy can be read online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-cyber-strategy-2022>

### Policing set to receive circa £1.1 billion extra



Policing will receive a funding boost of up to £1.1 billion next year to drive down crime and deliver safer streets for all, Home Secretary Priti Patel has announced. The 2022-2023 funding package represents an inflation-busting 7% cash increase on last year and means that policing will receive up to £16.9 billion in total in 2022-2023. The boost in resources will help to support the delivery of the Beating Crime Plan, which sets out the Government's mission to deliver fewer victims, safer neighbourhoods, and a more secure country.

### Explosive sales consultation

In a consultation, the Home Office is proposing more controls on sales of explosives precursors and poisons under the Poisons Act 1972.



Suppliers would need to continue to verify licences and proofs of identity when selling regulated explosives precursors and poisons to members of the public. They would need to verify the status and intended use and register the details of the transaction when selling to a professional user or other supplier. Such details would include proof of identity of an individual entitled to represent the business; their trade, business, or profession; company name, address; VAT number; and the intended use.

## Cabinet Office fined £500,000 for New Year Honours data breach

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has fined the Cabinet Office the sum of £500,000 for disclosing the postal addresses of Her Majesty The Queen's 2020 New Year Honours recipients online. The ICO found that the Cabinet Office had "failed to put appropriate technical and organisational measures in place" to prevent the unauthorised disclosure of people's information. This is a breach of data protection law.



## Protect Duty set to spark "shake-up" in public space security

A new White Paper published by network video specialist Axis Communications offers a detailed review of the Government's proposed Protect Duty legislation and highlights key considerations for the use of physical security technology to better safeguard publicly accessible locations in the UK.

The White Paper has been prepared to assist the security industry as the Government analyses feedback from the recent Protect Duty consultation that ran from 26 February through until 2 July 2021 and prepares to publish its response in due course in a Regulatory Impact Assessment.

Also known to many as 'Martyn's Law', the Protect Duty refers to a new piece of proposed legislation which concerns the protective and preparatory measures that should be considered to make the public safer at publicly accessible locations. Currently, the owners of spaces such as stadiums, gyms, music venues and multi-use buildings with public realm areas have no obligation to act on advice from specialist counter-terrorism officers when it comes to reducing the risk of a terror attack.

<https://www.emea-comms.axis.com/protect-duty-white-paper>

## Dame Julie Kenny CBE DBE DL elected to serve as next chair of RISC

Dame Julie Kenny CBE DBE DL has been elected to serve as chair of the UK's Security and Resilience Industry Suppliers Community (RISC), the inclusive alliance of Trade Associations, suppliers and other organisations established back in 2007 to represent the UK's security and resilience sector.

## NatWest fined £264.8 million for anti-money laundering failures

National Westminster Bank plc (NatWest) has been fined £264,772,619.95 at Southwark Crown Court following convictions for three offences of failing to comply with the Money

Laundering Regulations (2007). NatWest pleaded guilty to the charges levied at Westminster Magistrates Court back on Thursday 7 October. Specifically, the charges covered NatWest's failure to properly monitor the activity of a commercial customer, namely Fowler Oldfield (a jewellery business based in Bradford), between 8 November 2012 and 23 June 2016.

## Bounce Back Loan fraud report



The UK Government prioritised getting Bounce Back Loans to small businesses quickly but failed to put adequate fraud prevention measures in place, says Gareth Davies, the head of the National Audit Office (NAO). The NAO has brought out a report on the Bounce Back Loan scheme and counter-fraud activity – too slow to be effective, it concluded; and government's activity to limit taxpayers' exposure to fraudulent loans is inadequate, according to the NAO's report.

<https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/The-Bounce-Back-Loan-Scheme-an-update.pdf>

## 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-19th-november-2021>

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

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-5th-november-2021>

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



## Demonstrations held / planned

### Protesters clash with police during rally against Covid restrictions

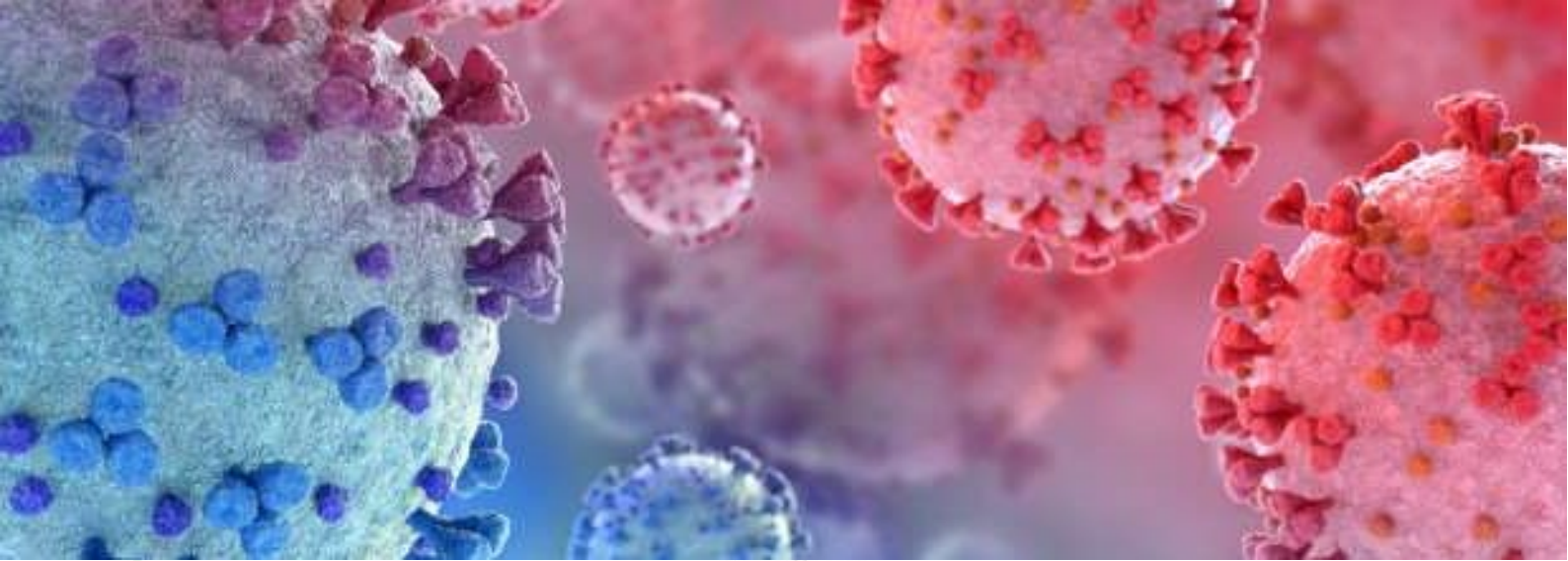
Anti-vaxxers have clashed with police during a demonstration against anti-Covid measures in central London as officials admit they are “extremely worried” about the epidemiological situation in the UK capital. A ‘freedom rally’ organized by several self-described ‘resistance groups’ started at midday on Saturday at Parliament Square. Its participants are protesting the vaccine mandate for NHS staff, the recent introduction of Covid-passports, and other pandemic-related measures. None of them are wearing masks or keeping social distance, with many holding banners against ‘medical apartheid’ and ‘tyranny’, along with hippie-style ‘Love wins’.

### Woman who 'nudged' Insulate Britain protester with 4X4 charged with assault



A mum who allegedly nudged an Insulate Britain protester with her Range Rover to try and move her out of the road in Essex has been charged with assault. Sherrilyn Speid, 34, of North Road, Purfleet, has been charged with dangerous driving and assault by beating by Essex Police.

It follows an incident on October 13, where a woman was filmed storming out of her car and shouting at the protesters who were blocking the road near the Dartford Crossing.



## Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News

### Brits using Covid 'as weapon' against police

Assaults on UK officers hit around 80 per day in early 2021, statistics released by the PA news agency found, with police warning that Covid was used "as a weapon" by spitting at constables. The data, covering the three months from March 23 to June 23 discovered that 7,537 assaults against officers, constables, and volunteers were recorded, with that panning out to around 80 per day. However, since the information collected only came from 31 out of the 43 police forces across the UK, the true scale of abuse levelled against officers could be much higher.

### Anti-vaxxers said to book Covid job appointments & not show up



to the Telegraph on Sunday.

Anti-vaxxers have been booking up Covid-19 vaccine appointments and then not turning up to get jabbed, according to the Telegraph, as Britain rushes to vaccinate millions against Omicron. Appointments at mass vaccination centres, including Wembley Stadium which is being used to roll out thousands of shots before Christmas, are being block-booked by people who have no intention of getting inoculated, according

### Brother of former UK Labour leader arrested for 'inciting violence'



Former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn's brother Piers has been arrested for allegedly calling for the offices of pro-lockdown MPs to be burnt down during a protest against vaccination mandates in Westminster. Corbyn was arrested in Southwark, London. Police had previously mentioned they were investigating a video in which the anti-lockdown protest leader appeared to be advocating arson.

## Met Police investigating fake Covid vaccine records arrest three people

The Metropolitan Police has arrested three people as part of investigations into suspected fake COVID-19 vaccination records. Officers from the Cyber Crime Unit made three arrests after staff at a London NHS trust noticed a suspicious pattern on some online vaccination records. A 27-year-old man and a 23-year-old man, both from Ilford, were arrested for unauthorised computer access and conspiracy to commit fraud by misrepresentation.

Police confirmed that searches at a residential property are underway, and 11 devices have been seized. A 36-year-old man from also Ilford was arrested on suspicion of unauthorised computer access and conspiracy to commit fraud by misrepresentation in an unrelated investigation. Three devices were seized, and officers are searching for a residential address. The arrests followed a member of staff from a different NHS trust noticing suspicious vaccination records on their online system.

## Police to lead Covid-19 passport enforcement



Police will visit licensed premises to make sure they comply with Covid-19 passport rules, Northern Ireland's justice minister has said. Naomi Long said police will be "leading enforcement". Regulations are now legally enforceable and venues who breach them could face fines of up to £10,000.

Customers must show either proof of vaccination, a negative test or recent recovery from Covid to enter licensed premises and entertainment venues. Ministers voted for mandatory checks last month, despite Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) opposition.

Entrance checks were introduced without enforcement on 29 November, but the two-week grace period has now ended.

## Anti-vaxxer jailed for supergluing clinic's doors to block booster rollout



A man who superglued the lock of a Covid-19 vaccination centre, stopping more than 500 people from getting their booster jabs, was jailed today

Hayden Brown, 53, squirted glue into the keyhole of the door to a pharmacy in Lowestoft Road in Gorleston overnight on November 26, meaning the door could not be opened, Norfolk Police said.

Brown, of Burgh Road in Great Yarmouth, was arrested after he was identified by covert cameras that had been put in place following two previous incidents on November 12 and November 20. He admitted criminal damage at Norwich Magistrates' Court, Norfolk police said.

Police said he also pleaded guilty to causing a public nuisance, by preventing Covid-19 booster jabs for 504 vulnerable people.

Superintendent Nathan Clark said that a "large number" of the 504 people were elderly, adding: "This disruption will have caused great anxiety to those who have chosen to be vaccinated and then not (been) able to attend."

The defendant also admitted to possessing cannabis, which was found at his home following his arrest.

