



SECURITY INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

DECEMBER 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 **SUBSTANTIAL**.

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



Open-Source Security Incident News

Four men arrested over 1.4 tonne seizure of cocaine worth £140m

A huge consignment of cocaine worth around £140m has been seized and four men arrested in a National Crime Agency investigation. The men were detained in a series of coordinated raids. Two of the suspects aged 67 and 48, are from Chorley, Lancashire; one 39-year-old is from Bolton, Lancashire, and the fourth is a 40-year-old from Derby in the Midlands. They were all arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to import cocaine and remain in custody awaiting interview. In August this year Border Force officers discovered a container at the Port of Felixstowe, Suffolk, containing the huge haul of Class A drugs in 20 kilo sacks.

Two arrested by the NCA in Nottingham over speed boat people smuggling attempt



Two people have been arrested in connection with a National Crime Agency investigation into a foiled attempt to smuggle migrants to the UK using a speedboat. The arrests follow an operation on 30 October where Belgian police prevented a high-powered rigid hulled inflatable boat leaving the coast near the town of Nieuwpoort in Flanders.

Twelve migrants, believed to be Albanian nationals, were detained, alongside two men from

Basingstoke in Hampshire who were arrested by the Belgian authorities for alleged people smuggling offences. NCA officers also detained a third suspected member of the crime group in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. He was later released under investigation.

Wealthy Russian businessman arrested on suspicion of multiple offences

The National Crime Agency has conducted a major operation to arrest a wealthy Russian businessman on suspicion of offences including money laundering, conspiracy to defraud the Home Office and conspiracy to commit perjury. The 58-year-old man was arrested at his multi-million-pound residence in London by officers from the NCA's Combatting Kleptocracy Cell.



A 35-year-old man, employed at the premises, was arrested nearby on suspicion of money laundering and obstruction of an NCA Officer after he was seen leaving the address with a bag found to contain thousands of pounds in cash. A third man, aged 39, who is the former boyfriend of the businessman's current partner, was arrested at his home in Pimlico, London, for offences including money laundering and conspiracy to defraud.

More than 50 officers were involved in the operation at the businessman's London property. A number of digital devices and a significant quantity of cash was recovered following extensive searches by NCA investigators. All three individuals were interviewed by the NCA and have been released on bail.

Violent trio who posed as police



Three violent thugs who posed as police officers to force their way into a woman's home before subjecting her to a brutal robbery ordeal have been jailed for a total of 35 years. Michael Cloherty, 58, Simon Ludlow, 50, and Michael Cook, 54, were jailed for 13, 12, and 10 years in prison for the attack on a mother as she left her home in Putney. On the morning of Monday November 29 last year, they approached the woman while she was leaving the flat with her three young children. Posing as police and carrying batons, one of the men shoed a fake warrant card and said they were there to carry out a drugs search.

Car drives into crowd of hundreds at packed Christmas market prompting three arrests

Police arrested three men after a car ploughed into a crowd of screaming shoppers at a Christmas market. Around 800 people were at Congleton Christmas Market, Cheshire when a silver VW Golf sped through the pedestrianised area at more than 50mph. Eyewitnesses described panicked members of the public jumping out the way of the rushing vehicle, which ploughed through the market. No one was hurt and the incident "doesn't appear to be terror-related", Cheshire Police said.



Police shoot man during raid in sleepy Somerset village



Police have shot a man during an armed raid in a small village in Somerset. The man was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he is in a critical but stable condition, officers said. The raid took place on Wick Road in the village of Wick St Lawrence as part of an investigation into possible firearms offences.

Police monitor threats against migrants as far-right extremists call for 'more fire bombings'

Counter-terror police are monitoring threats towards migrant reception centres and hotels, as far-right extremists celebrate the Dover firebombing and call for more attacks. Security at sites housing asylum seekers has been reviewed following a terror attack targeting a processing facility for small boats on 30 October, which police said was driven by extreme right-wing ideology.



Lasers attacks on Birmingham Airport planes sparks police hunt



A major police investigation is underway after laser attacks on planes at Birmingham Airport. Cops say lasers have been shone at a number of aircraft landing at BHX since September, as the nights have got darker.

The force believes the attacks are coming from three locations across the West Midlands - Solihull, Coventry and Wolverhampton. Shining a laser at a plane is a serious criminal offence, and police believe thugs are targeting aircraft landing between 6pm and 7am.

Solihull-based BHX is the UK's seventh largest airport and the third biggest outside the south east - meaning

the incidents will cause significant disruption. Birmingham Airport Police have also appealed to witnesses, or anyone has information on the laser attacks to get in touch.

Unlicensed security operatives caught and sentenced following enforcement checks

On Friday 04 November 2022, a security operative pleaded guilty at Dudley Magistrates' Court to working illegally. Finlay Caw of Bridgnorth was fined £300 and required to pay £500 prosecution costs plus a £34 victim surcharge to be paid within 14 days. Friday's sentencing is the latest in a series of prosecutions we have brought as a result of an inspection and enforcement operation with West Mercia Police last year. During the operation we carried out checks in venues across Telford, Shrewsbury, and Wolverhampton.



Our investigators found Caw working at Wolverhampton Racecourse on 27 November 2021. Caw worked unlicensed on seven occasions. He falsely claimed to our investigators that he was working under a Licence Dispensation Notice as his employer was an approved contractor. Caw failed to engage with us throughout the resulting investigation.

Man used cloned licences to work as hospital security during pandemic



On Friday 04 November 2022, Bolton man Olarotimi Ojugbele was handed a 26-week jail sentence, suspended for 18 months by Willesden Magistrates' Court, plus a 15-day Rehabilitation Activity Requirement to be completed within 12-months. He was also ordered to pay a £128 victim surcharge. Friday's sentence follows Ojugbele's guilty plea to fraud on Thursday 29 September.

This prosecution follows our investigation. A routine inspection by the in-house security manager of a Manchester city centre public hospital in 2020 identified multiple cases of cloned SIA licences. This meant that a number of unlicensed people were working as security staff at the hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The hospital's security manager referred a cloned licence to us along with incriminating email messages. Our criminal investigation team identified Olarotimi Ojugbele at an address in Bolton as the holder of a cloned licence. Ojugbele had no right to work in the UK. He was arrested by Home Office immigration officials in October 2021 and he was detained at a Middlesex immigration centre.

Bradford company director found guilty after failing to attend court again

On Tuesday 01 November 2022, Bradford Magistrates' Court found Usman Raees guilty in his absence of failing to provide information to us. The court fined him £660 and ordered him to pay £3,814 court costs plus a £66 victim surcharge within 28 days. This case follows our successful prosecution in December 2020, when Mr Raees was prosecuted for failing to supply information to us despite repeated requests.

Mr Raees was the sole company director of Bluesec Services Group Ltd for a very short period at the end of November 2017. We later received information about irregular company practices at Bluesec Services. Our investigator sought further information from Mr Raees, who held a non-front-line licence. Our investigators wrote to Mr Raees on 16 September 2019 and sent subsequent follow-up letters to which he failed to respond.

Early in 2021 Mr Raees claimed that he had just discovered that he had been prosecuted in his absence. He requested that his case be reopened. The case was heard on Tuesday, yet he once again failed to appear. In his continued absence, the court found him guilty, and we were awarded the full costs.

Maidenhead company director prosecuted for obstructing our investigation



On 28 August 2021 the store's retail manager noticed that the usual security operative was replaced by an unidentified man who was unlicensed. The manager notified us, and we began an investigation.

Our investigators sent a request for information to Mr Imran last December. He responded but failed to provide the information that had been requested. We sent a further request for information last February which Mr Imran ignored. He also failed to respond to a request to attend an interview under caution, which would have given him the opportunity to respond to the allegations. This left us with no option but to prosecute Mr Imran.

On Friday 11 November 2022, Muhammad Imran was prosecuted in his absence at Reading Magistrates' Court for failing to supply information to us. Mr Imran, a company director from Maidenhead, was fined £440 and required to pay £1,953.50 prosecution costs plus a £44 victim surcharge.

Mr Imran's company MNMFM Ltd was the supplier of security to an Oldham supermarket.

Car crash exposes man with forged security licence

A Southend man without the legal right to work in the UK was caught with a forged SIA licence after he was injured in a car accident in Bristol.

On Monday 14 November, Ahmed Altorshan was handed a 17 weeks' jail sentence, suspended for 12 months, by Southend-on-Sea Magistrates' Court. He was also ordered to do 120 hours unpaid work and pay £500 prosecution costs plus a victim surcharge of £128. The sentence follows his guilty plea to fraud on 30 September 2022.



We brought the prosecution following a road accident when the car that Mr Altorshan was driving hit a tree in Bristol on 29 April 2021. As Mr Altorshan was injured, he was taken to

hospital. Police officers investigating the incident recovered multiple identity cards, including a forged SIA door supervisor's licence, from the car.

The forgery was of a genuine licence held by a legitimate licence holder. Avon and Somerset Police referred the incident to Home

Former security guard wins £2,325 award at tribunal

Former Jury's Inn hotel security guard wins £2,325 award from an Employment Tribunal. A former security guard working in Swindon has obtained a judgement totalling £2,325 after taking a Cornish company to an employment tribunal. Markel Dioneza, from Devizes, won the



judgement against the Camborne-based private security firm, WillSecure Ltd. The firm operates a private security service for clients across Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Wiltshire.

This includes the Jury's Inn hotel in Swindon, which was being used by the government to accommodate refugees from Afghanistan. Mr Dioneza worked for the company for three months from May 2021 to July 2021 before deciding to leave. He was employed as a security guard working 12-hour shifts from 6pm to 6am six days a week at the hotel.

"We worked a 72-hour week, earning £10 an hour," said Mr Dioneza, 28, who came to the UK from the Philippines in 2009. But I found that deductions from my wages were equivalent to around 2.5 days a week and I was not getting paid holiday pay." He decided to take WillSecure Ltd to an employment tribunal. The company was given six months to settle his claims but failed to respond.

Security officer steps in to stop attack in York city centre



A brave security guard stepped in to stop a violent attack in York – then helped get the perpetrators arrested. Helen Moynihan, a security professional for Eboracum UK Ltd, was staffing one of the barriers designed to prevent hostile vehicle attacks on the York Christmas market when the incident happened. Two people, said by witnesses to be drunk, launched a violent, unprovoked attack

on an innocent visitor. Without thinking of her own safety, Helen physically intervened and the perpetrators fled the scene.

She then gave the victim first aid and was soon joined by other Eboracum first aiders and security colleagues. Helen reassured the victim and arranged immediate help for him.

Online Safety Bill's 'spy clause' will pave way for 'state-mandated mass surveillance'

Ministers' plans to insert a "spy clause" into legislation to regulate the internet will amount to "state-mandated mass surveillance of communications by the private sector", experts have warned.



The Government has tabled amendments to its Online Safety Bill that significantly strengthens its ability to demand messenger apps, such as WhatsApp, Telegram and Signal, to monitor their users' messages if it deems it necessary. The proposals have been drawn up by the Home Office to deal with terrorist and child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) content and will hand sweeping

new powers to Ofcom to demand encrypted messenger apps scan users' messages for such material.

Two teens charged with murder after two 16-year-olds found with fatal injuries



Two teenagers have been charged with the murders of two 16-year-olds who were fatally stabbed just a mile apart in south-east London. The 15 and 16-year-old were charged following the death of Charlie Bartolo and Kearne Solanke, the Metropolitan Police said.

Kearne was knifed in Titmuss Avenue, Thamesmead, and Charlie was found in Sewell Road, Abbey Wood. The force said a 16-year-old boy had been arrested and a 15-year-old boy later in the day. They will appear in custody at Bromley Magistrates' Court charged with the murders.

Man pulls knife on shop security guard in town centre

Merseyside Police confirmed that a man threatened a shop security guard with a knife in Southport town centre. The security guard used the town link radio system to alert a PCSO in the area who managed to get officers to the scene quickly. A 31-year-old man was detained a short distance away and was arrested on suspicion of possession of a bladed article in a public place and affray.



Teen who posted extreme right-wing videos online found guilty of string of terror offences

A teenager has been convicted of a string of terror offences after posting a series of 'extreme right-wing videos' online. Daniel Harris was also found guilty of trying to use a 3D printer to make parts of a gun.

The 19-year-old, from Glossop, was arrested earlier this year after an investigation by specialist counter-terrorism officers. Following a trial at Manchester Crown Court Harris was found guilty of five counts of encouraging terrorism relating to his creation and uploading of material to the internet between February 2021 and March 2022.

Appeal after security guard held hostage during aggravated burglary

A security guard was held hostage and assaulted during an aggravated burglary at a business premises. He was confronted by three masked men before he was punched to the head and manhandled onto a chair. He spent around three hours in the office being guarded by the offenders while others came onto the site and stole various items of equipment.



After the offenders had left the site, off Smeath Lane in Clarborough, the victim called the police.

Cyber-attacks from terrorism, espionage and its own staff pose threat to council, warns report



Conwy must ensure its IT systems are resilient to guard against cyber-attacks from terrorism, espionage and even its own members of staff, warns a council report. The council's finance and resources overview committee will meet next week to discuss Conwy's digital strategy as part of the authority's corporate plan.

Within that report is a "Cyber Resilience" strategy that warns that, unless IT systems are

continually developed, hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of damage could be caused. Listing the main threats to the council, the report says terrorist organisations, espionage, and "insiders" pose some of the biggest risks to its IT infrastructure.

The report warns Conwy must continue to invest in its systems or risk hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of damage. The report states: "Cyber-attacks will continue to evolve, which is why we will continue to work to stay ahead of all threats."

Van used to raid Nottinghamshire businesses rams police car in chase



A van which was used to ram raid businesses in Nottingham and Stapleford has been intercepted by police. The vehicle was used as a battering ram at two places at a private unit in New Road, Radford and at a business in Pasture Road, Stapleford. Building equipment and tools were stolen in the first incident, with a vehicle and other car keys taken from inside in the second. Police later located the van and pursued the vehicle.

The van, which was on cloned plates, reportedly rammed a police car and continued to drive erratically, before being stopped. Police also caught up with the stolen car a few minutes later and managed to bring it to a halt.

Attempted murder of two Northern Ireland police officer's sparks raid on home



Anti-terror police investigating the attempted murder of two officers said they have searched a property. It came after a seventh man was arrested by detectives from the terrorism investigation unit. They swooped in the Strabane area of Co Tyrone, Northern Ireland, at the weekend, following the November 17 attack. The officers had been on patrol at Mount Carmel Heights when a bomb was detonated at the side of their vehicle. Neither officer was injured in the attack.

Bouncer, 33, who killed Brit heiress girlfriend in Switzerland has 18-year sentence increased after appeal



A bouncer who strangled his British girlfriend and claimed she died in a sex game gone wrong has had his sentence increased after launching an appeal.

Marc Schatzle, 33, was locked up for 18 years in October 2021 for the murder of Anna Reed, 22. Anna was found dead in their luxury hotel room in Lugano, Switzerland three years ago. He launched an appeal trying to have his conviction changed to manslaughter, but a Swiss court of appeal increased his jail term by six months.

Man arrested on suspicion of assault after cleaning fluid used to attack woman

A man has been arrested on suspicion of assault after a woman was attacked with cleaning fluid. The incident happened recently in the Talgarth area of Brecon. Dyfed Powys Police were investigating the incident. Details were limited, but CCTV evidence had been obtained. The force wrote on Twitter: "We are aware of the level of concern on social media surrounding an incident in Talgarth, Brecon, where a woman was attacked with cleaning fluid. We can confirm that a man is currently in custody, arrested on suspicion of carrying out the assault."



Tokyo Joe's bar in Portsmouth's Guildhall Walk can keep its licence despite stabbings



Metal detectors will have to be installed at the entrances to a Portsmouth nightclub where four men were stabbed last month. Tokyo Joe's in Guildhall Walk was allowed to keep its licence by a city council licensing sub-committee at a behind-closed-doors meeting, subject to strict checks being introduced for customers. The review was called by Hampshire police following the November 5 incident, but a decision notice says councillors were

'not satisfied that this incident, whilst exceptionally serious, should lead to a revocation of the licence'.

Prisoners will be held in police stations because jails are nearly full

Hundreds of prisoners will be held in police stations because crisis-hit jails are nearly full. Taxpayers face forking out millions to house them — with each police cell costing at least £450 a night. The scale of the scandal was laid bare yesterday as Prisons minister Damian Hinds told the Commons he had triggered Operation Safeguard. It puts police chiefs on notice to let prisons use local nicks to house lags.



The cost of a cop cell under Operation Safeguard was £450 last time it was triggered in 2007. Prison chiefs are likely to demand the use of around 400 cells at first — but more could yet be needed.

Police make arrests over Barnsley village where teenage yobs are 'holding people hostage'



South Yorkshire Police have said they have arrested several teenagers after two recent violent incidents in a Barnsley village.

The police's response came after residents of a South Yorkshire village raised damning concerns about a gang of marauding yobs who are said to be attacking people and causing problems in the area. Some residents of Thurnscoe told Yorkshire Live their lives had been made miserable by a group of boys who

beat, threaten and intimidate people and set fire to properties in the village.

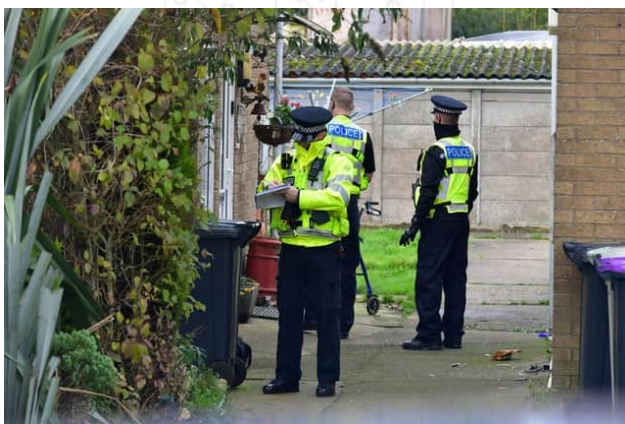
Six men appear in court and teenager charged after 'serious violence' in Airdrie and Ayrshire

Six men and a teenager have been charged in connection with "serious violence" in Airdrie and Ayrshire, which saw a family motorhome 'rammed' moments after a 'machete fight'. Police were called to reports of a disturbance on Caldercruix Road, in Airdrie. A second incident, which is understood to be linked, took place in a field just off the A76 at Bowhouse roundabout in Kilmarnock, just two days later.

Teenager who murdered stranger in random birthday attack given life sentence

A teenager who murdered a stranger after a day of drinking on his 18th birthday has been sentenced to life behind bars. Brian McKillop, 19, has been ordered to serve a minimum of 11 years and three months after pleading guilty to the murder and robbery of a 51-year-old man in Rutherglen, South Lanarkshire, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal said.

Woman arrested on suspicion of attempted murder



Armed officers attended the property in Friskney, near Skegness, following a concern for welfare call to police. A woman has been arrested after two 10-year-old boys suffered stab wounds during an 11-hour police stand-off at a home in Lincolnshire. Armed officers were called to the property in Friskney, near Skegness. A 39-year-old woman was arrested 11 hours later after police forced entry to the property following negotiations. Police say

two boys, both aged 10, suffered stab wounds during the incident. Both were taken to hospital, but neither is believed to have suffered life-threatening injuries. The woman was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder.

Bradford man Leon Fenton, 32, slashes man's neck with glass bottle

A man is facing a lengthy prison stay after admitting to "slashing" his victim's neck with a glass bottle. Leon Fenton, 32, of Birch Lane in Bradford, was originally charged with attempted murder following an attack in Great Horton Road, Bradford, on July 26. However, Fenton made

a guilty plea to wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, which was accepted by the prosecution.

Police warn against car theft this winter



West Midlands Police have issued warnings for the upcoming winter amid cost-of-living pressures and an increase in desperation. Police have warned against the increase of 'survival crime' this winter as the cost-of-living crisis grips the nation. With vehicle theft on the rise, police are urging people not to leave valuables such as mobile phones, sat navs or even pound coins on show in their car.

So-called survival crime is expected to surge this winter as energy bills and inflation put many households in desperate situations. Survival crime perpetrators are typically those who would not normally commit crimes such as theft or fraud but do so to feed themselves or their families.

Romance fraudster met victims on dating websites and conned them out of £320,000

A fraudster who scammed four women that he met on online dating websites has been jailed. Emmanuel Scotts, 55, tricked his victims out of more than £320,000 after befriending them on the internet and persuading them to 'invest' savings and returning small sums of 'interest' to extract more money.



In reality, he had only gained their trust and manipulated them to fund his own lifestyle. In total, the victims lost a total of £324,083, with one victim losing £232,969. Scotts, of Fulham, was caught following an investigation by the Dedicated Card and Payment Crime Unit, a specialist unit from the City of London and the Met Police that is funded by the banking industry.



Security Industry News

Government reviews CONTEST strategy to address emerging threats

The Government is going to conduct a “wholesale refresh” of the UK’s counter-terrorism strategy in order to protect citizens from new, emerging and persistent threats. In the UK and overseas, there has been a shift towards self-initiated terrorists operating independently from organised groups with increasingly personal ideologies and warped views used to justify violence. The tactics and methodologies used by terrorists are diversifying and becoming increasingly fragmented.

To meet those threats, the Government’s counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST) will be updated to reflect these new challenges. This will involve seeking a diverse range of views and engaging security experts from across the UK and overseas such that CONTEST continues to robustly protect the British public from terrorist threats.

“UK needs 62,000 new security officers to meet soaring demand” urges BSIA



The UK’s private security industry must recruit, train and licence more than 62,000 new security officers over the next 12 months to keep up with the growing demand for their services and make sure members of the public are kept safe. That’s according to the British Security Industry Association (BSIA), the trade body for the professional security industry here in the UK. To help meet

that demand, the BSIA has launched a major national initiative, entitled ‘People, Property, Places: Professionally Protected’, to increase awareness of the crucial work that security officers transact on a 24/7 basis. It also highlights that in the professional security sector offers a wide range of benefits and opportunities that are open to anyone, from any background, ethnicity, sexuality or age group.

Research conducted among BSIA member companies, who provide over 70% of private security services in the UK, indicates that the nation’s private security sector needs to boost the number of licensed security officers by 62,000 to more than 450,000 over the next 12 months in order to meet growing demand and departures from the sector.



“Fraud skyrockets as cost-of-living crisis begins to deepen” reports Cifas

Cases of fraud have continued to soar as the cost-of-living crisis pushes households to breaking point. That’s according to leading fraud prevention service Cifas. In its latest Fraudscape report, Cifas figures reveal that the UK could be heading into 2023 with “unprecedented” levels of fraud. In the first nine months of 2022, over 309,000 cases were recorded to the National Fraud Database. That’s a 17% rise compared to last year. This also marks an 11% increase on pre-pandemic levels.



This particular increase was mainly driven by the rise in false application and identity fraud, up by 45% and 34% respectively, heralding a grim outlook for finances in the upcoming year.

Winter vigilance campaign

The National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) has launched its Winter Vigilance Campaign.

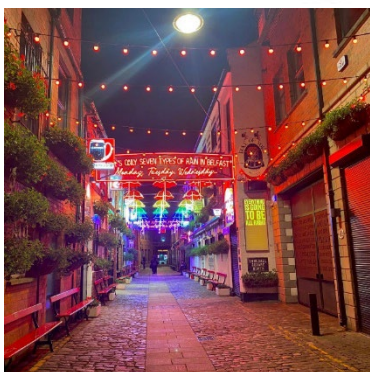
As security professionals you can play a vital role in helping to keep the public safe this Christmas. When you’re out and about, make sure you stay alert for

- Anyone filming exits, entrances or CCTV
- Any unattended bags
- Anything you hear or see, which doesn’t feel right

No matter how small you think it is report it. Tell a member of your team or a police officer. You can also report online at <https://act.campaign.gov.uk/> or in an emergency call 999.

Don’t assume someone else will report it, share your concerns it could make a difference.

Northern Ireland has launched its new ‘Ask for Angela’ scheme.



The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has developed a training package, in partnership with Hospitality Ulster, with the ambition of publicly rolling out the ‘Ask for Angela’ safeguarding initiative across Northern Ireland during December.

We know that the hospitality sector works hard to create safe places for people to go out and have fun. ‘Ask for Angela’ is another way that local businesses can make their customers feel even safer.

People who feel unsafe, vulnerable or threatened can discreetly seek help by approaching venue staff. Asking for ‘Angela’ will indicate to trained staff that this

person requires help in the form of reuniting them with a friend, seeing them to a taxi, or calling venue security and/or the police.

Any local venue that wishes to take part must first register via the link above to sign up to the scheme. They will be given access to the bespoke training package for their staff and promotional materials for their venue (to be used during December and beyond).

The training explores what vulnerability is, how to identify it and appropriate interventions to take if someone 'Asks for Angela'.

Security managers lack influence over the security budget



Perpetuity Research has published the latest report from the Security Research Initiative – 'The role of security in influencing the budget'.

The aim of the research was to explore the extent to which security managers are able to influence the security budget, whether and why this matters, and

how they can attain greater influence. It's based on the views of security professionals from both in-house and contract positions (predominantly those currently in a 'security manager/director' type role), collected via an online survey and in-depth interviews.

- 76% agreed that being able to influence the budget is key to delivering good security
- influence over the budget was considered important for several reasons. These include giving status to security in discussions with other departments; enabling security advice and proposals to commonly be listened to; and being able to direct the allocation of resources using relevant expertise
- a lack of influence meant that security managers could not purchase basic and essential resources or plan effectively; this resulted in security decisions being made by non-security experts
- 51% of respondents in a current security management role had a high level of influence on the budget; 10% were 'not involved'
- 46% of security managers/directors thought that their current budget was 'insufficient' (42% thought it was 'sufficient').

Unsurprisingly, those with the highest levels of influence over the budget were the least likely to view it to be insufficient reasons for the budget being considered less than required. This included: the budget allocated did not reflect the risks faced; and did not cover key areas such as training, travel, basic equipment, contingencies; teams were understaffed; rising costs not covered; and being asked to provide more for less.

SIA publishes sector profile on recruitment and retention in the security guarding sector



Security Industry Authority

On 23 November we published a 'snapshot' profile of the security guarding sector. It draws on findings from recent surveys and past research we have conducted. It also uses data from our licensing system. Responses to surveys we have undertaken suggest that some companies within the sector have found it difficult to recruit and retain security guards. Business demand is increasing post-pandemic but pay is not rising at a rate that helps to attract and retain

staff.

Responses also suggest that some of the barriers to recruitment and retention are:

- low pay
- work patterns (unsociable hours)
- lack of flexibility, which is a barrier to attracting those with caring responsibilities (particularly women) to the industry
- overcapacity and saturation of employment within local areas means fewer people are applying for jobs
- high levels of verbal and physical violence in the workplace
- lack of career pathways and progression opportunities

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sia-publishes-sector-profile-on-recruitment-and-retention-in-the-security-guarding-sector>

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/threat-report-11th-november-2022>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/threat-report-25th-november-2022>



Demonstrations held / planned

Just Stop Oil cause more chaos as they climb M25 gantries for fourth time on Tube strike day

Just Stop Oil have climbed overhead gantries on the M25 for the fourth day in a row, causing travel chaos for commuters. Traffic was blocked both ways between junction 15-16 and at junction 25 in Hertfordshire, between junctions 7 and 8 in Surrey, and at junction 28 in Enfield.

The closures have since reopened and at least four people have been arrested. Traffic was blocked both ways between junction 15-16 and at junction 25 in Hertfordshire, between junctions 7 and 8 in Surrey, and at junction 28 in Enfield, at least four people were arrested.

King Charles and Queen Consort Camilla pelted with eggs: XR activist hauled away by police



A man has been detained by police after King Charles and the Queen Consort were egged during a walkabout at Micklegate Bar, in York.

The King and Queen Consort were being welcomed to the city by leaders when three eggs were thrown, all of which missed before the pair were ushered away. The man was heard to shout "this country was built on the blood of slaves" as he was being detained by around four police officers.

The man who was arrested was later identified as Patrick Thelwell, 23. He has taken part in Extinction Rebellion protests, including in 2020 when the group blocked London Bridge. He ran York's XR branch and has also squatted at locations in the city. In 2021 he ran as 'Gardener and Green Party candidate' in local elections.

Thousands of climate protesters march in Edinburgh on Global Day of Action

Thousands of climate protestors marched through the streets of Edinburgh on the Global Day of Action on 12 November. The march coincided with events around the world, with protestors demanding climate action and for companies to transition away from oil and gas. Organisers argued that less climate pollution could help deal with the cost-of-living crisis.

highlighted banks, governments and the major polluters who are accused of damaging the environment. It came as delegates gather for the UN climate conference Cop27 in Egypt.

Extinction Rebellion protesters target 13 London businesses and BEIS building following COP27



The group said 'fake oil' was poured over offices and front steps, a fire was lit, and fake blood poured on the pavement outside businesses 'linked to the fossil fuel industry' Extinction Rebellion and other climate activists have targeted 13 London businesses and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) building in a string of demonstrations after COP27.

The group said 'fake oil' was poured over offices and front steps, a fire was lit, and fake blood poured on the pavement outside businesses they believe to have links to the fossil fuel industry on Monday morning.

Protests took place at BP, Hill+Knowlton Strategies, BAE Systems, Church House, Ineos, Eversheds Sutherland, Schlumberger, the International Maritime Organisation, the Institute of Economic Affairs, JP Morgan, Arch Insurance, the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Metropolitan Police said 15 activists were arrested on either suspicion of criminal damage or conspiracy to commit criminal damage. One person was arrested for assault at a building in Clekernwell Green. A further five activists were arrested in the City of London for committing similar offences.

Just Stop Oil considers slashing famous artworks as it threatens to 'escalate' protests



The controversial climate activists have issued a call to England captain Harry Kane to wear an armband carrying their message at the World Cup in Qatar. Just Stop Oil demonstrators are considering slashing famous works of art as they threaten to "escalate" their protests.

The controversial climate activists also issued a call to England captain Harry Kane to wear an armband carrying their message at the World Cup in Qatar.

The group is planning more disruption in the run-up to Christmas in its campaign of direct action, which has included blocking roads, spraying orange paint on buildings and defacing famous artworks.

Among the protests, demonstrators have thrown soup at Van Gogh's Sunflowers painting and glued themselves to the frames of several masterpieces, prompting one art critic to brand them "morons".

Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News

Nothing of significance to report

