



# SECURITY INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

## JULY 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

### Ex-bank manager sentenced for £255,000 money laundering operation

A former Barclays Bank manager has been sentenced at Warwick Crown Court for helping to launder £255,000. Heather Smalley, 31, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, suspended for two years, for entering an arrangement which facilitated the laundering of another person's criminal proceeds. Smalley pleaded guilty to this charge at Coventry Magistrates' Court.

Smalley had worked for Barclays Bank for 14 years and was the bank manager at a Coventry branch. On six occasions, between February and October 2020, she arranged to take in bags of low value £10 and £20 notes from an unnamed man ('K') and replaced them with 'clean' bank-ordered £50 notes. The amounts varied between £25,000 and £65,000 in each transaction, with an overall amount of £255,000 involved in these offences.

Money obtained from certain crimes is termed 'dirty' and needs to be 'cleaned' to appear to have been derived from legal activities, such that banks and other financial institutions will deal with it without suspicion.

Exchanging cash in this way, without any audit trail of it passing through a customer bank account, ran contrary to Barclays Bank's anti-money-laundering policies, which set a maximum cap of £100.00 for cash exchanges.

Smalley's case illustrates how organised criminals can seek to use professional facilitators to launder their criminal proceeds.

### Fraudulent duo imprisoned in wake of successful SFO prosecution



Following the Serious Fraud Office's (SFO) successful investigation and prosecution, Andrew Nathaniel Skeene (aged 44) and 45-year-old Junie Conrad Omari Bowers have each been sentenced at Southwark Crown Court to 11 years' imprisonment for their involvement in a fraudulent investment scheme. Bowers and Skeene were the masterminds behind Global Forestry Investments, a fraudulent green investment scheme which scammed around 2,000 investors out of their savings and pensions.

The duo encouraged victims to invest in three Brazilian teak tree plantations, claiming these were secure, well-managed and ethical investments that would help to protect the Amazon rainforest and

support local communities. In reality, little-to-nothing was happening on the ground and the pair enriched themselves with the finances they duly received.

During the schemes' operation, Skeene and Bowers collectively withdrew around £750,000 in cash and spent a further £2 million on luxury goods and entertainment. Skeene also used investors' money to fund his own lavish wedding, while Bowers bought a Bentley Continental GT.

## Belfast sole trader prosecuted by SIA for providing false information



The Security Industry Authority (SIA) prosecuted a Belfast man at Laganside Magistrates' Court for providing false information and failing to comply with the Private Security Industry Act 2001. Tomas Tolan pleaded guilty after previously pleading not guilty. He was given a 12-month conditional discharge, ordered to pay court costs of £200 and also a victim surcharge of £42.

## IT fraudster jailed for selling £1 million of software to bank account attackers



An IT fraudster has been imprisoned for profiting by more than £1 million from the sale of software which allowed criminals to dupe people into divulging their personal banking information. Timmy Ijie, aged 25, pleaded guilty at Southwark Crown Court to two counts of supplying computer software for fraudulent purposes and one count of money laundering and was sentenced to four-and-a-half years behind bars. The criminal investigation conducted by the City of London

Police in tandem with the Metropolitan Police Service revealed that Ijie used an online messaging app, namely 'Telegram', to offer specialist software for sale which enabled fraudsters to bypass banking security systems. Ijie offered the software through a monthly subscription, charging a fee of around £600 per month, which was payable in cryptocurrency.

## Duo jailed for multiple counts of modern slavery in wake of CPS investigation

Maros Tancos and Joanna Gomulska – who subjected trafficked slavery victims to a life of misery and poverty by forcing them to work and spending their earnings – have been jailed for modern slavery offences in the wake of an investigation process conducted by the Crown Prosecution Service. Tancos, aged 45, and 46-year-old Gomulska trafficked at least 29 vulnerable people to the UK from Slovakia or Hungary on the promise of a better life. From the moment they arrived in the UK, however, the victims were under the control of Tancos and Gomulska. The men and women would be taken to their new home, stripped of their identity documents, and met with violence if they asked for money or food.





Victims were forced to work at Tancos' car wash for free. Having finished their shifts, they would then be taken to other manual jobs having had little or no break and were also made to work when injured.

The victims' earnings were taken by Tancos and Gomulka, who gave them only basic rations of food and kept them in poor living conditions. The pair used this money not to feed or provide decent shelter for the victims, but rather on online gambling sites, flights and also to entrap more victims. At Bristol Crown Court, Tancos was jailed for 16 years and Gomulka put behind bars for a period of nine years.

## Killer drivers could be given life behind bars under new laws



Killer drivers could be handed life sentences and police will be given stronger powers to crackdown on "guerrilla protests" as new laws come into force. The dangerous driving crackdown is among new measures in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act. The maximum penalty for causing death by dangerous driving has been increased from 14 years to

a life sentence. Careless drivers who kill while under the influence of drink or drugs will also face potential life sentences. Meanwhile, a new offence of causing serious injury by careless driving has been created.

## Three men arrested after Amir Khan robbed at gunpoint for £72k watch

Three men have been arrested after former boxing world champion Amir Khan was robbed of his £72,000 watch at gunpoint. The 35-year-old was with his wife Faryal in Leyton in April when he was approached by two males who threatened him with a gun before stealing his £70,000 watch. Scotland Yard said three men, aged 25, 34 and 20, were arrested on suspicion of robbery after warrants were executed by detectives.



The 25-year-old has also been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, while the 20-year-old has been arrested for this offence and possession of ammunition. All three remain in custody.

## 'Putin spy' arrested at Gatwick after MI5 and counterterrorism investigation





A Russian man has been arrested at Gatwick airport on suspicion of spying for the regime of Vladimir Putin. The man who is in his 40s was detained as he attempted to board an international flight, but police will not reveal where the suspect was set to travel to. Officers transported the suspect to Hammersmith police station where he remains in custody. The arrest was carried out after a joint investigation conducted by the Met's SO15 counterterrorism unit and MI5

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "We can confirm that officers from the Met's Counter Terrorism Command arrested a man in his 40s at Gatwick Airport on suspicion of offences under Section One of the Official Secrets Act 1911.

## Two police officers injured as man shot during armed stand-off in Scunthorpe

Police have shot a man after two officers were seriously injured during a major incident in Scunthorpe. Humberside Police confirmed a man was shot by officers called to Theodore Road, Scunthorpe, on Wednesday night, and is in a stable condition. Two police officers were also hurt after tackling an armed suspect and were "taken to hospital for treatment for serious injuries".



## West Ham star Kurt Zouma sentenced to community service



West Ham defender Kurt Zouma will carry out community service for kicking and slapping his pet cat in a disturbing video posted by his brother on Snapchat. The 27-year-old Frenchman was ordered to carry out 180 hours of community service and

banned from keeping cats for five years at Thames Magistrates' Court. He showed no emotion as he was handed the sentence at Thames Magistrates' Court in east London.

## Manchester City's Benjamin Mendy charged with further count of rape

Manchester City footballer Benjamin Mendy has been charged with a further count of rape following an allegation from a new complainant. The latest allegation means the 27-year-old stands accused of eight counts of rape, one count of sexual assault and one count of attempted rape, relating to seven young women. Mendy pleaded not guilty last month to all but the latest charge, which has not yet been put to him and he is yet to enter a plea to.



An order had banned media from publishing the latest charge until the order was lifted by Judge Steven Everett, Recorder of Chester, during a hearing at Chester Crown Court. The left-back, 27, from Prestbury, Cheshire, was suspended by the club after being charged by police.

## Founder of banned fascist group National Action (NA) has been jailed for more than eight years.



Alex Davies, described as the "biggest Nazi of the lot", was found guilty of being a member of the organisation after it was proscribed on December 16, 2016. The 27-year-old, from Swansea, South Wales, had set up the "continuity group" NS131 with the aim of getting around the ban, which was brought in after NA posted "congratulatory" tweets following the murder of MP Jo Cox. Davies was jailed at the Old Bailey for eight-and-a-half years by Judge Mark Dennis QC. The judge also

ordered him to spend a further year on extended licence. Founder of neo-Nazi group National Action jailed for over eight years

## Police hunt after man doused in petrol and set on fire at service station

Police are hunting for two men after a 20-year-old man was doused in petrol and set on fire at a service station. The victim was sat in his car on the forecourt of Texaco service station on Himley Road, Brierley Hill when he was set alight. The 20-year-old, who has not been named, suffered serious injuries, and remains in hospital in a "serious but stable condition". West-Midland police have released the images of two men in a public appeal.



## Bookmakers' robber caught after giving real name to ticket inspector





A robber who raided bookmakers across south London was caught by police after being stopped by a train ticket inspector. Brett Mullan stole more than £2,780 in his 20-day spree, using a collapsible walking stick to appear like a shotgun when he held it within a carrier bag. The Met's Flying Squad linked him to armed robberies at bookmakers in Lee, Norwood, Sutton and Crayford between April 4 and April 24. Officers realised Mullan, 51, was travelling to his robberies by train and sought out CCTV.

## Five arrested over football fan's murder seven years after attack

Five men have been arrested on suspicion of murdering football fan Simon Dobbin, who was left unable to walk or talk for five years before dying. The Cambridge United fan was attacked as he walked to a railway station after a match against Southend United in 2015. Mr Dobbin was left with permanent brain damage and died at his home in Mildenhall, Suffolk, in October 2020, aged 48. Essex Police said medical tests showed a direct link between his death and his injuries. Five men, aged 27, 30, 34, 39 and 45, were arrested at addresses throughout south Essex on Friday morning and have been held in custody for questioning.



## Man, points gun at cop and dog in police chase as gang jailed



PC Elwood said he thought he "was about to be killed" after Mucktar Khan, 23, pointed a handgun at him as he pursued the gunman. "When the gun was pointed directly at my face my instant reaction was to turn away in fear, I thought I was about to be killed," he said. "However, I continued to chase after them as they are dangerous individuals who needed removing from the streets. "Had I have not

continued to chase after them then they would have got away and still had access to a deadly firearm." Mucktar Khan of Tavy Close, SE11, was convicted of possession of a prohibited firearm and additionally convicted of possession of a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence. He was sentenced to nine years' imprisonment. Myiles Brown, 22, of Cormont Road, SE5, was convicted of possession of a prohibited firearm and sentenced to seven years and six months' imprisonment.

Joshua Fasoro, 21, of Elmington Estate, SE5, was convicted of possession of a prohibited firearm and a further possession of a prohibited firearm relating to a 2019 matter whereby a revolver was recovered in an electrical cupboard that also contained his DNA sample. He was sentenced eight years and six months' imprisonment. Don-Juan Newman, 23, of Oak Square, SW2, was



convicted of possession of a prohibited firearm and sentenced to seven years and six months imprisonment.

## Airport chaos: security checks for new workers fast-tracked



Security checks for new airport workers are being completed in "record times," say ministers - as passengers criticised "disaster movie" scenes. Transport Secretary Grant Shapps is trying to alleviate flight disruption this summer to avert the mayhem seen over the Easter and Jubilee holidays. Shortages of staff to handle baggage and carry out security checks such as X-rays are fuelling long queues and delays at UK airports.

The Government has ordered the vetting centre to prioritise checks for airports so new recruits can help plug the gaps quicker.

## Door Supervisor jailed for kneeling on girl's throat outside McDonald's in York



A Door Supervisor who twice knelt on a girl's throat and choked her until the teenager feared she would die has been jailed. Sonia Elizabeth Owens, 44, was on duty outside McDonald's in Blake Street, central York, when she crossed the road to where the girl was on the phone to her father, said Martin Butterworth, prosecuting.

The doorwoman dragged the girl into the middle of the road, punched her several times in the face and head and put her knee on the girl's throat causing her to struggle for breath. They jailed her for 22 weeks. The maximum sentence they could have given her was 26 weeks. Owens, of Bassenthwaite Walk, Knottingley, initially denied two charges of assault, but on the day she was due to stand trial, as witnesses waited to give evidence against her, she changed her plea to guilty.

## Boxer Julius Francis loses security licence

Boxer Julius Francis, who was knocked out by Mike Tyson in a 2000 bout, has lost his licence to work as a bouncer after he knocked a man out with a single punch while working the door at a venue in London.

Julius, 57, was filmed knocking a man who hurled insults at staff outside Wembley Boxpark unconscious with a single punch in an incident on June 11 that went viral. The Metropolitan Police confirmed they have dropped an investigation into the punch-up, by last night Julius told TMZ he had lost his Security Industry Authority (SIA) licence. He said: "The SIA have suspended my licence to work so I can't work at the moment, so I'm just trying to get that sorted and then hopefully back on the doors as soon as possible, get back to work as soon as possible."



## Teen arrested in Hertfordshire over right-wing terrorism



A 17-year-old boy has been arrested on suspicion of encouraging right-wing terrorism. The teenager was arrested at an address in Hertfordshire, the Metropolitan Police said. He was held on suspicion of a direct or indirect encouragement to the commission, preparation, or instigation of terrorism. Police said the investigation related to "alleged offences linked to extreme right-wing terrorism". The teenager has been released on bail until mid-July while inquiries continue, the force said.

## Far-right cell members jailed for terror offences



Members of a "fascist" cell who made gun parts on a 3D printer and rejoiced at mass shootings have been jailed. The three men and one woman were convicted of 18 offences in March following a two-month trial. Prosecutors said they had "celebrated racist violence and killing".

At Sheffield Crown Court, Daniel Wright, 29, Liam Hall, 31, and Stacey Salmon, 29, all from Keighley, and Samuel Whibley, 29, from Anglesey, were jailed for a total of 31 years.

During the trial, jurors had heard that a partially constructed 3D-printed gun was found at the home of Hall and his partner Salmon at Hill Top Walk, Keighley.

## 3D-printed guns are appearing on British streets

3D-printed guns are appearing on the streets of the UK, with the files needed to build the firearms easy to find online. Experts say members of the far right often share instructions about how to make the weapons online in preparation for a so-called race war. 3D-printed gun technology has rapidly advanced in recent years - with a range of printable semi-automatic rifles, carbines, and pistols available. Those who create and share the designs for these firearms have thousands of followers on Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.







## Security Industry News

### Third Edition of The Handbook of Security published

The Third edition of The Handbook of Security, edited as always by Perpetuity Research's director Professor Martin Gill CSyP FSyI, has just been published by Palgrave Macmillan. Spanning no fewer than 46 separate chapters and running to upwards of 1,000 pages, this security tour de force houses contributions from some of the world's leading scholars. The substantially revised Third Edition of The Handbook of Security provides "the most comprehensive analysis of scholarly security debates and issues to date", with its contents duly reflecting current developments in security technology, the convergence of the cyber and security worlds and the fact that security management has become an even more business-focused discipline.

Topics including terrorism and cybercrime are covered through reference to various offence types such as commercial robbery and bribery. The book comprises a mixture of brand-new chapters and some thoroughly revised ones, with discussions of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic very much to the fore. Two brand new sections focus on 'Better Security' and the 'Impact of Security'.

### Business Continuity Institute publishes Operational Resilience Report 2022



More than three-quarters (i.e. 77.9%) of those organisations questioned have already developed – or are developing – an operational resilience programme. Although these numbers are impressive, the report reveals that, while many organisations believe they have an operational resilience programme in place, they may actually be aligning closer to the organisational resilience standard that is ISO 22316.

'Definition confusion' may not be an issue in itself but, for business continuity professionals who've been asked to implement



operational resilience programmes within their own organisations, it could ultimately lead to a programme failing. As a demonstration of this, 17.1% of respondents to the BCI's survey that underpins this report believe there's no need for an operational resilience programme in their organisation as they already have a business continuity programme in place. "Operational resilience is just business continuity done well" was a frequent – and somewhat concerning – response received from a number of survey participants.

<https://www.thebci.org/resource/bci-operational-resilience-report-2022.html>

## Security officers and businesses honoured at British Security Awards



The British Security Awards, which is the British Security Industry Association's (BSIA) flagship event celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2022, returned to the live, in-person setting for the first time since July 2019 in order to recognise security officers and businesses who've been working diligently to keep people, property and places professionally protected during the last 18 months and more. Held at the

London Marriott Hotel on Grosvenor Square in front of a sold-out audience encompassing the industry's 'great and good', including key industry stakeholders and clients, the British Security Awards – for which Security Matters as the Official Media Partner – duly celebrated security excellence, with 16 separate accolades being presented to security officers and businesses.

## National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC)



# National Cyber Security Centre

The NCSC supports the most critical organisations in the UK, the wider public sector, industry, SMEs as well as the general public. When incidents do occur, they provide effective incident response to minimise harm to the UK, help with recovery, and learn lessons for the future. Please see the links to this month's NCSC weekly threat reports.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/threat-report-10th-june-2022>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/threat-report-24th-june-2022>



## Demonstrations held / planned

### Thousands march in London over cost-of-living crisis

Thousands of people gathered in London to protest against the government's lack of action in tackling the cost-of-living crisis. Protesters marched from Portland Place to Parliament Square for a rally with speakers including Frances O'Grady, the general secretary of the TUC, which organised the event. O'Grady was met with applause and cheers as she gave a speech to the crowd. Demonstrators carried banners reading "cut war not welfare" and "end fuel poverty, insulate homes now".

### Protests erupt and Prince Charles slams Rwanda 'appalling policy'



Rwanda has come out in defence of the UK's immigration scheme after the Prince of Wales privately described the move as "appalling" and protests erupted across the UK. huge crowds of protesters gathered in South East London in an attempt to block police officers from carrying out an immigration raid. More than

100 people shouted messages of support as police detained a man in a police van in Peckham. Footage from the scene showed a crowd of people sitting on the ground in front of the vehicle in Peckham, while another clip showed members of the public standing and shouting "let him go". It is understood the man is Nigerian and was suspected of overstaying his visa.

Metropolitan Police officers were called to a report of protesters obstructing immigration officers".

### Eco protesters storm track at British GP

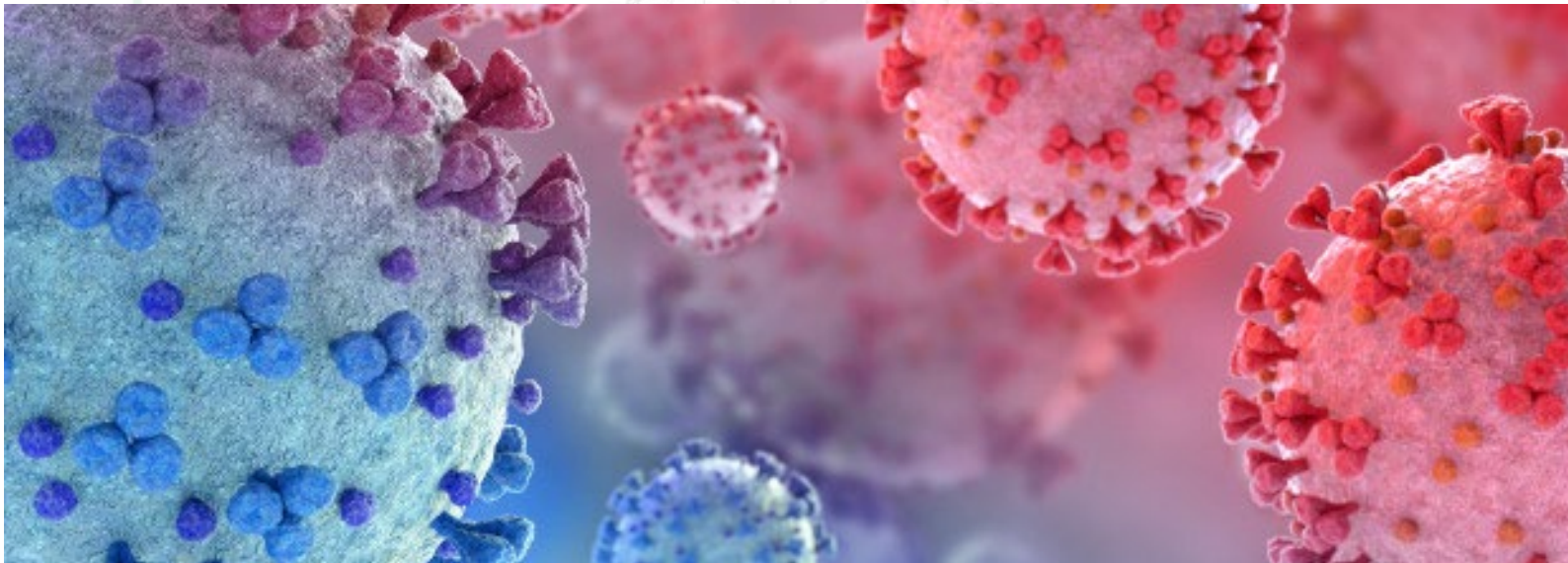


Five activists from Just Stop Oil forced their way onto the 200mph Wellington Straight and sat down. The protestors were dragged away by marshals as a number of drivers sped by. One spectator described it as a "heart in mouth moment as they ran on, and the cars came round the corner". Another labelled the protesters' actions "dangerous"



## Arrests made as protesters block motorway

At least 12 arrests have been made on the M4 after protesters breached the legal agreement made with the police. The agreement said that the protest could go ahead if the protesting drivers did not fall below 30mph. Roads in various parts of the country were subject to "serious disruption" as protesters take action and call for a cut in fuel duty. Chief Superintendent Tom Harding, of Gwent Police, said: "We are seeing significant delays both east and westbound on the Prince of Wales Bridge due to the planned protest."



## Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News

### Three fined for attending Sarah Everard's vigil during Covid rules

Three people have been fined for going to Sarah Everard's vigil on Clapham Common last year. Police broke up the gathering at the bandstand when they said it breached Covid rules at the time. London was under Tier 4, banning a gathering of more than two people, when the vigil for the murdered 33-year-old marketing executive went ahead on March 13. Visitors turned up despite organisers backing out when they were threatened with £10,000 fines.



Dania Al-Obeid, 27, from Stratford, east London, Ben Wheeler, 21, from Kennington, south London, and Kevin Godin-Prior, 68, from Manchester, were all fined £220 and given £134 in costs. The policing of the vigil sparked anger at police, who were accused of being heavy handed in how they broke up what began as a peaceful tribute to Ms Everard. No pleas or representations were entered by the three defendants,

who were convicted in their absence using the Single Justice Procedure, a way of speeding up trials after Covid created a backlog of cases.