



## **SECURITY INTELLIGENCE UPDATE**

**APRIL 2022** 





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	21



### **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



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. <a href="https://www.cpni.gov.uk/national-security-threats">https://www.cpni.gov.uk/national-security-threats</a>





## **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 <a href="https://www.mi5.gov.uk/contact-us">https://www.mi5.gov.uk/contact-us</a>

#### 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 furure

### **CRITITCAL**

• Means an attack is highly likely in the near future

#### Current national terrorism threat levels

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

The threat to Northern Ireland from Northern Ireland-related terrorism is **SUBSTANTIAL** mined consistently extremely high.





## **Open-Source Security Incident News**

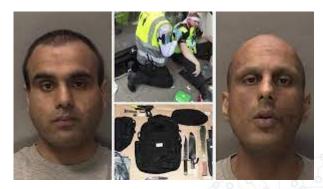
Beckhams' horror as masked raider breaks into £40m mansion while family were at home



The £40million London mansion of David and Victoria Beckham was raided by a masked bandit while they were at home with their daughter. The burglary of the couple's West London home, in Kensington, is believed to have occurred late in the evening while the Beckhams were at home with their 10-year-old daughter Harper.



### Two brothers knifed cops during shopping centre knife rampage



PC Leon Mittoo and PC James Willetts were carrying out a uniformed patrol in Queens Square Shopping Centre, when they stopped and searched Maninder Hunjan, 26, and Parminder Hunjan, 37. The brothers were first spotted outside Boots, carrying large black backpacks and wearing thick coats and gloves, which was described as "unusual clothing during a heatwave in mid-July".

After the officers requested the pair stop and talk to them, the brothers launched their violent attack. Parminder Hunjan and Maninder Hunjan were found guilty of wounding with intent, and possession of an imitation firearm at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

#### Drive-by shooter opens fire from BMW window near primary school



Sean Cowie, 32, was caught on CCTV hanging out the side of a BMW pointing a gun at a VW Golf in the Harpurhey area of the city. An innocent member of the public was caught up in the violence - narrowly escaping with their life as a bullet hit their car. No one was injured in the incident. Cowie was being driven by his associate Dean Urey, 39, who was pursuing a VW Golf. Cowie and Urey were also

accompanied by Paul Ryan, 43. All three men were jailed to a total of over 17 years.

### Hospital cleaner who stole from dead patients jailed for five months

Erika Pusnyte, who worked at the Cavell Centre in Peterborough, pleaded guilty to six counts of theft, fraud by false representation and possession of a class B drug. The 32-year-old has been jailed for five months at Peterborough Crown Court. Members of staff first noticed items, such as medical supplies, bank cards and medicine, going missing as early as July last year.

# Top terror cop warns extremist groups are using games to draw boys into violent ideologies

Police have seen a rise in lone actors carrying out attacks and more young people being drawn





into terrorism over the last five years. Since the wave of terror attacks in the UK in 2017, Assistant Commissioner Matt Jukes, head of Counter Terrorism Policing, said "most significantly" officers have seen a rise in the threat from "self-initiated terrorists", commonly described as lone actors, as opposed to cells of terrorists being directed to act. There is also growing concern about the number of

children being drawn into extreme right-wing terrorism.



## Shocking footage shows man threaten officer with bread knife for clamping his Mercedes



A man who had his Mercedes clamped after failing to pay a £2.50 crossing charge has been jailed for threatening an enforcement officer with a bread knife. Owen Miller, 60, of West Moors, ran towards the officer with the 8in bread knife in June last year after his car was clamped for failing to pay the £2.50 Dartford Crossing Toll. Miller pleaded guilty to threatening someone with a blade in a public place. He was sentenced to eight months in prison in Bournemouth Crown Court.

# Teenager given life sentence after stabbing girl 60 times in a 'brutal unprovoked attack'

The teenager, who is unable to be named for legal reasons, attacked the girl in Sittingbourne, Kent, in July 2021, leaving her with life-threatening injuries. He was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court to a discretionary life sentence, meaning he will serve a minimum of 10 years and, if he is then released, he will be subject to a whole life licence.

## Commuters warned of 'fake police officers' stealing valuables at train station





Signs have been put up in the West London station warning that "bogus police officers" have been tricking people in order to steal money, credit cards and valuables. The Met warns that the individuals wear ordinary clothes but carry fake police badges in order to justify searching people, and then steal what they can.

### Britain's 'most wanted' woman arrested in Spain after a decade at large

Sarah Panitzke, the only woman ever to be put on Britain's most wanted list, was a money launderer involved in a £1b tax fraud. The 47-year-old was convicted and sentenced to eight years in prison, but had been on the run since May 2013, when she absconded during her trial. She was arrested in the small town of Santa Barbara near the Catalan coast as she walked her two dogs.





## Dizzee Rascal smashes photographer's camera after guilty verdict in assault case

Chart-topping rapper Dizzee Rascal has smashed a photographer's camera outside court after he was found guilty of assaulting his ex-fiancée in a "chaotic" childcare row. The 37-year-old, whose real name is Dylan Mills, was found guilty at Wimbledon Magistrates'. PA reported that Mills took one of its photographer's cameras and hurtled it across the road moments after the verdict. He has been in court accused of pushing his former partner, Cassandra Jones, to the ground during a row in Streatham, south London, last June.



#### Toxic gas sends multiple people to hospital in London



A number of people were hospitalized with breathing difficulties in London, after a chemical reaction caused a release of poisonous chlorine gas at a swimming pool. Residents nearby were asked to close their windows as firefighters ventilated the toxic fumes.

Workers at the London Aquatics Center at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford were

taking delivery of chemicals when a "gas release" occurred.

"Due to a chemical reaction a high quantity of chlorine gas was released inside the center," the London Fire Brigade stated shortly afterwards, adding that around 200 people were evacuated from the pool complex and that officers were ventilating the building.

### Dubai ruler's ex-wife given sole responsibility for their children's care



The ex-wife of Dubai's ruler will have sole responsibility for schooling and medical care of their children after the High Court ruled he abused her. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum "consistently displayed coercive and controlling behaviour", a judge ruled.

The ruling is expected to be the final major decision in the case between Sheikh

Mohammed, 72, and his sixth wife Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, 47. She fled the United Arab Emirates in 2019 and now lives in the UK.

In the judgement, judge Sir Andrew McFarlane - the most senior family court judge in England and Wales - limited Sheikh Mohammed's parental responsibility for his daughter and son, Al Jalila, 14, and Zayed, 10, who the judge ruled could be named, despite their young ages.





#### STerror alert level in Northern Ireland lowered

The threat posed by dissident republican terrorism in Northern Ireland has been lowered for the first time in 12 years. NI Secretary Brandon Lewis announced the move, which is based on analysis of intelligence by MI5.

Since 2010 it had been severe, meaning an attack, or attacks, were highly likely. It is now substantial, meaning attacks are likely.

#### Almost 400 migrants cross Channel on small boats



Almost 400 migrants were brought into Dover after crossing the Channel. Some 394 people arrived in Kent on 11 boats, including babies wrapped in blankets, while a further 467 people were intercepted by French authorities after attempting to make the journey. Crossings have taken place amid warm weather and calm seas.

It means 2,354 people have arrived via small boats this month, almost three times as many as March last year. Several children were among those to be brought ashore.

### Tommy Robinson fails to appear at High Court finances hearing



Tommy Robinson has failed to appear at the High Court for questioning over his finances after losing a libel case brought against him by a teenager. The English Defence League founder, whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, was due to appear on Tuesday in connection with unpaid legal bills. He was successfully sued by Jamal Hijazi after the then 15-year-old was assaulted in Huddersfield in 2018. A High Court judge will decide whether Robinson is in contempt of court.



#### Sir David Amess MP murder trial hears accused targeted Michael Gove



An "Islamist terrorist" accused of murdering Sir David Amess MP carried out reconnaissance on other potential targets including cabinet minister Michael Gove, his trial heard. Sir David, MP for Southend West, was stabbed during a constituency surgery in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, on 15 October. Ali Harbi Ali stabbed Sir David repeatedly in an "assassination for terrorist purposes", the jury heard. The 26-year-old from London denies murder and preparing acts of terrorism.

Opening the trial at the Old Bailey in London,

prosecutor Tom Little QC described the defendant as a "radicalised Islamist terrorist" and called it a "murder carried out because of a warped and twisted and violent ideology".

#### Fire crews to get ballistic vests in Greater Manchester and London



Firefighters in Greater Manchester and London will be given bullet proof vests, first aid equipment and training on how to deal with terrorist attacks. The move follows a successful ballot of Fire Brigades Union (FBU) members.

Greater Manchester's chief fire officer Dave Russel said crews would be better able to deal with future attacks, with more lives potentially being saved. His service was criticised for its slow response to the 2017

Manchester Arena bombing in which 22 people were killed.

Fire crews took two hours to attend the scene of the suicide bombing and a report by HM Inspectorate of Fire and Rescue Services in December found it remained unprepared to respond effectively to another attack. Both London and Manchester have been hit by deadly terrorist attacks in recent years.

### Leeds teenager admits extreme right-wing social media posts

A 16-year-old boy has pleaded guilty to terrorism offences after a member of the public reported his extreme right-wing posts on social media. The teenager, from Leeds, was arrested in May 2021 and was later charged with disseminating a terrorist publication and possessing terrorist material.

He was sentenced at Leeds Youth Court to a 12-month referral order for each offence, which will run concurrently. The boy cannot be named due to his age.

The order means he will be referred to a panel consisting of two trained community volunteers and a member of the youth offending team in a bid to address his offending behavior. The



teenager was also ordered by the court to pay costs and was given a criminal behaviour order that will last until the day before his 18th birthday.

#### Teenager charged with plotting to carry out a terror attack



A teenager has been charged with plotting to carry out a terror attack. Al-Arfat Hassan is alleged to have been preparing a crime against innocent people.

The 19-year-old from London was arrested by specially trained officers after a 'proactive operation'. Now he has been charged with offences which could carry decades in prison if he is found guilty. Scotland Yard said Hassan is accused of an offence under the 'preparation of terrorist acts'

section of anti-terror legislation. He also stands accused of accessing information likely to be useful to a person preparing an act of terrorism.

# London giving safe sanctuary to refugees 'could be put at risk by right-wing extremism'

London's ability to provide safe sanctuary for refugees could be put at risk by right-wing extremism, an independent counter-terrorism review has warned.

Security expert Lord Toby Harris says hotels used to house them may be attacked. He adds refugees in some poorer boroughs were seen to be "jumping the queue" for services often in short supply, leading to anti-immigration "anger and division".

Last July, mayor Sadiq Khan commissioned the review against a backdrop of Islamist, online and right-wing radicalisation plus state-sponsored terror. Lord Harris reports more people were referred to Prevent, the government's flagship anti-terror programme, in 2021 for far-right views than Islamist ones for the first time - 1,229 compared to 1,064.

# Teenage gunman went on terrifying college rampage in suicide bid after being expelled



A teenager armed with a handgun went into a college and began firing at students and staff causing them to flee in terror. Sandijs Dreimanis, 18, went on the rampage at Crawley College in east Sussex shooting indiscriminately at students and staff causing "unimaginable fear."

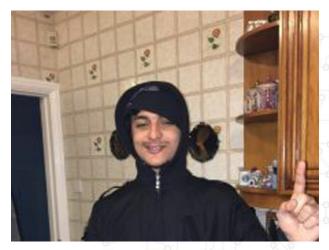
The teenager, who had been expelled from the college months earlier, wandered round waving the imitation Glock pistol and shouting: "Run, run for your lives!" as he shot blanks at them.



Dreimanis fired 16 blanks during his rampage around the college in a bid to be shot dead by armed police.

Fearing a terrorist attack, armed police from across the southeast were scrambled to the college at around after receiving reports of a masked man brandishing a gun in the college.

# Terrorist who shared beheading videos and car bomb guide to be freed from jail



A terrorist who posted beheading videos on WhatsApp and footage which gave tips on how to make a car bomb is set to be freed from jail. The Parole Board has decided Mohammed Khilji, who was sentenced to five years in 2018, is suitable for release.

The then 19-year-old, from north-west London, initially came to the attention of police after he digitally altered footage of a wargame video to make it appear that the featured soldiers were so-called Islamic State fighters and posted the clip-on

YouTube. He superimposed black Isis flags on the Battlefield video game and overlaid it with a terrorist battle song and a quote from an IS propaganda magazine.

According to Counter Terrorism Policing, officers also found videos on his phone and computer, including one which featured footage of the Westminster terrorist attack in 2017, and concluded by offering advice on preparing a vehicle-borne bomb. The Parole Board said: "After considering the circumstances of his offending, the progress made while in custody and the evidence presented at the hearing, the panel was satisfied that Mr Khilji was suitable for release."





## **Security Industry News**

#### New measures to tackle corrupt elites and dirty money become law



The new Economic Crime (Transparency and Enforcement) Act received Royal Assent following expedited passage through Parliament. Introduced following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the new legislation will mean that the UK Government can move more quickly to impose sanctions against oligarchs already designated by the nation's allies, as well as

intensifying sanctions enforcement. A new Register of Overseas Entities, requiring those behind foreign companies which own UK property to reveal their identities, will also be created under the Economic Crime (Transparency and Enforcement) Act. Entities who refuse to reveal their 'beneficial owner' will face tough restrictions on selling a given property, while those who break the rules could face a fine of up to £2,500 per day or up to five years in prison.

### National Crime Agency granted £800,000 cash forfeiture order

Upwards of £800,000 will be returned to the public purse after the National Crime Agency (NCA) secured a forfeiture order on cash seized from a group of men attempting to smuggle it out of the UK. The money was found stuffed into the checked-in luggage of six Italian nationals, who were stopped by Border Force officers just before boarding a flight from Stansted Airport to Podgorica in Montenegro on 2 February 2019.

When questioned, the men involved (i.e., Pietro Doca, William Cerri, Giuseppino Anfosso, Giovanni Piazza, Angelo Inferrera and Nicola Anfosso) all claimed they traded in the sale and purchase of high value watches, such as Rolexes and Audemars Piguets. However, nobody from the group could provide evidence – such as receipts or bank statements – that the money was linked to watch sales.



### Government delivers additional £150 million funding to tackle crime

As part of the Government's commitment to drive down crime and improve public safety, the Home Office has formally launched round four of the Safer Streets Fund. As announced in the Levelling Up White Paper, £150 million is available over the next three financial years for Police and Crime Commissioners and local authorities across England and Wales, as well as certain civil society organisations. The Safer Streets Programme provides funding to areas most affected by crime and anti-social behaviour and will allow local authorities, civil society organisations and Police and Crime Commissioners to bid for up to £500,000 per year for each project. The latest round of the Safer Streets Fund targets neighbourhood crime, violence against women and girls and, for the first time, anti-social behaviour.

#### NCA renews appeal to maritime industry over criminal targeting



The National Crime Agency has renewed an appeal to the UK maritime industry to beware of organised crime groups targeting constituent companies and operations in a bid to obtain small boats for people smugglers. The appeal is backed by a new social media and leaflet campaign, supported by Border Force and

the charity Crimestoppers, which spells out the warning. Some of the sign's sellers are being told by the NCA to look out for include:

- buyers looking to pay in cash
- repeat or bulk purchases of boats or equipment
- a lack of concern about the condition of the boat or equipment being purchased
- buyers wanting to complete transactions quickly, cheaply or without a designated delivery address

Additionally, the NCA is asking vendors to report unusual purchases of untreated plywood boards, PVC tarpaulin sheets and duct tape. These materials are often used by people smugglers to reinforce or otherwise modify inflatables used in attempted crossings.

## Convicted people smugglers ordered to pay £30,000-plus in confiscation orders

Four convicted people smugglers involved in the unlawful immigration of 39 individuals from Vietnam who died in the back of a lorry in Essex have been ordered to pay £31,493.47 in confiscation orders. Maurice Robinson was convicted of assisting unlawful immigrations and acquiring criminal property offences. He has been sentenced to 13 years and four months in jail. Christopher Kennedy has been jailed for seven years for conspiring to assist unlawful immigration, while Valentin Calota is jailed for four-and-a-half years for the same offence. In addition, Alexandru-Ovidiu Hangu has been jailed for three years after admitting conspiring to assist unlawful immigration in July 2021.





## **National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC)**



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-4th-march-2022

https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-11th-march-2022

https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-18th-march-2022

https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-25th-march-2022



## Demonstrations held / planned

## 74 Insulate Britain activists charged over climate protests at M25 and Port of Dover



hearings are due to begin from next month.

Seventy-four people have been charged over climate change protests in Kent. Kent Police said that scores of people will face court from next month after a series of climate protests on the M25 and at the Port of Dover. Insulate Britain activists are accused of blocking roads during demonstrations in September and October last year. Several court

# At least 13 people arrested in Essex as protest group blocks key oil terminals



At least 13 people have been arrested after environmental activists blocked a number of "key oil" terminals across the country. The Just Stop Oil group claimed demonstrations are taking place at 10 "critical oil facilities" in Essex, Hertfordshire, Birmingham and Southampton to demand that the government stops new oil and gas projects in the UK. It added that the protests could have a

"potential impact on fuel supply for London and the South East".



# Protesters hauled off pitch after trying to tie themselves to goalpost at Spurs game

Two anti-oil protesters were dragged off the pitch by stewards after they tried to tie themselves to a goalpost at the Tottenham vs West Ham game.

The young activists were removed from the Premier League match at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in north London on Sunday afternoon.

Wearing bright orange 'Just Stop Oil' t-shirts, the protesters attempted to lock onto a goalpost but were quickly removed from the pitch.

#### Eight arrests at oligarch's London mansion after balcony protest

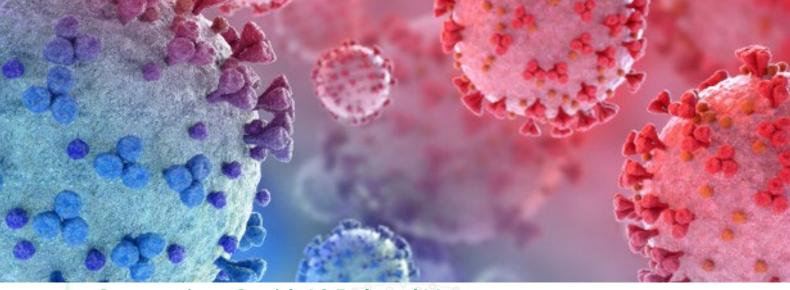


A demonstration at a mansion linked to Vladimir Putin ally Oleg Deripaska has ended with eight arrests, police said. Protesters occupied the balcony of 5 Belgrave Square, in central London, about midnight, and stayed most of the day, despite police efforts to remove them. The squatters said they were reclaiming the property for Ukrainian refugees. The Met tweeted the protests were over and that eight people had been arrested in total. A spokesman said four were arrested inside the building, and four more outside.

Police said they have searched the property and are satisfied there is no-one left inside, although a presence will be kept at the scene overnight.

Billionaire energy tycoon Mr Deripaska is one of the oligarchs sanctioned by the UK government following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.





### Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News

## "Fraudsters tighten grip on victims due to COVID-19" reports KPMG UK



The number of alleged fraud cases heard in UK Crown Courts in 2021 rose by 66% compared to the same time in 2020. Despite another lengthy COVID-19 lockdown at the start of last year, the UK's courtrooms appear to be back on their feet and have made headway with the backlog of cases that built up because of initial COVID-enforced restrictions. Figures from KPMG UK's Fraud Barometer state that 298 alleged fraud cases were heard during 2021 (up from 180 in 2020). However, the opposite trend is seen in

terms of fraud value. The Fraud Barometer figures, which record alleged fraud cases with a value of £100,000 and above, show the total value of fraud reaching UK Crown Courts in 2021 falling significantly from £724 million in 2020 to £444.7 million last year.

# Met hands out 20 fines for lockdown-breaking Downing St parties but names will stay secret



The Metropolitan Police have confirmed they will issue an initial 20 fines over lockdown-busting parties at Downing Street and Whitehall. Scotland Yard has been investigating 12 gatherings which took place at Downing Street and Whitehall, including some Boris Johnson is said to have attended. The force has confirmed it will be making 20 initial referrals for fixed penalty notices

(FPNs) to the ACRO Criminal Records Office - which issues the FPNs.