



UK Threat Level: **SUBSTANTIAL**

SECURITY INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2023



TABLE OF CONTENT

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	20
Demonstrations held / planned	26s

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

Teenage girl and boy arrested after Asda security guard is taken to hospital after attack

Two teenagers were arrested after a security guard was left cut and bruised after he was attacked at an Asda store. The man was treated in hospital for injuries to his face and neck after he was targeted by two people at the entrance to the supermarket in Ashby Road, Coalville. A Leicestershire Police spokesperson said a 14-year-old girl and a 16-year-old boy were arrested on suspicion of inflicting grievous bodily harm and have since been released on bail pending further inquiries.



Cradley Heath Lidl security guard assaulted

Police want to speak to a man after a supermarket security guard was assaulted. The worker was attacked as goods were stolen from Lidl in Cradley Heath. The incident happened at the High Street store. West Midlands Police is keen to track down the man as part of the investigation. Anyone who recognises him is asked to contact the force.

Manchester man caught applying for security work with fake passport



A Manchester man has been sentenced after using a fake passport in an attempt to obtain an SIA licence and get work as a security operative.

On Thursday 15 December 2022, Abdul-Semiu Adeniyi Badmos from Manchester was ordered by Manchester Crown Court to do 150 hours unpaid work within a 12-month period, plus five rehabilitation activity requirement days and to pay a victim surcharge. The sentencing follows his guilty plea on 08 December to using a forged document in a fraudulent attempt

to gain an SIA licence.

On 06 July 2019 Badmos applied to us for a door supervisor's licence. He submitted a counterfeit passport with his application as proof of his identity.



Bradford man prosecuted for working as illegal pub security

Haidar Zaheer was prosecuted on 05 January 2023 at Bradford Magistrates' Court for working illegally as security in a city centre pub.



Zaheer pleaded guilty to working without an SIA licence. The court fined him £323, plus prosecution costs of £600 and a victim surcharge of £129.

The prosecution follows a joint licensing visit on 2 April 2022 by West Yorkshire Police and Bradford City Council to pubs and clubs in Market Street. They spoke to Haidar Zaheer who appeared to be working at a pub. He initially denied working as a door supervisor. During the discussion Zaheer told a police officer that he was chatting to a colleague

who was licensed and wasn't actually working.

The police officer concluded that Zaheer was working illegally as an unlicensed door supervisor. He verified this by doing a live licence check with us. The police officer confirmed with the other licensed door supervisor that Zaheer was working at the pub that night.

Serving member of British Army charged with terror and explosives offences

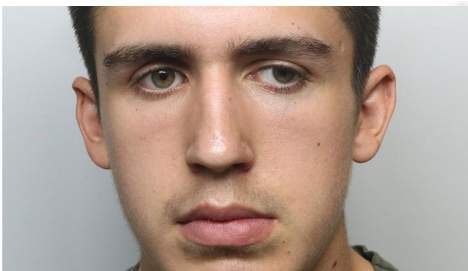


Daniel Abed Khalife, of Beaconside, Stafford, was charged over two incidents in Staffordshire in August 2021 and January this year. He is accused of "eliciting or attempting to elicit information of a kind likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism" in the area of Beaconside in August 2021.

He is also accused of placing an article "with the intention of inducing in another a belief that the said

article was likely to explode or ignite and thereby cause personal injury or damage to property" in connection with an incident in the same area on or before 2 January this year.

British teenager whose videos were linked to two mass murders in US is jailed



A British teenage extremist has been jailed after his far-right videos were linked to two mass murders in the US. Daniel Harris used an online platform called World Truth Videos to disseminate a "call to arms" for his violent racist beliefs, a court heard.

The 19-year-old from Glossop in Derbyshire was convicted of five counts of encouraging terrorism and

one of possessing a 3D printer for the purposes of terrorism after a trial at Manchester Crown Court. He was sentenced to 11-and-a-half years in jail, and a further three years on licence.

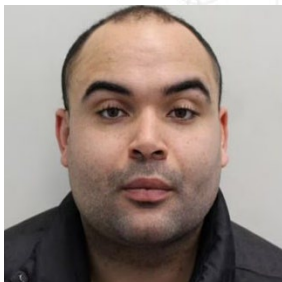
Teen, 15, yells at judge after gang trial for killing security guard



A 15-year-old boy shouted “you fat ugly p****” at a judge as he was found guilty of murder. The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, beat 55-year-old Christopher Molloy to death in a gang attack in the early hours. The boy stood trial for murder alongside Jay Byrne and Joseph Byrne, who had previously admitted Molloy’s manslaughter, at Liverpool Crown Court. Byrne and Byrne were cleared of

murder, but a jury found the boy guilty via a majority verdict following three hours and 41 minutes of deliberations. The verdict prompted the boy to shout: “you fat, ugly p****” at the judge then slam a door as he stormed out of the dock, while Jay Byrne appeared to try to calm his co-defendant down, saying: “Chill bro.”

Thief who stole £145,000 luxury watch in ‘brutal’ central London robbery jailed



A thief who stole a £145,000 luxury watch after befriending a man over drinks in central London has been jailed.

Lindell Angell, 32, of Hackney, was sentenced to nine and a half years in prison for robbery and possessing criminal property at Southwark Crown Court on January 20 after being found guilty at the same court last November.

Met Police's fight against terrorism from young people and technology to the rise of the extreme right wing



The Met Police has opened up about the current difficulties they are facing in the fight against terrorism, from an increase in the number of young people being exposed to radicalisation, the proliferation of radicalisation online, and the rise of the extreme right wing, to challenges in filling vacancies within counter terrorism staff.

The London Assembly’s Police and Crime Committee questioned the head of counter terrorism command for the Met alongside the deputy commissioner of the London Fire Brigade and members of the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime on how prepared London’s emergency services are for a terrorist attack.

One of the concerns of Assembly members was that in 2020-21, 40.5 per cent of referrals to Prevent (which works to protect vulnerable people from being exploited by extremists) in the capital were classified as ‘mixed, unstable or unclear’, which can include those who hold or

switch between multiple extremist ideologies, are obsessed with extreme or mass violence, or hold violently misogynistic views, such as 'incels'.

Give banks names of far-Right extremists, urges think tank



Banks and other businesses should be given lists of names of people linked to far-right terror groups to help them stop potential attacks. The report by the Royal United Services Institute think tank in London says that existing counter terrorism financing laws were designed to tackle the Islamist threat posed by groups such as al-Qaeda and Islamic State and are ill-suited to combating the danger from far-right extremists, who tend to be “self-activating” and “operationally autonomous” It says this is making it harder to detect attackers and that a number of changes

are needed to plug the gaps.

These include providing lists of names to private sector organisations such as banks and the sharing of “real-time live intelligence on persons of interest” between “social services, health, education, security intelligence services and financial institutions.”

Hampshire emergency services take part in counterterrorism exercise

Emergency services and counter-terrorism units have been practising how they would respond to a major incident here in Hampshire. Officers from Counter Terrorism Policing South East and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary worked alongside colleagues from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, South Central Ambulance Service and local authority partners as part of the two-day exercise. The exercise –



which is not in response to or based on any specific threat or intelligence – included live-play elements to put emergency service workers to the test. Officers used St Mary's Stadium in Southampton and the Ageas Bowl as training headquarters. Assistant Chief Constable Catherine Akehurst said: 'This exercise was a great opportunity to test our plans and make sure we are as prepared as possible in the event of a large scale emergency.'

North London man charged with 'Islamist terrorism' offences



A man from north London been charged with six terror offences following an investigation relating to Islamist terrorism, the Metropolitan Police said. Abdiwahid Abdulkadir Mohamed, 31, was arrested and charged on with six counts of “possessing documents likely to be useful for committing or preparing an act of terrorism”, after an investigation by the Met's Counter Terrorism Command.

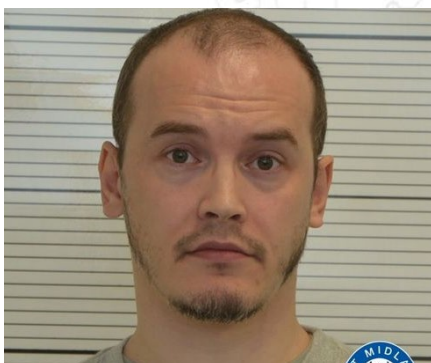
Plymouth shooting inquest: Gunman given firearms licence despite terrorism grooming fears



Plymouth gunman Jake Davison was granted a firearms licence despite a childhood obsession with guns that sparked concerns he was being groomed by terrorists; an inquest heard. Davison murdered five people including a toddler and his own mum, before turning the gun on himself, in a sickening rampage through the streets of Keyham in 2021. An ongoing inquest into his death has raised questions over how he was granted a firearm licence. It was heard that Davison was approved for the licence by Devon and Cornwall Police in 2017, when he was just 18, for the purpose of clay pigeon shooting.

At the time he had self-declared his medical conditions - stating he had autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Covid conspiracy theorist jailed for plotting terror attack to 'bring down the government'



A notorious Covid conspiracy theorist has been jailed for six-and-a-half years for plotting to attack phone masts as part of a plan to topple the UK government. Telecoms engineer Oliver Lewin has been convicted of preparing terrorist acts, despite claiming his comments to undercover security operatives were part of a "fantasy". The 38-year-old, from Leicestershire, was convicted after being accused of carrying out reconnaissance, purchasing equipment and tools, and seeking out recruits to help him target national infrastructure.

Lewin, who has experience working on installing and maintaining radio masts, carried out research online but had caused no damage before his detention, a trial was told.

A list belonging to Lewin that was obtained by police appears to show the conspiracy theorist planning to get gun ammunition, water, gloves and binoculars for an attack.

Police officer collapses after being struck by suspect during job centre arrest

A police officer collapsed after he was attacked by a suspect he was attempting to arrest. Scotland Yard said the man attacked three police officers and hurled racist abuse at others as he was taken into custody.

The first officer was punched by the 32-year-old suspect after being called to a “disturbance” reportedly inside the Job Centre on High Road, Tottenham. The officer collapsed and his colleague had to perform emergency first aid at the scene as the suspect fled. Others chased after him and he was detained nearby, the Met said.



Man, 27, arrested on suspicion of terrorism

A 27-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of a terror offence after he was allegedly seen with a suspected firearm and a suspicious package at a hospital's maternity wing in Leeds. Police ordered a partial evacuation of the Gledhow wing at St James's hospital after the suspect was detained. Visitors described “frightening” scenes as the building, which includes a labour ward and antenatal services, was partially shut down and patients evacuated.

Bomb disposal experts from the army's Royal Logistical Corps searched a car parked outside the hospital, as counter-terrorism police launched an investigation. A 27-year-old man from Leeds has been arrested on suspicion of firearms and explosives offences after he was seen with a suspected gun and a suspicious device outside the Gledhow wing.

Counter Terrorism Policing North East said he has been re-arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism.

Detectives said the bomb alert was being treated as an isolated incident and there was not believed to be a wider threat to the public. Police added: “Counter Terrorism Policing North East has now taken responsibility for leading this investigation. Extensive inquiries are under way to establish the full circumstances of the incident and any potential motivation.”

The suspect was in custody for questioning as officers carried out searches of the car and a number of premises.

Drunken racist 'made monkey noises' and 'threatened to throw banana' at hospital security guard

A drunken racist threatened to throw a banana at a hospital security guard and made monkey noises towards him, a court heard. Richard Mcerlean, who was wanted by police back in February 2021 after failing to turn up at court for the incident at Stepping Hill Hospital, has been brought to justice.

Mcerlean had absconded for two years after being charged with a racially or religiously-aggravated public disorder offence but remained at liberty until January 14, when he was arrested on suspicion of assaulting his ex-wife. The 52-year-old, who resides at Wendover

Road, Urmston, appeared at Manchester Magistrate's Court on January 16, after pleading guilty to both the public order offence and the assault charges.

Boy guilty of killing man who confronted him for messing about

A 15-year-old boy has been found guilty of stabbing a man to death outside an Asda store. Ian Kirwan, 53, was attacked near the supermarket in Redditch on March 8, after challenging some boys for 'messaging about' in the customer toilets. Mr Kirwan, who worked as a contractor for Jaguar Land Rover, died after suffering a chest wound outside the store in Jinnah Road.



The trial heard one of them was bragging about urinating on the floor while another banged on Mr Kirwan's cubicle door to get him to hurry up. A few minutes later Mr Kirwan approached the group as they were sat on trolleys outside and said words to the effect of: 'Which one of you was f***ing around in the toilet?'

It was said one of the boys replied 'If you want a problem we'll have a problem' before a scuffle ensued, the court heard.

CCTV captured the group of youths confronting Mr Kirwan who made karate-style defensive kicks. Then the 14-year-old delivered the single fatal blow to his chest with the knife.

Mr Kirwan retreated inside the supermarket but died less than an hour later before making it to hospital. The youth who stabbed Mr Kirwan accepted he did so, but argued the legal defence of diminished responsibility due to mental health issues.

Jurors at Birmingham Crown Court cleared three other youths – two aged 14 and one aged 16 – of murder and manslaughter but found them guilty of violent disorder.

A fifth boy, aged 16, was acquitted of murder, manslaughter and violent disorder, having claimed he was not involved in the fatal confrontation and could not have predicted it. None of the boys can be legally identified because of their ages. They will be sentenced at a later date.

Girl, 7, in life-threatening condition and five others taken to hospital after shooting near Euston station



Police say shots are believed to have been fired from a moving vehicle in Phoenix Road, near Euston station in London. No arrests have been made at this stage. A seven-year-old girl is in a life-threatening condition, while four women and another girl were also taken to hospital, after a shooting outside a funeral near Euston station in central London.

The Metropolitan Police said officers were called to Phoenix Road to reports of a shooting. Police initially said the seven-year-old girl and three women - aged 48, 54, and 41 - were taken to hospital after the incident. The 48-year-old

woman's injuries are potentially life-changing. In an update, they confirmed the seven-year-old girl's condition is life-threatening and gave details of two others hurt.

A 21-year-old woman was taken to hospital and details of her condition have not been released. A second child, a 12-year-old girl, was also taken to hospital with a minor leg injury but has since been discharged.

Chinese tracking device is 'discovered inside UK government car'



At least one hidden Chinese tracking device was discovered in a UK government car after officials forensically searched vehicles. A SIM card capable of transmitting location data was found in a security sweep which discovered 'disturbing things', a security source said. The tracker was found inside a sealed part that had been imported from China. The revelation has caused concern among

senior MPs as more calls are made for China to be treated as a 'threat' and for goods manufactured in China to be used with more care. The SIM cards, which can transmit location data, have been discovered in UK government cars.

The cards are now commonplace in vehicles and can feedback information about the performance of the car to the manufacturer. Electronic Control Units (ECUs), which contain the SIM cards, are primarily sourced from China.

The cards would allow access to information including where the car has been, how long it was stopped and even the way in which it was driven. The cars, which are used to transport diplomats and senior government officials, including ministers, were searched as part of an effort to improve the UK's defence infrastructure.

Sir Iain Duncan Smith, the former Conservative leader and foreign secretary, said that the discovery showed it was time for the UK to recognise China as a threat.

A GCHQ source said China's aim was likely to be more about quantity than the quality of the trackers, as it helps to create a 'pool of information' about potential sites of interest.

A recently retired security expert said the threat was 'huge' and could mean both Russian and Chinese intelligence are tracking British ministers.

Two women charged with culpable homicide after Scots security guard dies

Emergency services were called to the scene at Rejects on St Clair Street in Kirkcaldy, Fife, following reports that an employee had 'fallen unwell'. Two women have appeared in court charged with culpable homicide after a security guard died at a Scots department store.

A 62-year-old man was pronounced dead a short time later with his death being treated as 'unexplained' by investigators. It is understood that he suffered a heart attack after an alleged 'altercation'.

The Daily Record can reveal that a mother and daughter have now appeared in private at Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court after being charged in connection with the death. Teresa Gordon, 57, and Nicola Gordon, 35, of Kirkcaldy, both face a culpable homicide allegation as well as a charge each of theft by shoplifting. Teresa Gordon faces an additional charge of behaving in a threatening or abusive manner. The case has been submitted for further examination by prosecutors while both women have been released on bail in the meantime.

Uranium detected in package at Heathrow Airport



A small amount of uranium was detected in a package that arrived in the UK at Heathrow Airport following a routine screening. The Metropolitan Police said its counter-terrorism command unit was contacted by Border Force colleagues at the airport after the contaminated material was discovered.

Counter-terror commander Richard Smith said the amount of contaminated material "was extremely small" and has been assessed by experts as posing no threat to the public. The package was destined for Iranian nationals in the UK and arrived on a flight from Oman after originating in Pakistan, according to media reports.

Failed asylum seeker who killed woman, detained indefinitely in hospital



A failed asylum seeker who killed an elderly woman he lived with in a picturesque North Yorkshire village has been detained indefinitely at a secure hospital. Shahin Darvish-Narenjbon, 34, was befriended by 87-year-old Brenda Blainey after they met in Carluccio's restaurant in Leeds. He then went to live with Ms Blainey in the village of Thornton-le-Dale.

The pair built up a relationship, with Ms Blainey treating Darvish-Narenjbon "like a grandson", Judge Rodney Jameson KC said on Wednesday. On January 5 last year, the Iranian national killed Ms Blainey after strangling her and smashing her head on the kitchen floor.

Darvish-Narenjbon then stabbed her in the chest and cut her throat in what has described as an act of "appalling brutality". Judge Jameson said: "You killed Brenda Blainey in her own home in circumstances of appalling brutality".

Two men charged with murder over death of council worker Ashley Dale in Liverpool

Two men have been charged with the murder of a council worker who was shot dead in her back garden in Liverpool last summer. Ashley Dale, 28, was found with a gunshot wound at her home in Old Swan, Liverpool on August 21. She was taken to hospital but later died.

Merseyside Police said James Witham, 40, of Ashbury Road, Huyton and Joseph Peers, 28, of Woodlands Road, Roby, had been charged with murder and possession of a firearm with intent. They are due to appear at Wirral adult remand court.

Gang ransacked £200,000 of jewellery and guns from home



A gang broke into a secluded farmhouse and burgled £200,000 of items, including jewellery and weapons, while forcing a woman to lie on the ground as a little girl slept upstairs. Police officers looking for the five burglars have released CCTV images as part of an appeal for witnesses to the attack, which took place in Eynsham in Oxfordshire. Most of the family living in the home were

out, other than a 55-year-old home and a five-year-old girl.

The burglars climbed in through an upstairs window and forced the woman onto the floor as they searched the house. The thugs stole items worth around £200,000, including a gun safe holding three rifles, two shotguns and ammunition, as well jewellery and handbags.

They also stole the woman's phone and car, a blue Nissan Juke with the partial number plate WU69. They left the scene in this vehicle as well as a dark coloured coupe, possible an Audi S5 or A5.

British Army soldier 'carried out bomb hoax at base'

A British Army soldier has been accused of making a "bomb hoax" at his base. Daniel Abed Khalife, of Beacon Barracks in Stafford, is accused of eliciting or attempting to elicit information about an individual who is in or was in the military which is likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terror in August 2021.

The 21-year-old is also alleged to have placed three canisters with wires at RAF Stafford – otherwise known as Beacon Barracks – with the intention of making someone believe it would likely explode or ignite and cause injury or damage to property earlier this month.

Khalife spoke only to confirm his age, name and address as he appeared briefly at Westminster Magistrates' Court. The hearing was adjourned until February and he was remanded in custody.



Man, 61, charged after Matt Hancock 'assaulted'



A man has been charged after Matt Hancock was assaulted and harassed on the Tube. The former health secretary and I'm A Celebrity contestant was filmed being called a "murderer" in front of commuters on a packed train. British Transport Police said: "A 61-year-old man has been charged in connection to a man being assaulted and harassed at Westminster station. "Geza Tarjanyi, from Leyland, is charged with common assault & two public order offences. He's been released on bail to appear in court next month." Mr. Hancock, 44, said before the charge was announced: "Both Transport for London staff and the British Transport Police were fantastic."

The end of legal laughing gas

Plans to ban the possession of laughing gas unless someone has a legitimate reason are being drawn up by the Government.

Drug laws would be tweaked to allow people found carrying nitrous oxide cans - nicknamed hippy crack - to be prosecuted in a bid to clamp down on antisocial behaviour. Legitimate reasons to carry them would include medics who use it for pain relief or cooks who need it for whipped cream. Reckless supply of nitrous oxide for inhalation is banned already but now plans are in place to tighten the law further.

Killer Afghan asylum seeker jailed for life



A killer Afghan asylum seeker who posed as a 14-year-old chatted up teenage girls and asked them on dates at secondary school, parents have said. Lawangeen Abdulrahimzai was convicted of the knife murder of aspiring marine Thomas Roberts in Bournemouth Town Centre yesterday. He was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 29 years this afternoon for Mr Roberts' murder.

It emerged he had been previously convicted of murder in Serbia and was sentenced to 20 years in his absence.

He was found guilty of two counts of murder as well as a related firearm offence in 2020 following a trial in his absence, having already fled Serbia.

Two men jailed after stealing £100,000 watch from American tourist

Two men who attacked a group of American tourists and stole a £100,000 watch before speeding away in a stolen Jaguar have been jailed for nearly seven years. Both Thomas Lenaghan, 24, and Ronnie Fitzgerald, 20, were sentenced to six years, nine months' in jail for conspiracy to rob, threatening a person with a knife in public, possession of and threatening a person with a stun gun.

Lenaghan and Fitzgerald both pleaded guilty to all offences at a hearing in October after which John Stovell, 51, was jailed for 18 months having pled guilty to handling stolen goods and assisting an offender.

The attack took place shortly after midnight on November 16, 2021, when three American tourists were crossing the road in Chelsea.

Man, guilty of robbing Olympic cyclist Mark Cavendish

A man has been convicted of robbing elite Olympic cyclist Mark Cavendish at knifepoint in his own home. Romario Henry, 31 of Lewisham in South East London, was found guilty of two counts of robbery by a majority verdict of 10 jurors to two after more than 14 hours of deliberation.



Cavendish and his wife Peta had their high-value watches robbed at knifepoint at their home in Ongar, Essex.

Masked raiders broke in at about 2.30am in November 2021 and threatened to stab the elite cyclist, Chelmsford Crown Court heard during the trial.

Islamist teen 'targeted police officers and soldiers' with terror plot

A teenage boy from Essex has pleaded guilty to plotting a terrorist attack allegedly targeting police officers and people in the military. Matthew King, 19, carried out surveillance at an army barracks, police stations, magistrates' courts and a railway station. King, of Wicklow in Essex, pleaded guilty to preparing terrorist acts at the Old Bailey on Friday.

Police learned about King after he posted a video to a WhatsApp group that called on young people to "destroy" non-Muslims. A male figure holding a knife said in the video: "Those who said that there is no jihad and no battle. They are lying!

"Our jihad will continue until disappearance until the day of judgment! Now the battle has begun, and it will continue until the day of judgment. So, take out your sword, O youth, and destroy the kufr."

Officers were alerted to the video via an anti-terrorist hotline and the Prevent counter-terrorism programme.

Cardiff man jailed for nine years in wake of terrorism offences

Luca Benincasa, aged 20, from Cardiff has been sentenced at Winchester Crown Court in relation to four offences committed under Section 58 of the Terrorism Act 2000, referencing possession of documents likely to be useful to a terrorist, and also one further offence under Section 11 of the same Act (specifically membership of a proscribed organisation).

Benincasa was arrested in January last year by detectives from Counter Terrorism Policing Wales. Several electronic devices were seized from his home and, following examination, extremist material was uncovered.

The material contained information to assist someone in either committing or preparing an act of terrorism. Benincasa was charged on 1 February 2022. On 15 July 2022, he appeared via live link at Winchester Crown Court when he entered guilty pleas to five offences: membership of a proscribed organisation and the possession of four documents of a kind likely to be useful to a terrorist.



Security Industry News

Brixton Academy tragedy: Statement from Paul Fullwood, SIA Director of Inspections and Enforcement

The SIA are working with the Metropolitan Police to assist them with their investigation into the tragedy that took place at the O2 Brixton Academy on the night of 15 December 2022.

We have seen the reports in the press resulting from the BBC's File on 4 programme. As the regulator of the private security industry in the UK, we take allegations of corruption by security operatives extremely seriously.

We have launched an inquiry into these allegations which appear to extend beyond the Brixton O2 Academy. We will also review licensing arrangements and take appropriate action against any individual or company carrying out such practices as part of our regulatory licensing responsibility across the private security industry.

Crown Commercial Service mandates ACS for government security contracts



Following the review of several Crown Commercial Service public sector agreements we are pleased to announce that the new stand-alone Security Services framework requires all suppliers - awarded a place on the framework under work package B guarding services - to be SIA approved contractors. The Crown Commercial Service will monitor suppliers to ensure they maintain their approved contractor status.

The inclusion of approved contractor status further enables buyers from central government including arm's length bodies, executive agencies, non-departmental public bodies, non-ministerial departments, the devolved administrations, and the wider public sector to procure security services with confidence.

The new framework aligns with appropriate SIA standards designed to improve quality of services provided to protect the public. The framework offers a full range of security services outside those previously identified within facilities management including guarding services (which includes static guarding services) and the monitoring of Video Surveillance Systems (VSS). Details available here: [Physical, Technical and Support Services – CCS](#)

SIA Customer satisfaction remains high

A recent independent survey has found high levels of customer satisfaction with our licence application service. 85% of individual licence applicants and 79% of businesses were satisfied with the service. These results remain strong and are indicative of a well-performing organisation that delivers a good service to its customers.

The SIA commissioned IFF in June 2022 to conduct a survey measuring customer satisfaction with our online licence application service.

The survey results showed that the key drivers of satisfaction for both individuals and businesses are making the application process “simple and straightforward,” and the length of time taken to process a licence application. The vast majority of individuals and businesses considered us to be ‘good’ in both crucial areas. Importantly, 89% of individual licence applicants were satisfied that we took licence decisions within the expected time and made it straightforward to apply for a licence.

The survey also found that satisfaction among individuals with their contact with us has improved by 5% since last year, to 81%. Most individuals and businesses were able to get the information they needed after contacting us.

Martyn’s Law to ensure stronger protections against terrorism in public places



The UK’s resilience to terrorism is to be stepped up as the government has announced details for the Protect Duty, now to be known as ‘Martyn’s Law’ in tribute to Martyn Hett, who was killed alongside 21 others in the Manchester Arena terrorist attack in 2017.

New laws to keep people safe will scale up preparedness for, and protection from, terrorist attacks.

Martyn’s Law will ensure better protection against the continued and evolving threat that the UK faces from terrorism.

Support, guidance, and training will help embed best practice and drive up standards across the UK.

Working closely with security partners, businesses, and victims’ groups, including Figen Murray and the Martyn’s Law Campaign Team, and Survivors Against Terror, the new duty will require venues to take steps to improve public safety, with measures dependent on the size of the venue and the activity taking place.

SIA Licence reminder

Do not create an SIA online account if you already have one

If you have ever created an SIA online account, we still have your records. Please do not create a new account.

Instead of creating a new account, you can reset your password.

You can reset your password by following these steps:

1. Click the 'Forgot Password?' link on the log in screen.
2. Enter the email address registered to your SIA online account, then select the 'Reset password' button.
3. Follow the instructions in the email we send you to reset your SIA online account password.
4. If you do not receive this email, check your junk and spam email folders.

Please remember, when you set up your SIA online account we ask you to create a username and password. These details are YOUR personal login details. They should not be shared with anyone else, including the company that you work for.

Please check your SIA online account regularly. We use it to send you important information.

Simulated nightclub exercises to protect the public



Following previous counter-terrorism emergency planning exercises we have hosted which sees security operatives dealing with realistic terror scenarios presented by actors; we are planning to deliver three, separate, simulated nightclub exercises next month.

The exercises demonstrate and apply the ACT (Action Counters Terrorism) Security e-learning.

The exercises are taking place at:

- Edinburgh's Shanghai Club at Le Monde Hotel on Sunday 05 February
- Atik club in Windsor on Wednesday 22 February
- Cardiff University Students' Union on Monday 27 February

Anti-spiking guidance

Potential victims of spiking are urged to report it to police and get tested quickly as nearly 5,000 reports of spiking were made within a year.

Police forces in England and Wales shared spiking reports with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) in the 12 months ending September 2022. Nearly 5,000 cases of needle and drink spiking incidents were reported as forces across the country stepped up their focus on tackling the issue.

Spiking is when someone puts alcohol or drugs into another person's drink or body without their consent or knowledge. This is illegal even if no other offence is committed. People can also be the victims of 'needle spiking', which is injecting someone with drugs without their consent.

NAO investigation highlights “poor performance” of UK Security Vetting



Delays owing to the continued “poor performance” of the Cabinet Office-run UK Security Vetting (UKSV) operation could mean Government departments risk being unable to progress work, including that relating to national security. That's the top line finding of a new investigation process conducted by the National Audit Office (NAO). This second investigation into UKSV by the NAO – the results of the initial study having been published in September 2018 – reveals

what the NAO describes as a “pattern of underperformance” and missed targets. UKSV introduced a stabilisation plan in 2022, in fact, with the distinct aim of seeking to improve performance.

In January 2017, UKSV was established with the key remit of vetting the applications of individuals with access to sensitive Government information, locations, or equipment. The three most common categories of vetting are Counter-Terrorist Checks (CTC), Security Checks (SC) and Developed Vetting (DV), the latter allowing access to more sensitive assets.

The NAO's report finds that, on this occasion, UKSV has not met its targets since August 2021 for CTC and SC clearances and, since May 2021, for DV clearances. UKSV aims to complete 85% of CTC/SC clearances in 25 days and 85% of DV clearances within 95 days.

Processing of CTC/SC clearances last met the stated target in July 2021 and fell to a low of 15% of clearances cleared in 25 days in September last year. For DV clearances, UKSV last met its target in May 2021 with performance falling to just 7% of clearances being completed within 95 days in April 2022.

UKSV's performance on priority clearances, where Government departments can request an accelerated process for up to 3% of their clearance requests, has been closer to its target level and exceeded a reduced target level in 2022-2023.

Record number of SARs received and processed in last financial year.

The National Crime Agency (NCA) has published the Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) Annual Report for 2022, which features statistics covering the years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. A record has been set in the last financial year with 901,255 SARs received and processed. That represents a 21% increase on the previous reported period. No less than £305.7 million has been denied to suspected criminals as a result of Defence Against Money Laundering (DAML) requests. This equates to a 120.6% increase on the £138.6 million denied in 2020-2021.

SARs are submitted to the NCA by individuals working in regulated sectors such as banking, legal and financial services where they suspect that transactions are being used to launder money or conceal criminal activity.

Government seeks to tighten controls on bomb-making materials and poisons



The Government has laid secondary legislation in a determined bid to further tighten the controls in place for poisons and chemicals (also known as 'explosives precursors') which can be used to manufacture explosives. The overarching intention is to update the Poisons Act 1972.

Following the Manchester Arena terror attack in 2017, the Government committed to

enhancing its capabilities to detect terrorist activity, including that which involves the use of bomb-making materials.

The proposal is for new measures to come into force on 1 October 2023 and include improving requirements for the reporting of suspicious activity, adding new substances, providing additional obligations on online marketplaces and requiring that certain information is recorded when selling regulated explosives precursors to business users.

BCI launches Supply Chain Resilience Report 2023



The Business Continuity Institute (BCI) has just launched the Supply Chain Resilience Report 2023, which is sponsored by SGS. The report examines the level of disruption within global supply chains, the uptake of business continuity practices within the supply chain and also primary concerns for supply chains across the next five years.

The level of supply chain disruption reported by organisations is still more than twice as high as pre-pandemic levels. Almost half of respondents (45.7% of them, in fact)

experienced these issues with their closest suppliers at Tier 1, while 24.1% saw more disruptions at Tier 2. These figures are higher across the board than those listed in the pages of the 2021 report. However, the report notes that these high results are partly due to more analysis being undertaken on the performance analytics of supply chains. Download copies of the BCI's Supply Chain Resilience Report 2023 <https://www.thebci.org/resource/bci-supply-chain-resilience-report-2023.html>

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-13th-january-2023>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/threat-report-27-january-2023>



Demonstrations / Protests

XR protesters disrupt House of Lords as Government suffers defeat over Public Order Bill

Peers are on course for a showdown with the Government after inflicting a number of defeats over its controversial plans to crack down on protests.

It followed earlier drama in the House of Lords, when eco-activists disturbed proceedings to demonstrate against the Public Order Bill, leading to a short adjournment. The 12 members of Extinction Rebellion, wearing tops bearing the slogan Defend Human Rights, were swiftly escorted from the upper chamber by doorkeepers and security staff.

More than 1,000 'rotting apples' dumped outside Scotland Yard



More than a thousand 'bad apples' have been dumped outside Scotland Yard in protest at a "culture of violent misogyny" in the Met Police. The stunt by leading domestic violence charity Refuge comes after Met officer David Carrick was unmasked this week as one of Britain's worst-ever serial rapists.

The charity said it had placed 1,071 rotten apples outside the force's HQ, saying each apple represented an officer who had been or is under investigation for allegations of violence against women and girls.

Refuge CEO Ruth Davison said: "This is not one bad apple; this is a systemic problem across policing. "How have these perpetrators of abuse been allowed to enter and remain in positions of power for so long?"