



SECURITY INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

MAY 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



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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 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

Harsher sentences introduced for 'spiking' drugs offences

Gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), a drug that's used to spike drinks, has been reclassified as a Class B drug along with two related substances, namely gamma-butyrolactone (GBL) and 1,4-butanediol (1,4-BD), meaning that those found in possession of them will face tougher penalties of up to five years behind bars, while those involved in supply and production will face up to 14 years in prison. GHB, GBL and 1,4-BD have been found to facilitate serious crimes, including murder, rape, sexual assault and robbery. The tougher sentences brought forward recognise the harms these drugs do and are expected to deter possession and supply such that members of the public are better protected from criminals.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said: "These drugs have been used to commit too many heinous crimes and it's right that sentences for those caught in possession of them reflect the damage they do. I welcome the tightening of restrictions around these dangerous substances. Introducing tougher penalties for possession sends a clear message. These changes will help to ensure that the people of Britain are kept safe and that we continue to tackle drug misuse and crime in all its forms."

Kinahan crime group hit with worldwide financial sanctions



An Irish organised crime group responsible for importing multi-tonne quantities of drugs and firearms around the world for more than 20 years has been hit with international financial sanctions that have left bank accounts frozen and funds inaccessible. The Kinahan crime group, which has also been linked to more than a dozen gangland murders, has been effectively cut off from the global financial system. Over the last two years, the National Crime Agency (NCA), in

collaboration with international law enforcement partners and US Government bodies, has collated material generated from significant operational activity which shows the Kinahan group's involvement in serious and organised criminality.



The material was submitted to the Office of Foreign Assets Control in the United States. The latter has announced that the head of the crime group, namely Christopher Vincent Kinahan Snr, and his two sons Daniel Joseph Kinahan and Christopher Vincent Kinahan Jnr, along with a number of their associates and businesses, will be subject to the sanctions.

Brighton man sentenced to jail term for encouraging violent terrorism



A Brighton resident who gave an uninvited speech at a mosque and encouraged worshippers to commit violent Jihad has been jailed. Abu Bakr Deghayes of Arundel Drive in Saltdean was found guilty of encouraging terrorism under Section 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006. The 53-year-old was arrested and charged after making an unwanted speech, the contents of which encouraged terrorism, at a Brighton Mosque on 1 November 2020. In the speech, Deghayes stated that committing Jihad was an obligation and he encouraged Jihad by the sword. On Thursday 21 April, Abu Bakr Deghayes was sentenced to four years'

imprisonment with one year on licence.

Gun runner jailed in specialist crime team operation



A gun runner has been jailed for seven years after an investigation by a specialist London crime team. Givaunni Macdonna, 28, imported a self-loading 9mm pistol, nine bullets and some cannabis from the United States to the UK.

His attempt to smuggle the items through the post was being watched by the Organised Crime Partnership - made up of officers from

the National Crime Agency and Metropolitan Police Service. Macdonna was convicted by a jury at Woolwich Crown Court of importation of a firearm, attempted possession of a firearm, attempted possession of ammunition and importation of drugs.

Barber paid thousands to recruit lorry drivers for cross-Channel people smuggling

A northwest London barber who offered lorry drivers thousands of pounds to illegally bring people into the UK from northern France and Belgium has been convicted of people smuggling.



An NCA investigation found that Gul Wali Jabarkhel, 33 and from Cricklewood, was using his barbershop in nearby Colindale as a front to commit organised immigration crime and was attempting to recruit lorry drivers to bring migrants to the UK. Gul Wali Jabarkhel pleaded guilty in an earlier hearing for his part in the conspiracy to smuggle Baz Mohammed Jabarkhil into the UK. They will be sentenced on 1 June.

A man from Southeast London has been charged after the National Crime Agency seized cocaine with an estimated value of £4 million.



Robert Stewart, aged 32, from Broadwater Gardens, Orpington, was detained by officers on the afternoon of Saturday 23 April. The drugs were found in a van parked in Luton Road, Harpenden. The vehicle had been monitored by NCA investigators as it drove from a car park at Luton Airport to the location.

Two arrested on suspicion of smuggling people into the UK in horseboxes



Two suspected members of an organised crime group smuggling people into the UK in horseboxes have been arrested in raids by the National Crime Agency. Officers arrested a 50-year-old man at a commercial yard in Gravesend, Kent, seizing mobile phones and a vehicle. Investigators believe separate concealments were built into vehicles, designed to hide individuals seeking to cross the border illegally.

A second man, aged 28, was arrested at Greenfields in Oswestry, Shropshire on suspicion of immigration and drug importation offences this morning. Both men were questioned by NCA investigators and have been released on bail.

Two charged in £4m drugs haul



Two men have been charged with drugs supply offences after nearly £4m worth of Class A drugs were seized in an operation by the specialist Merseyside Organised Crime Partnership. An estimated 31 kilos of heroin and 10 kilos of cocaine with a joint street value of nearly £4m were recovered by the OCP – which comprises officers from the National Crime Agency and Merseyside Police.

Officers signalled for a van to stop in Huyton as it was believed be involved in supplying drugs. The driver stopped the vehicle and allegedly ran away but officers recovered seven kilos of cocaine from the vehicle. Following extensive enquiries, two warrants were carried out yesterday resulting in the arrests of two men, seizure of 41 kilos of Class A and £2,000 cash.

Gareth Purcell, 65, of Ullet Road, Liverpool, will appear at Liverpool Magistrates' Court accused of possession with intent to supply heroin and cocaine and being concerned in the supply of cocaine. Also appearing is Gareth Hooton, 34, of Pencombe Road, Huyton. He is charged with possession with intent to supply cocaine, dangerous driving, failing to stop and driving without insurance.



Murder probe after man killed at Lakeside shopping centre



A murder investigation has been launched after a man was killed in a "targeted attack" at Lakeside shopping centre in Essex. The male victim was attacked near the food court on the third floor of the centre. He could not be saved despite emergency treatment provided by air ambulance crew and was pronounced dead at the scene, Essex Police said. It is believed he had been attacked by two men who are described as being black or Asian.

One of the suspects was described as wearing blue ripped jeans, a white T-shirt, black trainers, and a black puffer jacket, carrying a small bag, and the other was wearing a blue tracksuit and white trainers.

Man, 44, arrested after woman raped in train toilet

A man has been arrested after a woman was raped in a train toilet in an incident that police have called "shocking and disturbing". A 44-year-old man has been arrested in connection with the incident, which happened on board a South-eastern train from St Leonard's Warrior Square to Wadhurst on Friday April 22. The man has since been released on police bail pending further investigation, but police confirmed they are not looking to identify anyone else.

'Sex predator' cop jailed

A "sexual predator" ex-police officer who "targeted" vulnerable women for sex after meeting them in the course of his duties, has been jailed. Oliver Perry-Smith, who was based at Newbury police station with Thames Valley police abused his power" and "broke public trust" by pursuing

women for sex while on shift.

The police watchdog, the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), began an investigation in November 2019 and found Perry-Smith had a case to answer for gross misconduct. He resigned from Thames Valley police on February 8 this year. Reading Crown Court he was sentenced to three years and six months in prison, the IOPC said.



More foreign criminals face deportation



Human rights laws will be overhauled to deport serious criminals who come from abroad in most instances under Boris Johnson's new plans. It means criminals will only be able to use measures afforded by Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the right to a family life, to stop themselves being kicked out of the UK. The Ministry of Justice says one about seven in ten cases against deportation are successful and that more than 11,000 foreign

criminals have left prison but not been sent abroad, and some in the Government believe the move could see the UK leaving the European Convention on Human Rights - a significant act that would attract heavy criticism. Legislation on the deportation changes is due in the Queen's speech on May 10, which sets out the Government's planned legislative programme.

Fraudsters jailed over £13.7m pension scam



Two fraudsters have been jailed for causing "misery" to almost 250 people by conning them out of their life savings in a multi-million-pound scam. Susan Dalton, 66, and Alan Barratt, 62, were sentenced to four years and eight months and five years and seven months respectively for helping con 245 victims out of a total of £13.7 million. The court was told that the scam's "mastermind" David Austin killed himself in 2019 after being

invited for a police interview under caution. Dalton and Barratt, who were based in Spain, enticed savers with the promise of unrealistic returns, cash bonuses, and John Lewis vouchers before getting them to transfer their pensions from legitimate schemes to fraudulent ones.

Officer injured as tipper truck rammed into police car during routine stop



A tipper truck was rammed into a police car after a routine traffic stop, causing one officer to suffer head and hand injuries. The yellow and black Ford Transit was pulled over in Landor Road, Stockwell. The truck was pulled over because it was damaged and due to the "manner of driving", police said. However, it instead was reversed at speed into the police car's bonnet, causing one officer to be taken to hospital with head and hand injuries. Police searched the area

for the truck but could not find it and the Met is still trying to track down the vehicle and identify those involved.



'Fanatical terrorist' found guilty of frenzied knife murder of Tory MP Sir David Amess

Ali Harbi Ali, 26, who lived in Kentish Town in north London was described as a 'lone wolf attacker' as he was found guilty at the Old Bailey of murder and a charge of preparing acts of terrorism. Jurors deliberated for just 18 minutes before returning a guilty verdict.

Warnings over failure to stop radicalisation

The prison service has failed to recognise the dangers Islamist gangs and convicted terrorists pose inside jail, a report warns. The independent reviewer of terrorist legislation, Jonathan Hall QC, said prisons must not provide opportunities for militants to plan new attacks. But the service had "lost its role in the national endeavour to reduce the risk of terrorism". The Ministry of Justice said it was committed to isolating radicalisers. More than 200 inmates are in prison after being convicted under terrorism legislation. A similar number convicted of other offences are considered a terrorist risk.

Crimes reported at royal palaces revealed



A total of 470 crimes were recorded at Buckingham Palace, Kensington Palace, St James's Palace, and Clarence House - either inside or immediately outside the grounds - between 2019 and 2021, the Metropolitan Police revealed. They included hundreds of thefts along with reports of arson and criminal damage, burglary, robbery, possession of weapons and violence against the person offences. Less than 1% of the crimes resulted in someone being charged, cautioned or fined, and no suspects were identified in more than 400 offences, according to data released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Five Terrorism Act arrests at parade

Five men have been arrested under the Terrorism Act following an Easter parade linked to dissident republicans in Londonderry on Monday. The men are aged 29, 38, 40, 50 and 54. Police were also attacked with petrol bombs during their operation at the City Cemetery. The parade had been planned by the National Republican Commemoration Committee, which organises events on behalf of the anti-agreement republican party, Saoradh. About 1,000 people took part in the demonstration; some of them with their faces covered. A sixth man, aged 40, was also arrested on suspicion of disorderly behaviour. Police said they seized a number of vehicles, suspected terrorist uniforms and petrol bombs.



Amir Khan says he was 'robbed at gunpoint' in east London

Former world champion Amir Khan says he has been robbed at gunpoint while out with his wife in Leyton, east London. The 35-year-old wrote on Twitter that he had a "gun pointed in my face" as two men stole his watch. The 2008 Olympic silver medallist was with wife Faryal at the time but said "the main thing is we're both safe". The Metropolitan Police said they were investigating after being called to an incident on High Road, Leyton. "There were no reports of any shots fired or any injuries. Police responded and conducted an area search.



Cops being told to use gender-neutral terms instead of calling people sir or ma'am



Police are being told to use gender-neutral terms instead of calling people sir or ma'am. Training for LGBT+ support officers tell them to "avoid assumptions about a person's sexual orientation or gender identity". Instead, they should say "you", "everyone" and "all" to avoid causing offence. In another exercise, officers are asked to talk about partners without using "gendered terminology such as husband, wife, he or she".

Ex-officer Harry Miller, of the Fair Cop free speech campaign group, said it was "totally irrelevant to catching criminals".

Tory chairman Oliver Dowden said police should focus on fighting crime, "not wasting time trying to condition officers who extend a basic courtesy to the people they serve".

Glenrothes man fails to have terrorism sentence cut



A man who idolised right-wing mass killers and hated Muslims has failed in a bid to have his prison sentence for terrorism offences cut. Sam Imrie, 24, who admired Christchurch Mosque mass murderer Brenton Tarrant, is serving a seven-and-a-half-year jail term. He was arrested in July 2019 after posting on social media he was going to attack Fife Islamic Centre, Glenrothes. Imrie was convicted on two

charges of breaching the Terrorism Act. Following a trial in Edinburgh in October 2021, he was also convicted of wilful fire raising, drink-driving and possessing "extreme" indecent images of children.



Police anti-terror IT system was 'not fit for purpose'



A key intelligence database used by police to investigate extremists was "not fit for purpose" when introduced in 2014, a former counter-terrorism officer has told the BBC. The officer, who retired in 2018, says the National Common Intelligence Application (NCIA) had serious flaws. Counter Terrorism Policing says "substantial improvements" were made following a significant review after terror attacks in 2017, including at the Manchester Arena.

Man jailed after supermarket gun attack

A serial offender who has spent almost half his life in prison is back behind bars after threatening to kill a supermarket security guard. Daniel Gale, of no fixed abode, was once again locked up after setting a fake gun on a Morrison's employee who caught him and his friend stealing alcohol. Armed police and a police helicopter were called to the Basingstoke Road supermarket as Gale, 30, chucked the imitation firearm in a bin and tried to flee the scene. The offence was committed on September 27, 2021, three months after Gale was handed a suspended sentence for robbery. He appeared at Reading Crown Court on Monday, April 4. Gale was sentenced to 40 months in prison for possession of an imitation firearm and possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause distress. HHJ Norton added another 18 months on to his sentence for breaking his suspended sentence order.

This means Gale received a 58-month prison sentence, of which he will serve half.

Trans police officers who were born male but identify as female can search women

Women can be strip-searched by transgender police officers who were born as men and could be accused of causing a "hate incident" if they refuse, it has been reported. New guidelines say once an officer should be considered a woman or man "from the moment they transition... the point at which they present in the gender". It goes on to say they will be able to search people of the same gender that they identify as.

British embassy security guard suspected of being Russian spy



A security guard at the British embassy in Berlin suspected of spying for Russia pleaded not guilty to nine charges under the Official Secrets Act. David Smith, 57, confirmed his name and age, but told the court that he no longer had an address. He was arrested by German police on 10 August last year and is accused of collecting information from the British embassy in Berlin intending to pass it to a foreign state. One of the nine charges relates to allegations he passed information to a person he believed was a

representative of the Russian state, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said.



Security Industry News

Updated qualification and top-up training introduced for close protection sector

The Security Industry Authority (SIA) has introduced an updated close protection qualification for new applicants to the sector. The updated qualification features four new units covering bespoke physical intervention skills, knowledge of door supervisor responsibilities (including protecting vulnerable people), legislation, threat and risk management plus personal skills, surveillance awareness, search procedures, foot drills, venue security, journey management reconnaissance and preparing for (and carrying out) a close protection assignment. The existing units which cover the theoretical and practical aspects of working as a close protection operative have also been refreshed by the regulator.

The SIA has also announced the introduction of top-up training for close protection operatives who apply to renew their SIA licence from 1 October 2022. The top-up training will be available from Friday 1 July 2022.

The new top-up qualification will include physical intervention skills, safety-critical content and terror threat awareness. For their part, operatives must make sure that their First Aid qualification has at least one year to run before they take the top-up training.

Fraudsters sentenced for bribery at Coca-Cola Enterprises UK Limited



A group of individuals and corporate bodies have been sentenced for their involvement in bribing a senior manager at Coca-Cola Enterprises UK Limited. Noel Corry, aged 56, and Gary Haines, 60, were each given a 20-month suspended sentence. Peter Kinsella, 58, was given a 12-month suspended sentence. All three have been ordered to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work. The companies involved

have all been fined for failing to prevent bribery. WABGS Limited (previously Boulting Group Limited) received a fine of £500,000, Tritec Systems Limited was fined £70,000 and Electron Systems Limited was also fined £70,000.



Russian state-sponsored, cybercriminal threats

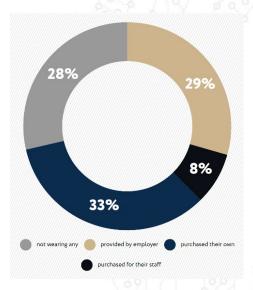


Russian state-sponsored and criminal cyber threats to critical infrastructure could impact organisations within and beyond Ukraine. Some cybercrime groups have recently publicly pledged support for the Russian government and have threatened to conduct cyber operations in retaliation for perceived cyber offensives against Russia or against countries or organisations providing material support to Ukraine, according to the

authorities in the United States, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the FBI and NSA; and in Canada, New Zealand, and Australia, and the UK.

The authorities recommend as priorities the patching of known exploited IT vulnerabilities; that businesses enforce multi-factor authentication (that is, more than a sole computer password); that firms monitor remote desktop protocol (RDP); and provide end-user awareness and training to staff.

International body armour survey



The supplier of body armour and related PPE, PPSS Group has published its international body armour survey. Some 729-security people from various countries completed the survey, in February and March 2022. Just over half, 57pc of those taking part were UK based. The company's CEO Robert Kaiser said it was of great value to establish what level of knowledge security professionals have about the body armour they are either wearing themselves or purchasing for their frontline staff. He said: "I believe it is absolutely essential that a security professional has a clear understanding of his or her body armour's capabilities, limitations and life expectancy. PPSS' white paper can be found online on the **PPSS** website: https://www.ppss-

group.com/blog/international-body-armour-survey-

whitepaper/.

Ransomware threat to unis

For some, meaningful investment in cyber security only comes after some breach or incident. Prevention is always better than – and cheaper than – a cure. Hence a plea by Jisc, the UK body that serves higher education with cyber and other services such as the Janet IT network, for all senior leaders to engage with cyber security. Technical managers need the support of vice chancellors, principals and their board members, who ought to have oversight and take responsibility for cyber security as a strategic priority, says Dr John Chapman, Head of Janet policy and strategy, at Jisc. In a blog, he introduces Jisc's cyber impact report first published in November 2020 and this month revised and updated to include anonymised case studies of more recent incidents that underline the increased threat of ransomware attacks. https://www.jisc.ac.uk/blog/latest-cyber-impact-report-underlines-ransomware-as-a-huge-threat-20-apr-2022



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-1st-april-2022

https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-8th-april-2022

https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-22nd-april-2022

https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-29th-april-2022





Demonstrations held / planned

Tory MP launches angry tirade against Brexit protester outside parliament

A Conservative MP has launched a verbal tirade against an anti-Brexit protester outside parliament, telling him: "You're nothing but a parasite". Lee Anderson, who was elected MP for Ashfield in 2019, was asked by activist Steve Bray whether he would still be supporting "liar" Boris Johnson to stay as prime minister.

Eco-mob cause chaos in London



Extinction Rebellion protesters have caused chaos in central London today as campaigners swamped London's Marble Arch, to glue themselves to a limousine. Protesters descended on Hyde Park for "highly disruptive mass action" following several days of protests against new fossil fuel investments. The group had prepared the disruption ahead of time, getting hold of a black limousine and parking it to block the road whilst activists to glue themselves to it. During the "mass action" some climate campaigners were

spotted playing on DJ decks whilst other lit flares, played bongos and climbed the 45-foot-tall Marble Arch. Several people have now been detained by police at the protest.

Extinction Rebellion: Six arrested after Olympians scale oil tanker



Six people have been arrested after climate change activists, including two Olympians, scaled an oil tanker. Extinction Rebellion protesters surrounded the Shell tanker in Bayswater Road in London in protest at the use of fossil fuels. Gold medal-winning canoeist Etienne Stott and sailor Laura Baldwin had glued themselves to the top of the tanker, Extinction Rebellion said. The Met said six arrests for vehicle interference had been

made. It is not known if the two Olympians were among those arrested. The Met said protesters had been walking through central London and "stopped at various locations along their



unspecified route, causing disruption". A man and a woman climbed up two pillars on Marble Arch to hoist a green banner with "End fossil fuels now" on it.# A group of eight activists later locked themselves on to a car in the road, while two glued themselves to the roof.

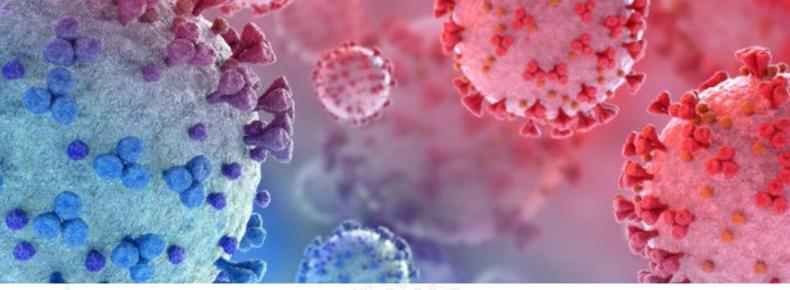
40 arrests after protests at oil depots



Police have arrested 40 more people after climate change protests at three oil terminals. Essex Police said 28 were detained at the Navigator depot in Thurrock and the Grays oil terminal. Warwickshire Police confirmed another 12 arrests at the Kingsbury depot near Tamworth.

People in orange hi-vis jackets were seen on top of oil tankers, holding "Just Stop Oil" signs, a group affiliated with Extinction Rebellion. They have been demanding that the government stop new oil and gas projects. Demonstrators have been trying to obstruct the entrance at the site near Tamworth since 1 April and up to 29 were arrested after a protest there.





Coronavirus Covid-19 Related News

Homes and offices raided by police in secret PPE fraud probe



Police have raided homes and offices in London and the Isle of Man as part of a criminal investigation into the supply of government personal protective equipment at the start of the pandemic. Officers seized financial documents and electronic devices but made no arrests in a series of discreet and co-ordinated raids. It is believed a special unit of the National Crime Agency has been secretly investigating PPE fraud allegations for about a year.

Controversy dogged the huge demand for PPE in early 2020 as the government struggled to find enough clothing and masks to protect health and other key workers at the height of the pandemic.

Some supply companies made huge profits at the expense of the taxpayer and sometimes failed to deliver what they promised, with sub-standard PPE rejected. Isle of Man police were involved in the searches after discussions with the NCA which has no jurisdiction on the island, a self-governing British Crown dependency and tax haven.