



UK Threat Level: **SUBSTANTIAL**

SECURITY INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

JANUARY 2023



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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

100-plus arrests made in UK's biggest-ever counter fraud operation

An international one-stop spoofing shop has been taken down in what is the UK's biggest-ever counter fraud operation led by the Metropolitan Police Service. More than 200,000 potential victims in this country alone have been directly targeted through the fraud website iSpoof. At one stage, almost 20 people every minute of the day were being contacted by scammers using the site and hiding behind false identities. The scammers posed as representatives of banks including Barclays, Santander, HSBC, Lloyds, Halifax, First Direct, NatWest, Nationwide and TSB. Scotland Yard's Cyber Crime Unit worked with international law enforcement, including authorities in the US and Ukraine, to dismantle the website. This was a crucial phase in a worldwide operation, which has now been running out of the public eye since June last year in targeting a suspected organised crime group.



iSpoof enabled criminals to appear as if they were calling from banks, tax offices and other official bodies as they attempted to defraud victims. Those victims are believed to have lost tens of millions of pounds, while those behind the site earned almost £3.2 million in one 20-month period.

Shirtless teen who threatened McDonald's doorman with knife in Newcastle dodges jail



A shirtless teen who threatened a doorman with a knife after being refused entry into a Newcastle city centre McDonald's has avoided jail. Corie Ruddy turned aggressive when a door supervisor asked him to leave the fast-food restaurant on Northumberland Street after he walked in without a top on. The 18-year-old then took out a blade and threatened the doorman in front of a large number of witnesses. Fearing for his life, the doorman picked up a chair to defend himself before Ruddy left. Ruddy, of Denton Road, Scotswood, Newcastle, appeared at Newcastle's

Moot Hall via link from HMP Durham to be sentenced for threatening a person with a blade. He had pleaded guilty to the offence at a previous hearing.

Suspected digital fraud in UK witnesses 40% spike around Black Friday



The average number of suspected digital fraud attempts for transactions from the UK on any given day surrounding Black Friday was 40% higher than the average for the rest of the year. That's according to global information and insights company TransUnion. The findings of TransUnion's collated data study indicate that the share of suspected digital fraud during this period, which

traditionally marks the start of Christmas shopping, reached its peak on Cyber Monday (22%) (i.e., 28 November). Meanwhile, Black Friday – 25 November – and Sunday 27 November (at both 21%) were close behind. However, the amount of potential fraud was high in all of the surrounding days, and with gift buying set to continue in the run-up to the big day itself, the increase in volume of e-commerce transactions relative to the rest of the year may well cause further issues.

Planned terror attacks on national infrastructure lead to conviction

Oliver Lewin, aged 38, from Leicestershire has been convicted of planning terrorist attacks by performing reconnaissance, purchasing equipment and tools and seeking to recruit like-minded individuals to help him, with vital national infrastructure – including communications masts – being the main targets. Appearing at Birmingham Crown Court, Lewin has been found guilty of preparing acts of terrorism. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) proved that Lewin engaged in reconnaissance of proposed targets to attack, even visiting them a few weeks before he was arrested. His main targets were major communications infrastructure. In a handwritten notebook, Lewin wrote a target list: 'Media, Transport, Infrastructure, Power, Comms, Roads and Rail.'



Emergency services in London test response to a terrorist attack

The Metropolitan Police, along with other emergency services and statutory partners has carried out a major live-play exercise this week to test the joint response to a major terrorist incident. The multi-agency exercise – called Exercise Crystal Peak – took place over two days and involved more than 200 people including emergency responders from blue-light services,



specialist counter terrorism officers, partners from the London Resilience Forum, as well as numerous volunteers playing the role of casualties. The exercise was not carried out in response to any specific threat or intelligence, but forms part of our regular CT testing and exercising programme. The exercise scenario involved an improvised explosive device detonating and injuring large numbers of people as they attended a fictional music concert at a stadium venue.

Man 'throws an egg at King Charles' during walkabout

King Charles had an egg hurled at him for the second time in a month today, with police arresting a man for common assault. Bodyguards quickly intervened to move the monarch away from the scene of the disturbance on St George's Square in Luton. Bedfordshire Police confirmed a suspect had been arrested and is now being questioned. Charles, 74, appeared unfazed by the incident and quickly resumed shaking hands with members of the public after being moved to a different area.



The incident comes four weeks after 23-year-old Patrick Thelwell was arrested for throwing an egg at the King and Queen Consort during a visit to York. The royal couple had just arrived in the city to unveil a statue in honour of the late Queen at York Minster when a figure in the crowd threw four eggs, all of which missed. Thelwell was later identified as a former University of York student who stood as a Green Party candidate in York for the 2019 local elections. He later claimed to have been banned from carrying eggs in public or going within 500 metres of the monarch.

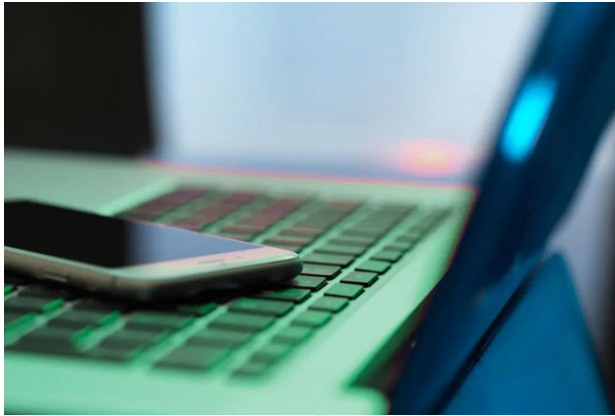
Family of man who froze to death after being stranded at wind farm awarded £860k



The family of a man who froze to death while working at a wind farm has received a six-figure sum in compensation. Ronnie Alexander, 74, got stranded in a severe snowstorm and died at Afton wind farm near New Cumnock, Scotland. The alarm was raised after the security guard failed to return home from a 12-hour shift in January 2018. He was found in deep snow and succumbed to hypothermia after his cabin generator failed

and left him without heat or electricity.

Most convicted terrorists radicalised online, finds MoJ-backed study



Most convicted terrorists in Britain were turned to extremism by the internet, with half of those radicalised online having some problems with mental health, personality disorders, depression, or autism, the most authoritative study of its kind has found. The study for the Ministry of Justice, released, examined official risk assessments of every convicted terrorist in prison since 2010 in England and Wales. The majority were radicalised at least in part online – a trend

caused by technology and the tactics of groups such as Islamic State. While those incited to carry out or support violence online make up the majority of terrorists, their plots, according to the study, are less likely to succeed.

The research challenges conventional wisdom that the growth of internet radicalisation by Islamists and the extreme right allows terrorism to fester out of sight of the security services and police. The researchers from the prison and probation service, as well as Nottingham Trent and Bournemouth Universities, were given access to Extremism Risk Guidance 22+ forms. These are written for the prison and probation services and assess the commitment to terrorism, as well as the danger posed by convicted terrorists. The forms include material from counter-terrorism policing.

Spy chiefs warned about tweets and TV appearances



Concern about the growing media presence of British spies has been raised by MPs on the parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee. A report by the ISC refers to newspaper interviews by MI5 and GCHQ bosses, and the head of MI6's Twitter account. Spy chiefs have also appeared on the BBC, and the head of GCHQ is set to guest edit Radio 4's Today programme. Agencies have used social media and interviews to explain their work and increase recruitment and diversity.

In its annual report, the committee said it recognised the "important role public outreach can play in attracting employees by opening up about the culture and working practices in such secret organisations" - but it said such activity "must be undertaken in a strategic and considered manner".

Airports to ease 100ml liquid limit by 2024, Government announces

Passengers at UK airports will soon be able to pass through security with up to two litres of liquid in their hand luggage. The Government has confirmed the current 100ml rule will be scrapped by June 2024. It was introduced following a foiled terrorist plot in 2006.



Criminals had been poised to smuggle liquid explosives through security by disguising them in Lucozade bottles. In the years since, technology has made it easier to implement security at airports across the world. New machines will be able to analyse liquids, and other belongings, to make sure they are safe. Under the new plans, travellers will also no longer need to carry the containers in clear plastic bags or remove tablets and laptops from hand luggage at checkpoints.

The Department for Transport said major airports will be required to install new technology which gives security staff more detailed images of what is in passengers' bags.

Asake Brixton concert: Second person, Gaby Hutchinson, dies following crush

A second person has died after being injured in a crush at a concert at Brixton Academy. Gaby Hutchinson, aged 23, died in hospital in the early hours of Monday, 19 December. Hutchinson was working as one of the contracted security providers for the event that evening. Rebecca Ikumelo, 33, from Newham, east London, also died on Saturday morning. Another woman aged 21 remains in hospital fighting for her life. All three people were in the foyer of the building in south London when they were critically injured in the crush, the Metropolitan Police said. Eight people were taken to hospital with injuries following the incident.



Prince Andrew losing royal protection guards and replacing them with private bodyguards



Prince Andrew's taxpayer-funded Royal Family protection guards are set to be replaced by private bodyguards. The Royal Family shake up will mean Andrew's guards can only carry tasers. King Charles may personally foot the bill for his brother's new team, it has been reported. Norman Baker, former Home Office minister and Privy Council member, told the Sun newspaper: "Armed protection has always been a status symbol for the likes of Prince Andrew."

"Of course, he should pay it himself and not burden the taxpayer because he is a private individual and carries out no public duties. People like David Beckham pay for their own security so why shouldn't Prince Andrew?"

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 a Security Industry Authority (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 8 December to using a forged document in a fraudulent attempt to gain an SIA licence.

Man, 30, arrested after Buckingham Palace front gates set on fire



A man has been arrested after a fire was set at the gates of Buckingham Palace. Shocking footage shows the moment a man was tackled to the ground seconds after appearing to ignite the blaze at the palace gates. One police officer forces his knee to the suspect's back as he is handcuffed with the blaze still burning. Scotland Yard said a 30-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of criminal damage, with the fire now out.

Martyn's Law: Parliament to debate new anti-terrorism security rules for venues

New legislation, dubbed Martyn's Law in memory of Manchester Arena bombing victim Martyn Hett, will be introduced to ensure stronger protections against terrorism in public places. Mr Hett, 29, was one of 22 people killed during the attack at the end of an Ariana Grande concert on May 22, 2017.

The new rules, which Mr Hett's mother Figen Murray has long campaigned for, will cover all of the United Kingdom and require venues and local authorities to have preventative action plans against terror attacks, the Government said. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said he is committed to working with Mrs Murray to improve security measures at public venues, with the Government planning to publish draft legislation in early spring.

Martyn's Law will follow a tiered model linked to the type of activity taking place and the size of the expected audience and will seek to improve how prepared a venue is without putting an undue burden on business.



Londoner who encouraged bombings in Zimbabwe in online speeches jailed



A man who encouraged bombings in Zimbabwe in online speeches has been jailed for terrorism offences. William Chinyanga, 52, live-streamed a number of speeches on Facebook protesting Zimbabwe's ruling party, Zanu-PF, in which he encouraged bombings and attacks on soldiers and police. The December 2019 videos were referred to counter-terror police who swooped to arrest Chinyanga on February 25, 2020, at his home in north

London. In interview, he admitted to posting the videos. He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment in December 22. He was earlier found guilty of two counts of encouraging terrorist acts after a trial at Kingston Crown Court. He was acquitted of two further charges of encouraging terrorist acts.

The number of far-right extremist inmates has risen to its highest level ever in the last year, new statistics reveal.

The figures also show under-20s make up a third of arrested terror suspects, in another significant trend. Police detained 190 people on suspicion of terror offences in the year to September 2022. Of these, 33% (63) were aged 20 and under, with 32 being younger than 18-years-old. In the previous 12-month period, 42 people (or 22%) out of 190 were aged 20 and under.



The Home Office statistics, published on Thursday, also reveal how the ideologies held by terrorist prisoners has changed over time. The proportion of terrorist inmates holding Islamist-extremist views has fallen to its lowest level on record. Meanwhile those categorised as having an extreme right-wing ideology has risen to its highest.

As of the end of September, there were 239 people in custody for terrorism-related offences in Britain.

Of those, 65% (155) were classed as Islamist-extremist, compared to 94% in the year to September 2015 when the proportion was at its highest level. Home Office terror figures flag rise in number of far-right extremist inmates

Houben Centre bomb alert accused refused bail



A Belfast workman forced to transport a hoax bomb to an event attended by the Irish Foreign Minister was branded a “tout” and had lasers shone into his home, the High Court heard. Prosecutors claimed a campaign of intimidation led to the victim withdrawing cooperation with detectives investigating the loyalist terrorist incident targeting Simon Coveney. Details emerged as bail was refused to a 41-year-old businessman accused of involvement in the plot. Darren Service, of Ballysillian Road in Belfast, denies charges of preparation of terrorist acts, hijacking and placing an article causing a bomb hoax.

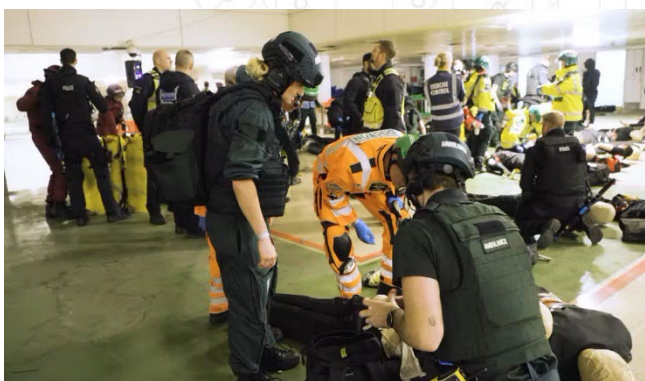
Yeadon terrorism arrests

A man from Leeds has been charged with several offences under the Terrorism, Firearms and Explosives Act. Benjamin Hyland, 29, of Yeadon, was charged with two offences contrary to Section 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006 and six offences contrary to Section 58(1)(b) of the Terrorism Act 2000.

He was also charged with one offence contrary to Section 5(1)(aba) of the Firearms Act 1968, one offence contrary to Section 1(1) of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981 and Section 5(2A) of the Firearms Act 1968, and an offence contrary to Section 4 of the Explosive Substances Act 1883. He has been remanded into custody and is due to appear before Westminster Magistrates’ Court.



Police hold terror attack drill in derelict Heathrow terminal



Anti-terror officers, firefighters and paramedics held an exercise to test their response to a terror bombing at a fictional concert. Volunteers played the role of injured concertgoers caught up in the fictional blast carried out at a disused terminal in Heathrow.

Exercise Crystal Peak, which took place over two days and involved more than 200 people, tested the multi-agency response

to an improvised explosive device blowing up and injuring fans at a fictional music concert at a stadium venue. Commander Ade Adekan said: “Whilst the exercise was not designed with any specific threat in mind, sadly, previous attacks such as those we’ve seen in Manchester and Paris show that this kind of scenario at a busy entertainment venue is a real possibility.

Cops found €580k 'Aladdin's Cave' of designer goods in Thomas 'Bomber' Kavanagh's home raid

Anti-gangland cops seized an Aladdin's Cave of designer goods worth more than €500k after they burst into the gated mansion of Thomas 'Bomber' Kavanagh in Birmingham. The stunning haul included:

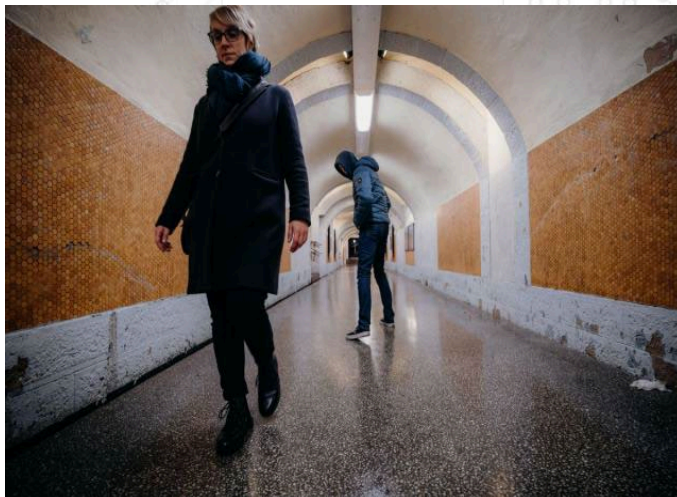
- One hundred pairs of designer heels.
- 120 handbags.
- 36 pairs of Armani jeans.
- lines of Hugo Boss suits;
- closets full of Canada Goose and Moncler jackets.
- and drawers full of expensive watches and jewellery.



The clothing and jewellery alone are estimated to have been worth Stg£500,000 and is one of the largest ever seizures of personal items nabbed from a domestic home in a National Crime Agency investigation. Cash in the region of Stg£40,000 was also found stashed around the house, stuffed into the back of the sofa and in a variety of Moschino, Gucci and Chanel handbags.

Investigators in the UK are also sifting through receipted purchases believed to be worth hundreds of thousands and recorded on high-end designer store cards where points were saved for discounts and access to services like personal shoppers.

First London fine for catcalling dished out after undercover operation



The first fine for catcalling has been issued to a man in London during an undercover operation. Redbridge council used powers designed to clamp down on antisocial behaviour to slap the man with a £100 penalty. Incognito council officers heard the man make a sexually suggestive remark to a woman in a late-night takeaway while conducting a covert operation with Metropolitan Police detectives in Ilford town centre.

The officers detained the man and fined him for making the comment by using powers under the council's Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), which enforces against catcalling. Redbridge said it is the first authority in London to use the powers for that purpose and the perpetrator will have to pay the penalty within 28 days or face court. Council leader Jas Athwal said: "We are the first Council in London using our Public Space Protection Order to enforce against catcalling and harassment.

Huge Cannabis farm 'worth a million pounds' discovered in south London police station



A huge cannabis farm has been discovered hidden in an abandoned police station in Streatham. Bungling growers gave themselves away after a fire broke out inside the premises and firefighters discovered the plants. One local worker told LBC that the station was being used to grow a "million pounds worth of weed" with police informing her that they had removed "plants taller than you". The fire

was reportedly ignited as dealers sought to steal electricity for their growing lamps.

Police hunt gunman after woman dies

Police are hunting for a gunman after a woman was fatally shot at a pub on Merseyside on Christmas Eve. Three other men are being treated for gunshot wounds in hospital after the attack in The Lighthouse in Wallasey Village, Wirral. A number of other people were also injured, police added.



Officers are appealing for information after the gunman fled in a dark vehicle, believed to be a Mercedes. Merseyside Police said the woman died after she was rushed to hospital following the shooting, which happened in a "busy venue full of young people".

On-the-run Dudley man arrested and prosecuted

On Wednesday 07 December 2022, Imraz Hussain pleaded guilty at Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court to working illegally as a door supervisor at a bar in Dudley. He was fined £200 and required to pay £280 prosecution costs plus a £34 victim surcharge.

We brought the prosecution following a routine inspection by our investigators and West Midlands Police licensing officers of venues in Dudley on 12 November 2021. The investigation revealed several cases of offending resulting in the successful prosecutions of Dean McKibben, Emma Spittle and Jason Cooper. Our investigators also found Imraz Hussain working without displaying an SIA licence. He promptly left the bar, saying that he was going to collect his licence. However, he failed to return. The venue's signing-in book showed a licence number against Imraz Hussain's name, but the licence belonged to another person who lived 120 miles away.

Bournemouth man used fake licence to provide illegal security

On 02 December 2022, Benjamin Peter John Head of Bournemouth was sentenced at Bournemouth Crown Court. He pleaded guilty at Poole Magistrates' Court on 17 June 2022 to providing and supplying illegal security at various venues in Bournemouth. The court fined him £500 and ordered him to pay court costs of £1500 and a victim surcharge of £50. We brought the case following an investigation by our criminal investigation team. Dorset Police provided us with intelligence that a door supervisor named Ben Allen - also known as Ben Head - was working without a valid SIA licence.

A witness statement, signing-in registers and incident reports for the venues showed entries for Ben Allen as a door supervisor on multiple occasions. They also revealed he worked for a company called Bency Bouncers Ltd. He used a door supervisor licence number ending with the same digits as those of a genuine licence held by a person with a similar name.

'Serious management failings': Crane nightclub faces urgent licence review after fatal stabbing

The nightclub where a 23-year-old footballer died during a knife attack may be forced to close as an urgent request to review its licence has been scheduled.

Birmingham City Council will hold a meeting after West Midlands Police said there had been "serious management failings" at the Crane nightclub in Digbeth. The force said Cody Fisher died during "a fight on the dancefloor" and officers who attended shortly before midnight on Boxing Day "described a scene of chaos and evidence of drug use within the premises".



One sergeant's account said the club's security guards asked officers to help them with crowd control following the stabbing, while other "oblivious" staff members were "wandering around all over the place" and began cleaning up the crime scene.

"They have started to clean the dancefloor further down from where the deceased was; officers shouted at them to stop," the sergeant said.

"While officers are doing CPR, you can see people are just wandering around in the scene freely. As soon as we had more officers on the scene they were removed and the whole dancefloor was cordoned off and the area was made sterile.

"There were hundreds of small drugs bags and nitrous oxide canisters all over the dancefloor. These include the small and the very large nitrous oxide canisters with balloons."

Pub where bouncer 'flying kicked' man and another was stabbed is allowed to reopen



A pub where a bouncer delivered a 'flying kick' to a man and security staff failed to stop a fight on its doorstep which escalated into a stabbing will be allowed to reopen. The Levenshulme Pub on Stockport Road has been closed since a violent incident in the early hours of Saturday, December 3 which saw a man rushed to hospital after being stabbed in the abdomen. Manchester council chiefs had immediately suspended the licence of the venue, pending a full review which took place on Thursday (December 29).

Cash delivery man recalls being 'held hostage' by gunman trying to steal £80,000

A cash deliveryman has described the moment he was 'taken hostage' and trapped alone in a shop with a robber who threatened to shoot him. The guard, whose identity is being protected, was about to reload a cash machine when he was ambushed.

Thief Ashley Hodson, 38, told the guard, 'come here, you're my hostage now', but he replied, 'no I'm not'. The guard has since returned to work. But he will be mentally scarred for life, with a court hearing last month being told that he 'thought his death sentence had been signed' as Hodson tried to steal more than £80,000.



Brothers jailed after attacking security guard at casino in Week Street, Maidstone



A security officer who tackled two brothers who were drinking in a casino has been praised by a judge. Luke Tumana confronted the two who had been ordered out of a Wilson's Casino in Week Street, Maidstone, but refused. During an argument with Thomas and George Mccray, the guard managed to land a punch and also evade two knife lunges. Mr Tumana's actions were commended by the judge who said he had shown "considerable bravery". Thomas, 38, and George, 34, both of no fixed address,

were each jailed for three years and four months after admitting attempting to cause grievous bodily harm

Terror investigations at record high as threat of extreme right wing 'lone actors' rises



K security services are investigating a record number of potential terror threats following a rise in right wing extremism, i can reveal. The scale of the extreme right-wing terrorist threat has steadily increased over the past 20 years and is believed to be largely posed by young people influenced by social media and online sites.

Counter terrorism police and MI5 are engaged in more than 800 investigations, the highest since such records began to be kept in 2002 after the 9/11 attacks, and there is no sign that the intensity will drop in the near future. Isis, al-Qaeda and other Islamist terrorist groups remain the highest threat, but the rise in right wing extremism has been particularly strong since the EU Referendum in 2016, with the cost-of-living crisis, the Channel migrants issue and the post-Brexit era cited as leading causes.

Tracking down would-be terrorists is particularly difficult because so many are “lone actors” who are inspired to act independently rather than as part of a wider organisation. Security services have, they say, foiled eight imminent terror attacks since the summer of 2021, and 37 since 2017. Around a third are linked to right wing extremists.

Clarborough burglary: Security guard punched in head by masked men

Police are looking for a group of offenders who assaulted a security guard and kept him captive for about three hours. Nottinghamshire Police said the security guard was confronted by three masked men, punched to the head and manhandled onto a chair. He was then guarded while other offenders came onto the site in Clarborough and stole various items. Police said the incident was being treated as aggravated burglary.

SIA leads joint operation to identify illegal working practices and tax fraud in Birmingham

We recently carried out a joint operation with HMRC and West Midlands Police Birmingham to ensure that security staff were employed legitimately and treated fairly. Teams attended two Christmas markets plus several licensed venues in the city centre. Our investigators and colleagues from HMRC spoke to security operatives to check the correct taxes were being paid and to ensure they were not victims of any labour abuse.

During the course of the targeted operation, we carried out 78 checks on operatives. All operatives were correctly licensed. Further enquires will be made to check on those companies using self-employed staff, and to ensure operatives were paid national minimum living wage.

Paul Fullwood, our Director of Inspections & Enforcement, who took part in the operation said:

“Great to be out in Birmingham City Centre on an SIA-led operation as part of our ongoing inspection activity across the UK of the private security industry. I was impressed by the overall professionalism from the security operatives we spoke with who were doing a great job in areas with high public footfalls.

“Part of our inspection work with HMRC was to check the operation of PAYE with security operatives and identify tax abuses in the security industry. We are determined to ensure

operatives are treated fairly and to create a level playing field for legitimate businesses who play by the rules.”

We have been working with HMRC to educate security companies as to which security staff should fall under PAYE. 5,000 more operatives are now correctly being paid through PAYE who were previously self-employed, protecting their rights and benefits. Learn how HMRC rules apply to the security operatives deployed in the private security industry. Read an example that features typical working arrangements for the industry. It shows how you can apply the employment status indicators to real-world situations. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/learn-how-hmrc-rules-apply-to-the-security-operatives-you-deploy>

Winter Vigilance campaign



Stay vigilant this winter.
Report anything that doesn't seem right.

If you are concerned about something you've seen or heard, **tell security**. Or report it in confidence at **gov.uk/ACT**. In an emergency, always dial **999**.

Share your concerns.
Help us keep your community safe.

Scan the QR code for more information

ACT | ACTION COUNTERS TERRORISM

The National Counter Terrorism Security Office has launched its Winter Vigilance Campaign. As security professionals you can play a vital role in helping to keep the public safe this Christmas. When you're out and about, make sure you stay alert for

- anyone filming exits, entrances or CCTV
- any unattended bags
- anything you hear or see that doesn't feel right

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

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

'Ask for Angela' training launched across Northern Ireland



The Police Service of Northern Ireland has developed a training package in partnership with Hospitality Ulster and has begun to roll out the 'Ask for Angela' safeguarding initiative across Northern Ireland throughout December.

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

People who feel unsafe, vulnerable or threatened can discreetly seek help by approaching venue staff. Asking for 'Angela' will indicate to trained staff that this person requires help in the form of reuniting them with a friend, seeing them to a taxi, or calling venue security and/or police.

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

The training explores what vulnerability is, how to identify it and appropriate interventions to take if someone 'Asks for Angela'. At the launch our Regional Investigations Manager for Northern Ireland, Lee Crofts, said:

"It was great to work with our partners on the launch of the Ask Angela campaign in Belfast. Everyone has been very supportive and enthusiastic about the initiative. Security staff play an important part in keeping the public safe, especially those that may be vulnerable on a night out. We've been talking to those in the night-time economy to ensure awareness of the campaign is high and that door staff understand how the initiative works."

PSNI say: "We are reaching out to a number of different organisations across Northern Ireland asking them to help us to encourage as many local venues as possible to register on the Hospitality Ulster website and access the training package. We ask that you help us get the word out to local businesses through your established networks and contacts."

You can access the training package for the scheme using the link below.

<https://hospitalityulster.org/askforangela>



Security Industry News

£400 million-plus saved as Government takes fight to public purse fraudsters



The equivalent healthcare cost for 129,000 people in England over the last year has been kept in the Government's coffers by dedicated fraud fighters, new figures published by the Cabinet Office have revealed. More than £400 million has been saved for the public purse thanks to cutting-edge data matching software as the Government clamps down on benefits and tax fraud. The National Fraud Initiative enables organisations to use data and match records such that they can pick up where people or

businesses are "taking the Government for a ride". Since its inception, the National Fraud Initiative has identified and helped to recover around £2.4 billion.

The latest figures show that circa 42,000 fraudulent disabled blue badges were being used, while more than 225,000 cases where discounted travel cards of people who had died or didn't qualify for concessions have been blocked.

Around 7,000 people who were clogging up the social housing waiting lists of 102 councils, despite not being eligible for inclusion, have been identified and removed, in turn opening up affordable housing for those who need it.

"Fear driving Chinese state to threaten global security" warns GCHQ

In delivering the 2022 Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) Annual Security Lecture, Sir Jeremy Fleming (director of GCHQ) has asserted that the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) "fear" of losing its grip on power, its own people and the international rules-based system is threatening global security. Fleming said that the Chinese leadership is using its financial and scientific muscle in a bid to dominate strategically important technologies, from digital

currencies through to satellite technology. While the UK and its allies seek science and ‘tech’ advancement to enable prosperity, the CCP wield it as a “tool to gain advantage through control of their markets, of those in their sphere of influence and of their own citizens,” noted Fleming.

Protect Duty confirmed

The Protect Duty – a legal responsibility on places to take measures to counter terrorism – has been confirmed by the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak. A UK-wide law to make the Duty is promised in spring 2023.



The Duty will follow a tiered model, the Government stressing that it seeks to prevent undue burden on businesses. A standard tier will apply to locations with a maximum capacity of over 100. Ways to meet the Duty could include training, information sharing and completion of a preparedness plan (for such basics such as locking doors to delay an attacker; or knowledge on life-saving treatments for staff to give before the emergency services arrive – the ‘care gap’ having

been identified by the second volume of the Manchester Arena Inquiry, as featured in the December print edition of Professional Security Magazine).

An enhanced tier will cover what the Government describes as high-capacity locations, with a capacity of over 800 people at any time. That’s well over the 250 mooted during Home Office consultation. This tier will have to undertake a risk assessment: what might then follow might include a vigilance and security culture, physical measures like CCTV or new systems and processes.

Warehouses and offices, and places where transport security regulations already apply, are explicitly excluded from the Duty. Places of worship, whatever their size, will be in the ‘standard’ tier.

The Government says that it will set up an inspection and enforcement regime to be known as ‘Martyn’s Law’ in tribute of Martyn Hett, who was among those who died in the Manchester Arena suicide bomb terror attack of May 2017. The Government has stressed its work on the Duty with businesses and victims’ groups, including Figen Murray and the Martyn’s Law Campaign Team, and Survivors Against Terror.

Winter marauding terrorist attack briefings

The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure will be providing virtual marauding terrorist attack briefings on the following dates and times:

- 26 January 2023 (09:00 – 12:30)
- 01 March 2023 (13:00 – 16:30)

The purpose of the briefing is to provide a high-level understanding of topics and actions related to a marauding terrorist attack.

The briefing is based on the suite of guidance documents produced by the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure. Before attending a briefing, we strongly recommend that you read the marauding terrorist attack guidance documents. We suggest you read the Making Your Organisation Ready document first, followed by any others within the suite.

Please click on the link below to submit your date and time of choice.

For the sponsor, if you add 'Rob G SIA' with counterterrorism@sia.gov.uk and then 'Dave K', that will ensure the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure knows the source of the invitation.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=uyrU-trf8EORILGOboYWneYJ2dYbL_1Pru7QPN6omyxUQ0taV0o0TVIzTlCxTUM2QVVMERRMUo3Vi4u

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



We have published a 'snapshot' profile of the security guarding sector. It draws on findings from recent surveys and past research we have conducted. It also uses data from our licensing system.

Responses to our surveys suggest that some companies within the sector have found it difficult to recruit and retain security guards. Business demand is increasing post-pandemic but pay is not rising at a rate that helps to attract and retain staff.

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

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

New 'Helping people in vulnerable situations' video



Door supervisors play a vital role in keeping the public safe - especially if they're working in clubs and bars over Christmas.

We've created a new video with reminders for Door Supervisors of their training in protecting vulnerable people. This is very important over the busy holiday period. Vigilance and prompt action by security operatives can avert potential disaster

for a vulnerable person. The training for a Door Supervisor licence includes ways to spot and

help people in vulnerable situations. These skills can help protect the public from predatory behaviour, spiking, and sexual assault.

We define vulnerable individuals as those who might be:

- under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- alone or receiving unwanted attention
- separated from friends
- lost or isolated
- being followed or threatened
- victims of child exploitation
- under the age of 18
- elderly
- with mental ill-health
- with learning, physical, or a range of invisible disabilities

Our video takes the form of an animated checklist of actions that a licence-holder can consider if they are concerned about someone. These include calling the police, involving street pastors or marshals, and making use of safe havens or local schemes such as 'Ask Angela'. You can watch the video on our YouTube page (link below). <https://youtu.be/5dEv2Cz7MKk>

Preventing violence and protecting employees

The National Business Crime Centre (NBCC) has produced some sector-specific guidance on preventing violence and protecting employees.

https://nbcc.police.uk/images/2022/crime-prevention/NBCC_Preventing-violence-abuse-in-retail_FINAL.pdf

SIA Application timescales

We process around 10,000 applications every month. The time taken to process your application will be affected by many different factors: your address history, your nationality (insofar as it affects your right to work in the UK), your criminal record if you have one, whether you've spent time outside the UK, and so on.

Most importantly, you can affect the speed of your application. We need the information you give us and if this is incorrect or incomplete then your application could be delayed, and it may even be cancelled.

Please take the time to review the information you give us before you submit your application because once you've submitted it you won't be able to change it.

As soon as you submit your application, we will send you a message telling you exactly what else you will need to do. Please read this carefully as not all applicants are asked to do the same things.

Remember, we will not start to process your application until you have followed all of these instructions. If we need more information from you whilst processing your application we will send you a message, so you should visit your online account regularly to make sure that you don't miss any messages from us.

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-9th-december-2022>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/threat-report-22nd-december-2022>



Demonstrations / Protests

Extinction Rebellion UK to halt disruptive protests

The U.K. division of climate change protest group Extinction Rebellion says its activists would temporarily stop blocking busy roads, gluing themselves to buildings and engaging in other acts of civil disobedience because such methods have not achieved their desired effects.

“As we ring in the new year, we make a controversial resolution to temporarily shift away from public disruption as a primary tactic,” the group said in a New Year’s Eve website post. “We recognize and celebrate the power of disruption to raise the alarm and believe that constantly evolving tactics is a necessary approach.”

To further its goals of getting politicians, corporations and the public “to end the fossil fuel era,” the group said it would instead focus on broadening its support with actions such as getting 100,000 people to surround the Houses of Parliament in London.

Cash delivery staff at UK security group G4S to strike – union



Hundreds of workers at British security company G4S have voted to strike for 48 hours in early December in a dispute over pay, trade union GMB said on Tuesday, warning the walk out could cause cash shortages over the Christmas period. The G4S Cash workers deliver cash and coins to banks including Barclays, HSBC and Santander as well as supermarkets Tesco,

Asda and Aldi, the union said in a statement.

A spokesperson for G4S, which was bought by American group Allied Universal last year, said the company was continuing to engage with its employees and the union.

Climate protesters found guilty of criminal damage at Barclays headquarters

Climate protesters who caused almost £100,000 in damage after smashing glass windows at the London headquarters of Barclays bank could face jail after being found guilty of causing criminal damage. Carol Wood, 53, Nicola Stickells, 52, Sophie Cowen, 31, Lucy Porter, 48, Gabriella Ditton, 28, Rosemary Webster, 64, and Zoe Cohen, 52, were convicted at Southwark Crown Court on Monday over the incident on April 7 last year.



Besides Cowen, the six other women all have previous convictions for either criminal damage, wilful obstruction of a highway, breaching directions imposed on public assemblies or a combination of the three offences.

The seven women were found guilty by a jury on a majority of 11 to one after more than nine hours of deliberations.

One million workers set to strike in December and January



More than a million workers from nearly every big trade union are being prepared for industrial action this winter, analysis by The Times has found.

Nearly 520,000 trade union members — including postal workers, civil servants, NHS workers and railway workers — have confirmed industrial action this month and in January. A further 635,000 are being balloted,

including teachers, midwives, firefighters and junior doctors. The disputes largely centre on pay, where any rises are being outpaced by inflation.