



UK Threat Level: **SUBSTANTIAL**

SECURITY INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

MARCH 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

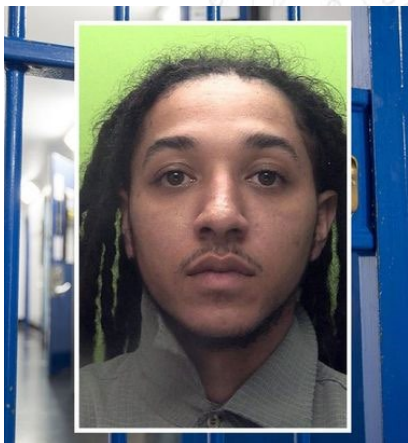
The threat to the UK (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) from terrorism is **SUBSTANTIAL**.

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



Open-Source Security Incident News

Men banned from Nottingham bar after Door Staff are violently attacked



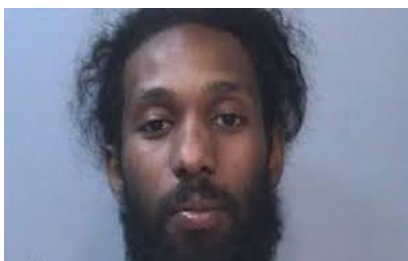
Three men have been banned from a Nottingham bar for two years after a bouncer was violently attacked in an incident. The incident began when 26-year-old Santinne Traynor, of Park Drive in Ilkeston, was ejected from the Nottingham bar. He was accompanied by 25-year-old Leshae Traynor, of Brindley Road in Bilborough, and 26-year-old Dominic Furniss, of Skipton Circus in Bakersfield.

All three offenders were sentenced at a Nottingham Crown Court hearing on February 24. Leshae Traynor pleaded guilty to wounding without intent and was found guilty of possession of a bladed article in a public place.

Traynor, who is currently serving a three-and-a-half-year prison sentence for a drug-related offence, was given 18 months in prison for his role in the disorder. Furniss, of Skipton Circus, Bakersfield, pleaded guilty to assault causing actual bodily harm. Santinne Traynor, of Park Drive, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, pleaded guilty to wounding without intent. Both were each sentenced to 12-months in prison, suspended for two years.

All three offenders were also made the subject of exclusion orders. This will ban them from going to the bar for two years.

Manchester security guard caught red-handed in drug dealing



A man from Manchester was caught red-handed by police after dealing drugs whilst working as a security guard at Glastonbury Festival. Osman was convicted of being concerned in the supply of cocaine, ketamine and cannabis after police seized his phone, which revealed he was advertising the sale of drugs. Swansea Crown Court heard that on October 26 last year, he was with another man

travelling in a Toyota vehicle in Swansea with Osman driving. In the car was a mobile phone which police later examined. They found messages offering drugs for sale. Other messages and photographs were found suggesting that the phone belonged to him. The messages related to

the sale of drugs were sent in June 2022 when he was working at Glastonbury in a security role, the court heard. Judge Christopher Vosper KC sentenced Osman, of Menzies Court, Manchester, to three and a half years in prison. A forfeiture and destruction order has been made for the phone.

Off-duty security guard on a night out in Grimsby savagely beaten outside Asda.

An off-duty security guard was slapped and punched to the ground in the car park of Asda superstore in Grimsby while he waited for a taxi.



His attackers stole his Samsung mobile phone, £50 cash and a Hugo Boss sports watch in the late-night violence, Grimsby Crown Court heard.

Scott Gibney, 40, of Scott Close, Grimsby, and Lyndsey Smith, 44, of no fixed address, both admitted grievous bodily harm and theft on November 12 last year. Judge John Thackray KC said the offences were "akin to robbery." He said it was a group activity, stealing from him after he had been punched to the ground. He sentenced Gibney to two years for the

attack and six months for theft. Both sentences will run concurrently.

Smith was jailed for a total of 18 months. No separate penalty was imposed for her breach of a suspended sentence from Grimsby Magistrates' Court for a series of shoplifting offences.

HS2 security guard accused of 'abandoning his post' to perform Friday prayers was unfairly dismissed

A HS2 security guard who was accused of 'abandoning his post' to perform Friday prayers was unfairly dismissed - but was not discriminated against, an employment tribunal has ruled.



Saleem Tayab was praying in a facilities room at lunch time when his supervisor visited the work site and found he was not on the gate, it was heard. The security guard then won claims of unfair dismissal, wrongful dismissal and holiday pay regulations proven. However, his claims of direct race discrimination and direct religious discrimination failed.

A tribunal heard the security guard was employed as a registered security guard for Atalian Servest Security Limited, since 2015. Mr Tayab worked on a contract for Tesco until 2019, when he was given a final written warning for abandoning his post. Following this, he was moved to guard the gate of an HS2 site at Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, the panel was told.

He then endured 12 hour shifts alongside two colleagues, who were allowed to sort breaks out among themselves as there was no 'hard and fast rule' about them, it was heard at the tribunal. Kassem Khalifeh, who was Mr Tayab's supervisor, visited the post while the security guard was praying and noticed that he was not on duty. An investigation was launched following this and Mr Tayab was accused of 'gross misconduct.'

After a disciplinary hearing was held, he was sacked from his role.

The panel was told that there was no effort made into collecting CCTV evidence from the gate - which might have shown that Mr Tayab had gone on his pre-arranged break.

Mr Tayab also appealed the decision that was made then. However, this was rejected.

The tribunal ruled that Mr Tayab was unfairly dismissed by Atalian Servest Security Limited because he did not 'leave the gate unstaffed'.

Employment Judge Naomi Shastri-Hurst said: 'At the time of the claimant leaving for his two-hour break, he did not leave the gate unstaffed, he left his colleagues in charge.

'How breaks were taken, or the length of them, were not monitored by the security officers' management.

'[Supervisors] did not even explore whether the gate in question was covered by stationary CCTV... [which might have shown him] going for his break.'

A hearing to decide Mr Tayab's compensation will now be held.

Man, 43, died after being held face down by two security guards in Sainsbury's



A man died after being held face down for half an hour in a branch of Sainsbury's after being accused shoplifting, an inquest has heard.

Ramunas Paskauskas was pinned for more than 30 minutes by two security guards in Spalding, Lincolnshire, after he "became aggressive and threatening". The 43-year-old, who had been drinking, later died in hospital.

At the inquest, officials were told the guards, who had little training in restraint, lowered Mr Paskauskas to the floor face down and restrained him there as he continued to struggle. They were then helped by Sainsbury's staff who had no restraint training, Mr Paskauskas' health deteriorated and he was taken to hospital, where he died of multi-organ hypoxic/ischaemic injury, respiratory and cardiac arrest and restraint in the prone position.

Shocking week of violence in London sees 16 stabbed, 2 shot and one 'bludgeoned to death'



London has seen yet another shocking week of violence, with a number of serious incidents taking place across all corners of the city over a seven-day period. In just one short week, 16 people were stabbed, six of whom were teenagers - two people were also shot, and one man was found bludgeoned to death.

Led By Donkeys paint Russian Embassy road in Ukrainian flag colours



Four people have been arrested after protesters painted the road outside the Russian Embassy in London in the colours of the Ukrainian flag. Led By Donkeys covered a street in Kensington in yellow and blue paint ahead of the first anniversary of the war in Ukraine.

The group said it wanted to remind Russia's president of Ukraine's "right to self-determination". The Met Police said three men and one woman remained in custody.

- 'We won't forget the support but we long for home'
- UN chief condemns Ukraine war ahead of anniversary

Led By Donkeys, which began in 2018 as an anti-Brexit group, said it had poured 170 litres of yellow paint on the eastbound carriageway of Bayswater Road and a similar amount of blue paint on the westbound side, with passing traffic then spreading the colours along the road.

Police use of Chinese drones 'risks UK security'

The use of Chinese-made drones by British police forces has sparked security fears in the Government amid increasing concerns about attempts by Beijing to gather intelligence on the West.

More than two-thirds of drones operated by police forces in the UK are made by a Chinese firm that is blacklisted in the US as a national security risk, according to data obtained by The Telegraph.



Suella Braverman, the Home Secretary, is said to be urging police to ensure their use of Chinese technology does not leave them vulnerable to interference by Beijing.

Fraser Sampson, the Home Office-appointed surveillance commissioner, has asked a taskforce headed by Tom Tugendhat, the security minister, to review the contracts amid concerns that they could pose a security risk.

A Home Office source said: "The Home Secretary would want the police to ensure all their data is secure and not vulnerable to any interference by a foreign state."

Far-right extremists discussed underground base in Lake District



The "chief propagandist" of a far-right extremist group discussed digging a tunnel in the Lake District as a base for their "operations", a court has heard. Kurt McGowan, of Workington, Cumbria, was jailed for seven years at Preston Crown Court for four offences of collecting terrorist information and three counts of disseminating terrorist publications.

The court heard McGowan was described as “our very own Goebbels”, a reference to Nazi Joseph Goebbels, in a group on messaging app Telegram, where he used the handle Red Church.

The 23-year-old made a heart gesture with his hands mother, who was in tears in the public gallery, as he taken from the dock.

to his was

Man charged with terror offence at Chiswick business park home to Iranian station



TV

A man has been charged with a terrorism offence after being arrested at a west London business park. Magomed-Husejn Dovtaev, a 30-year-old Austrian national, was arrested at Chiswick Park by the Met's Counter Terrorism Command.

He was charged with “collecting information of a kind likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism”.

Extra security measures were introduced at Chiswick Park late last year, after threats were reportedly made against staff at Persian language TV station Iran International, which has its headquarters at the site.

Iran International said in an article it “was warned by authorities in November that its journalists were under threat from Iranian agents and the Metropolitan Police took measures to strengthen security around the network's office in the area”. Dovtaev appeared at Westminster Magistrates' Court and was remanded in custody to next appear at the Old Bailey on March.

Two men arrested over terrorism offences at Heathrow Airport



Two men from Birmingham have been arrested over terrorism offences at Heathrow Airport. The men, aged 30 and 66, were set to board a plane before they were detained. Both have been charged on suspicion of the commission, preparation and instigation of terrorism.

A spokesperson for West Midlands Police said: “An address in Birmingham is due to be searched. “They have been arrested under section 5 of the

Terrorism Act 2006 on suspicion of the commission, preparation and instigation of terrorism.

British Army serviceman accused of Stafford bomb hoax appears at Old Bailey

A British Army serviceman allegedly behind a fake bomb plot in Stafford has appeared at the Old Bailey. Daniel Abed Khalife is accused of carrying out a bomb hoax and a terror offence. The 21-year-old allegedly left three canisters with wires at RAF Stafford. He is also accused of getting

information about soldiers from a Ministry of Defence system which could have been 'useful' to a terrorist.

Khalife, of Beacon Barracks, Beaconside, Stafford, spoke only to confirm his name and age during a brief preliminary hearing at the Old Bailey today (February 17). The court heard he was charged with "eliciting information about members of the armed forces" and "perpetrating a bomb hoax". Wearing a black long-sleeved top, he did not enter any pleas in connection with the alleged offences. He allegedly 'elicited' personal information about armed forces personnel from the Ministry of Defence Joint Personnel Administration System which was "likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism" in August 2021.

The second charge accuses him of a bomb hoax. It alleged he placed three canisters "with the intention of inducing in another a belief that the said item was likely to explode or ignite" and cause injury or damage to property in January this year.

Both offences are alleged to have taken place at RAF Stafford in Staffordshire. Mr Justice Jeremy Baker ordered Khalife to next appear for a plea and trial preparation hearing on July 21.

Man denies plotting Hyde Park terror attack



A man has pleaded not guilty to plotting a terror attack at Speakers' Corner in London's Hyde Park. Edward Little, 21, is charged with preparation to commit acts of terrorism, but he denied the claims at the Old Bailey.

He allegedly planned to buy a firearm and kill a Christian preacher and others gathered at Speakers' Corner on or before September 23, 2022.

Little, from Pelham Street in Brighton, allegedly researched intended targets including Christian preacher Hatan Tash and members of the military and Metropolitan Police force.

He is also accused of researching different firearms and their capability, arranging to purchase one for £5,000 and travelling to buy one, court documents state. Mr Justice Jeremy Baker set a trial date of July 10 at the same court.

Finsbury Park mosque attacker 'stabbed in prison revenge attack'



A jailed terrorist was attacked behind bars by an inmate as 'revenge' for his crimes. Darren Osborne, 53, was jailed in 2018 for killing one man and injuring 12 others near the Finsbury Park Mosque in north London the previous summer.

He was given a life sentence, and it has now been reported by The Sun that he has been slashed whilst in HMP Frankland Prison. He is said to have been cut from 'forehead to chin' while they also tried to

'gouge an eye out' in the brutal attack. Prison authorities believe Osborne was attacked by another inmate with an 'improvised knife.'

Violence against women to be treated with same seriousness as terrorism under new domestic abuse register law

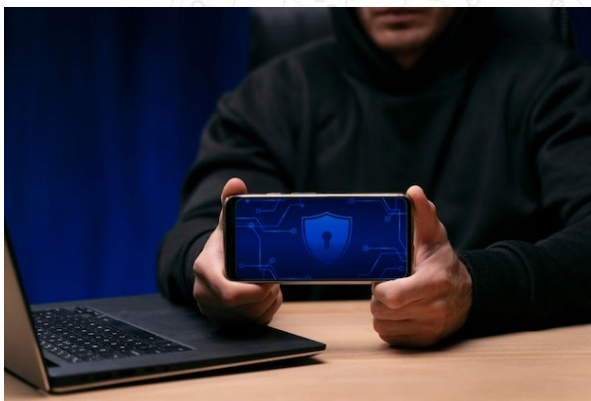


Violence against women will be treated with the same seriousness as terrorism under plans for a domestic abusers register, announced on Monday. Home Secretary Suella Braverman has categorised violence against women and girls as a national threat with a crackdown on the crime launched.

Home Office Minister Sarah Dines said new laws would make it a public policing priority “for the first time”. Domestic abusers will have their

names added to the sex offenders’ register, under the plans, while the most dangerous offenders will be monitored and electronically tagged.

Rising threat from young right-wing terrorists radicalised in their bedrooms, MP warns



Britain faces a mounting threat from young, right-wing terrorists radicalising themselves in their bedrooms, a top MP warned tonight.

Senior Conservative backbencher Sir Julian Lewis, who chairs Parliament’s Intelligence and Security Committee, said some loners may try and join the Army after being lured into terrorism online. He also raised fears of an “insider” threat lurking in UK police forces.

“Extreme right-wing terrorism (ERWT) is a threat on the rise here in the UK but in today’s connected world it’s a threat without borders,” said Mr Lewis.

“While attacks have been carried out by older individuals, primarily the threat is characterised by a technologically aware demographic of predominantly young men.

“Few in the UK belong to organised groups, which makes them difficult to identify and monitor.

Newcastle thugs who laughed after kicking and punching pub doorman on ground walk free

Violent thugs who kicked and punched a city centre doorman because he told one of them not to take a glass outside have walked free from court.

The security worker was on the door of a pub in Newcastle when he saw Sam Bird come out with a glass in his hand. He told him that he was not allowed to be outside with the glass, but Bird refused to comply and hit him.

Newcastle Crown Court heard the bouncer hit him back but was then subjected to a prolonged attack in which he was repeatedly punched and kicked on the ground by Bird and his friend, Joseph Calboutin, who joined in. Now the pair have both been spared prison for assault.

Bird, 22, of Lazonby Way, Westerhope, Newcastle, who has no previous convictions and Calboutin, 25, of Jesmond Three Sixty, Jesmond, who has one previous conviction for battery, both admitted assault occasioning actual bodily harm and were each sentenced to three months suspended for 12 months and must pay the victim £1,000 compensation each.

Transgender rapist Isla Bryson will serve sentence at notorious men's prison



Bryson arriving at the High Court in Glasgow last month

Transgender rapist Isla Bryson has been sent to a notorious men's prison after being sentenced to eight years in prison for the rape of two women before transitioning. Bryson, 31, was convicted last month of raping two women - one in Clydebank in 2016 and one in Drumchapel, Glasgow, in 2019. She committed the offences while still a man known as Adam Graham.

The double rapist met both the victims online, with prosecutors saying the 31-year-old "preyed" on vulnerable women. Bryson denied the charges, telling the court she "would never hurt another human being". She will serve the sentence at HMP Edinburgh, which holds around 900 prisoners per day.

Three teenage boys stabbed after 'chicken shop fight'

Three teenage boys were rushed to hospital last after a triple stabbing in east London. Police rushed to South Street in Romford where they found three teenagers - aged 15, 16 and 17 - with stab wounds. They were rushed to hospital, where their injuries are not considered to be life-threatening. It is believed the stabbings came after a fight inside a chicken shop on the same street in Romford.

Criminal knifed man to death in fight over drugs months after being saved from deportation flight



A convicted criminal who avoided deportation on a Home Office charter flight to Jamaica following a series of legal challenges went on to commit murder, it has been revealed. Ernesto Elliot, originally from Jamaica, was due to board a flight back to his country of origin in December 2020, but a series of challenges stopped the flight. Elliot and his son Nico went on to murder 35-year-old Nathaniel Eyewu-Ago in southeast London after they robbed drugs and cash from him months later in June 2021.

The duo has been jailed for a combined total of 48 years after they were convicted of murder and robbery.

Police probe mass brawl between Celtic and Rangers fans outside stadium before cup final

Police are investigating violent unrest between Celtic and Rangers fans outside Hampden Park ahead of the Scottish League Cup final. Crowds of so-called ultras were seen clashing and throwing objects at each other outside the ground in Glasgow. It's thought the fighting was pre-arranged by the two sets of fans, many of whom were dressed in black.

Grindr robbery police hunting for suspects who drugged and mugged men on gay hook up app make arrest

Police looking for men who drugged and robbed victims after meeting them on the gay hook-up app Grindr have arrested a suspect. Met Police officers said they had arrested a 29-year-old man at Gatwick Airport on suspicion of aggravated assault. The man was taken to a south London police station, where he is being held in custody. Officers had reports of four burglaries in which two suspects are believed to have drugged victims to rob them in Brentford and Hounslow in west London, Hampton in south-west London and Bromley in south-east London.

A police officer shot multiple times while off duty in Northern Ireland



Detective Chief Inspector John Caldwell was shot near a sports complex on the Killyclogher Road in Omagh, County Tyrone. He has been taken to hospital, where he is in a critical but stable condition. He has undergone surgery twice.

Police have arrested three men after an off-duty police officer was shot multiple times while he was coaching young children to play football. Three men, aged 38, 45 and 47, have been arrested in connection with the attack, police said.

Liam Kelly, the chairman of Northern Ireland's police federation, said that Det Ch Insp Caldwell had "been involved in coaching with children over a long period of time and this is how he's been rewarded by terrorists - it's an absolute disgrace." Dissident republican group the New IRA is the primary focus for detectives investigating the shooting.

Teenage boy stabbed at the O2 Arena in London

A teenager was stabbed and rushed to hospital after an attack at the O2 Arena ahead of a K-pop concert. The victim was attacked at the Cineworld at the venue. Police said they had been called to reports of a stabbing, three boys were arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm after they were detained at the scene by security staff. Police were spotted rushing into the arena hours before a gig by South Korean boyband ATEEZ.

Man, who said he was a woman jailed after sexual assault

A man who said he was a woman after sexually assaulting a woman in a female toilet has been jailed for 16 months. Ian Bullock attacked a woman as she washed her hands in Birmingham New Street station toilets in March last year. Bullock, 39, had entered the female toilets wearing a yellow hi-vis vest, which made his victim think he was an employee.

Celeb fashion designer Claire Mischewani tells of terror after robbers steal £70,000 of clothes in raid



One of Britain's top fashion designers has told of her terror after £70,000 worth of her clothes were stolen in a raid in London. Claire Mischewani had designer coats and dresses stolen by a balaclava-clad gang in the raid. Claire is a designer to the stars with A-list celebs and royalty among her clients. She has in the past dressed Carrie Johnson, Princess Beatrice, and the Countess of Wessex.

She was loading clothes into the back of a Range Rover outside a house on Chester Row, Belgravia at 8pm on February 16. Claire and a designer had gone back inside to get more items when they heard a car alarm, and they ran outside to find three men dressed in black wearing balaclavas next to the vehicle, which had one of its windows smashed.

When the two women came outside, a member of the gang shouted for them to get back inside the house, brandishing the item he used to smash the car's window. They ran back inside, locked the door and called police.

The suspects smashed more windows on the car before making off with a navy suitcase, black overnight bag and 15 garment bags of various sizes containing 62 items of clothing worth £70,000.



Embassy guard David Smith jailed for 13 years for spying for Russia

A spy who admitted selling secrets to Russia while working as a security guard at the British Embassy in Germany has been jailed. David Smith, 58, has been sentenced to 13 years and two months at the Old Bailey after admitting eight charges under the Official Secrets Act.



He was motivated by his support for Russian president Vladimir Putin and hatred of the UK when he began collecting classified documents in 2018 with the view to handing it over "at some stage". Home secretary Suella Braverman described it as a "great result for British justice".

The court heard how Smith had copied a "significant amount of material over the years", despite knowing they could pose a threat to people working at the embassy in Berlin. He began handing over documents in 2020 in a letter to a military attache at the Russian Embassy and promised "more information would be forthcoming".

'Rolex rippers' caught



A group dubbed the "Rolex rippers" have been jailed after a spate of terrifying knifepoint watch robberies throughout London. They made their victims fear for their lives as they threatened them with a large knife or machete and stole watches and bags. But their spree was halted after they botched an escape and cops were able to track them down.

Michael Malik Ahmed, 29, of Balham, South London, admitted six counts of robbery – four on December 21, 2021, and two on January 9, 2022.

He was also found guilty of possessing an offensive weapon used in the attacks and dangerous driving. Kaijuan Henry, 19, of Dagenham, was found guilty of his part in the December robberies, while Jessy Ouma, 18, of Wandsworth was found guilty of being involved in the January 9 robberies. Zakariah Yusuf, 19, Joseph Opoku, 19, and Roshan Clark, 18, all of the Winstanley Estate in Battersea, had previously pleaded guilty to being involved.

Five suspects arrested over 'vicious' racially motivated attack



Two 11-year-old girls and woman 38, among five arrested over 'racially aggravated attack' - as sixth teen remains at large. Picture: Social media

Five suspects arrested over a "vicious racially motivated attack" on a 15-year-old black girl have been banned from Surrey. Police were called to the assault outside Thomas Knyvett College in Ashford, Surrey, where they found the injured victim.

Shocking footage of the attack showed two girls, aged 15 and 16-years-old respectively, set upon the victim, who is black, with three other individuals. The footage showed the girl's braids being ripped from her head, as a young girl, dressed in a pink track suit, continued to kick her head as part of the sustained attack.

Following the arrival of police, five people - a 39-year-old woman, a 16-year-old girl, two 11-year-old girls (reports of their ages vary), and a 43-year-old man - were arrested. Police confirmed the 39-year-old woman, and 43-year-old man were both released on conditional bail, including being banned from entering Surrey.

Man gunned down after 'masked men' rammed his car

A murder investigation has been launched after a man was killed in a shooting after "masked men" chased him down a quiet street.

Officers were called to Pembroke Road, Erith, after reports of shots fired by a gang of men, a quiet residential area. A man suffering a gunshot injury was found nearby in Hillside and died at the scene despite the efforts of the police and London Ambulance Service.

Witnesses said the man was gunned down by a group of men wearing balaclavas. They said the victim was ambushed when his white mini clubman estate was rammed by attackers who surrounded his vehicle.

Husband and wife arrested over suspected £1.9m PPE fraud

A husband and wife have been arrested over a PPE fraud worth a suspected £1.9 million. They were arrested alongside another man as officers seized high value possessions including a car, jewellery, watches and digital devices from two properties in Loughborough and one in Lytham St Annes in Lancashire. The National Crime Agency (NCA) said it also found evidence of "significant cash purchases". A man in his 50s from Loughborough is suspected of setting up a company to run a fraudulent scheme allowing him to profit from personal protective equipment shortages during the coronavirus pandemic.

It brokered agreements to supply nitrile gloves to companies in the US and Germany worth more than £28m, the NCA believes.

Up to 80 cars 'stolen' from Heathrow airport parking

Over 80 holiday-goers, who paid up to £145 to leave their cars with Heathrow valet company Terminal Universal, have claimed their vehicles were stolen. Police have arrested a man on suspicion of theft following a chain of reports that holiday-goers have returned back to the UK to find their cars missing. A 25-year-old man has been arrested but released pending further enquiries as detectives continue to investigate airport parking firm, Terminal Universal.

Four suspected of people smuggling from Belgium to UK arrested

Four people have been arrested as part of a National Crime Agency investigation into a group alleged to have smuggled migrants to the UK in boats from Belgium. Two Albanian nationals, aged 44 and 48, in Nottingham and a 46-year-old Irish man in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, were arrested by NCA officers.

Investigators allege they have been involved in acquiring a rigid hulled inflatable boat (RHIB) and using it to travel to Belgium to collect migrants, landing at Margate in Kent.

A 51-year-old man from Albania was also arrested in Hove this morning for his suspected role in assisting unlawful immigration. The men are all alleged to be part of a gang organising a series of people smuggling runs to the UK from Europe, including a number of crossing events last year.

Three more Americans convicted in the UK for smuggling cannabis on LA-London flights



Three US nationals have been convicted after being caught attempting to smuggle large quantities of cannabis into the UK through Heathrow airport. National Crime Agency investigators say the trio, who all arrived in the UK on flights from Los Angeles in January, were arrested in possession of cannabis with a combined estimated street value of more than £1.7 million.

Barrington Walters, 24, from Los Angeles, and Mandy Silowka, 34, from Princeton, New Jersey, were both stopped after arriving on the same United Airlines flight from LA on 17 January.

Border Force officers found 33 kilos of herbal cannabis in bags belonging to Walters, and a further 26.5 kilos in suitcases checked in by Silowka.

City fund managers sentenced to 12 years for \$8m fraud



Three fund managers have been sentenced to a total of 12 years and 3 months following their conviction for a fraud which resulted in losses of \$8.45 million to the Libyan Sovereign Wealth Fund.

A seven-year NCA investigation, which began after one of the fund managers, Frederic Marino, walked out of a 2014 meeting with financial auditors and fled to Norway, found that Yoshika Ohmura, Aurelien Bessot and Marino had abused their

positions to conduct fraudulent trades whilst managing the fund worth around 822m.

Marino and Ohmura were sentenced to 7 years 6 months and 3 years 6 months respectively, while Bessot was handed a 15-month suspended sentence.

Fake doctor sentenced to seven years in prison for fraud and forgery

A woman who forged her medical qualifications to obtain senior positions within the NHS as a hospital psychiatrist has been sentenced at Manchester Crown Court to seven years behind bars after being found guilty of 20 offences, including fraud and forgery.

In an investigation led by Cumbria Police and supported by the NHS Counter Fraud Authority, Zholia Alemi was found to have fraudulently obtained in excess of £1 million from the NHS during the 22 years that she worked within a number of UK health bodies posing as a qualified psychiatrist.

Contracts manager jailed in wake of fictitious overtime claims



Contracts Manager Hoover Yasno Moreno, who changed bank account details on his company's payroll system and then submitted fictitious overtime claims to accounts to which he had access, has been jailed.

The 36-year-old Spaniard tried to pocket almost £170,000 by diverting money into his account or otherwise accounts to which he had access. He then had transfers made to him such that he could spend the money on a house he was buying 'off-plan' in Colombia, along with several holidays. Yasno Moreno and his associates were sentenced at the Inner London Crown Court on Tuesday 21 February 2023. Yasno Moreno pleaded guilty to fraud and two

counts of possessing criminal property. He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment with two years of supervision upon release.



Security Industry News

Inaugural counter-terrorism exercise held for Welsh security operatives



A counter-terrorism planning and training exercise held at Cardiff Students' Union witnessed Welsh security operatives dealing with realistic scenarios presented by actors. The Security Industry Authority (SIA) ran the safety resilience exercise in the Great Hall. The first of its kind to be held in Wales, the SIA organised the exercise in partnership with South Wales Police and Counter-Terrorism Policing Wales.

The training event confronted security staff with a series of real-time simulations – involving actors – of possible emergency scenarios. These included a mass stabbing, an acid attack, a marauding terrorist attack taking place outside the club and the discovery of a suspect package.

UK policing “shot through” with Chinese surveillance technology



According to a survey conducted by the Office of the Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner, police forces in the UK are “shot through” with Chinese camera technology.

The survey, which was orchestrated in the second half of last year, asked all 43 police force areas in England and Wales – as well as the British Transport Police, the Civil Nuclear Constabulary, the Ministry of Defence, and the National Crime Agency – about their use and governance of public surveillance camera systems (including on drones and

helicopters, body-worn video and Automatic Number Plate Recognition) – and any other relevant systems. In all, 39 responses were received out of a possible total of 47.

There are several key findings. At least 18 respondents state that their external camera systems use equipment about which there have been security or ethical concerns (including systems

from Dahua, Hikvision, Honeywell, Huawei and Nuuo). At least 24 respondents say that their internal camera systems use equipment about which there have been security or ethical concerns (again including systems from Dahua, Hikvision, Honeywell, Huawei and Nuuo).

Further, at least 11 respondents report that their Automatic Number Plate Recognition systems use equipment about which there have been security or ethical concerns. At least two of the respondents use cameras made by Hikvision in their body-worn video systems.

23 of the 31 respondents who said they operate cameras on drones/unmanned aerial vehicles (variously with video, audio and thermal imaging and/or night vision capability) are aware of security or ethical concerns about the manufacturer of their drones (specifically the Chinese company DJI).

First UK apprenticeship launched for front line security personnel.



Marcia Mackay recently qualified and is now working towards further accreditation.

The British Security Industry Association (BSIA), its training subsidiary Skills for Security and BSIA member company SecuriGroup have launched the UK's first apprenticeship for front line security personnel. The overriding aim is to tackle the outdated image of security and recruit younger individuals to the industry.

An increased demand for security services, an ageing workforce, the ongoing impact of Brexit and the fall-out from the COVID-19 pandemic are all affecting the UK. In parallel with that backdrop, the UK is facing an acute shortage of security officers. In fact, it has been estimated that around 62,000 new security officers are going to be needed to meet demand and ensure public safety.

The landmark Security Officer Services Apprenticeship (ie the Level 5 SVQ Apprenticeship in Providing Security Officer Services) was introduced to Scotland in 2021 and has recently seen its first cohort complete the programme. It's a funded 12-month course that equips security

personnel with the training, skills and expertise needed to be a modern and professional security officer. Areas of focus and learning include fire safety, mental health awareness, conflict management, counter-terrorism and safeguarding.

There are currently over 500 students enrolled on Skills for Security apprenticeships across the UK for courses that range from Fire, Emergency and Security Systems through to the Security First Line Manager. It's anticipated that the Security Officer Services Apprenticeship will go live for the remainder of the UK this summer.

Security Research Initiative survey focuses on culture of security



The latest study programme orchestrated by the Security Research Initiative asks a key question: 'While there is much emphasis on the quality of security being delivered by Security Departments and service providers, can security truly be excellent without first establishing the right attitude towards the discipline and encouraging the right degree of engagement with security among the wider workforce?'

Developing – and then sustaining – an effective security culture is an essential component of a protective security regime and helps mitigate against a range of threats that could cause physical, reputational or financial damage to today's organisations.

As the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) points out, the phrase 'security culture' refers to the set of values, shared by everyone in an organisation, that determine how people are expected to think about (and approach) the subject of security. Making sure that the security culture within a given organisation is right will assist in developing a security conscious workforce and promote the desired security behaviours from all members of staff.

SFO secures trio of convictions in \$500 million trade finance fraud



SFO

serious
fraud
office

At Southwark Crown Court on Thursday 2 February, the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) secured the convictions of two executives of the British steel trading business Balli

Steel plc on six counts of fraud. Nasser Alaghband, CEO of Balli Steel plc, had pleaded guilty to one count of fraudulent trading ahead of the 20-week trial process. Balli Steel plc bought and sold steel around the world using short-term loans from trade finance banks to fund its deals. The company collapsed back in 2013 having amassed debts of around \$500 million to over 20 creditor banks, in turn triggering an investigation by the SFO.

Use of fake references leads to guilty verdict on fraud charges

Richard Mbembe-Babaku of Atherton pleaded guilty to fraud charges at Manchester Magistrates' Court. In the wake of a prosecution case brought forward by the Security Industry Authority (SIA), Mbembe-Babaku was fined £120 and ordered to pay £250 prosecution costs as well as a victim surcharge of £34.

Mbembe-Babaku was formerly licensed by the SIA. His security officer licence was revoked by the SIA's licensing team on 27 April last year due to two separate undeclared convictions on 30 June 2020. Mbembe-Babaku immediately lodged an appeal against the SIA's decision. As he was unable to find legitimate referees for that appeal process, he instead elected to write two fraudulent character references in support of his appeal.

Bradford man caught using fake references in security licence appeal



A Bradford man was sentenced after he was discovered using fake references to gain an SIA licence. Shakeel Ahmed was sentenced after we rejected his licence application due to previous criminality. Mr Ahmed sent four supposedly independent character references to us in support of an appeal. On Thursday 9 February 2023 Shakeel Ahmed was sentenced at Bradford Magistrates' Court to a 12-month community order with a 150-hour unpaid work duty. He was also ordered to pay £600 prosecution costs and a victim surcharge of £95. The sentence follows Ahmed's guilty plea on 11 October 2022 to forging documents in a fraudulent appeal against our decision to reject his door supervisor's licence application.

Mr Ahmed applied for an SIA licence to work in the private security industry on 12 March 2021. We rejected his licence application due to previous criminality. Mr Ahmed sent four supposedly independent character references to us in support of an appeal. Our decision team realised that the character references were either fraudulent or forged, due to suspicious similarities between them.

Three men prosecuted for working as illegal security in Newtownards



Christopher Butler pleaded guilty to five offences. Two men supplied as security by Butler were also prosecuted for working illegally. On 25 January 2023 Christopher Butler, from Belfast, pleaded guilty at Downpatrick Magistrates' Court to five offences including providing illegal security to a bar and restaurant in Newtownards. Two men supplied as security by Butler were also prosecuted on Wednesday for working illegally at the same venue. Butler, who is sole director of

Strangford Security, has been referred for further proceedings under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

Edward Donnan from Newtownards also pleaded guilty to working as illegal security at the restaurant and was fined £100, required to pay £104 court costs, £75 prosecution costs and £15 victim surcharge.

Food and fuel top supply chain thefts in BSI Risk Insights Report

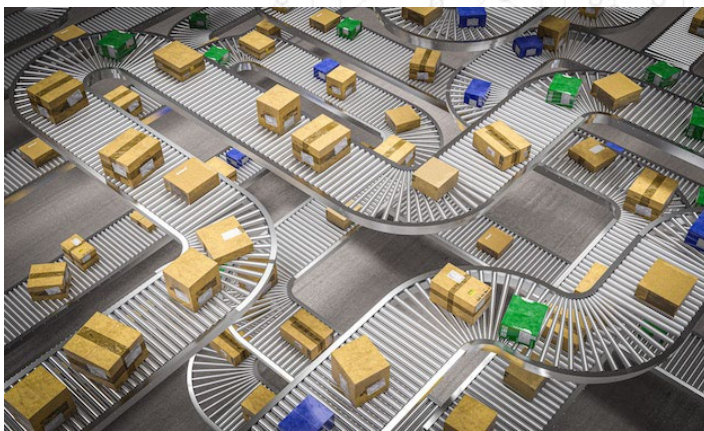
Business improvement and standards company the British Standards Institution (BSI), which is also a leading global provider of supply chain intelligence, has published its annual Supply Chain Risk Insights Report. The document indicates that those organisations managing supply chain disruptions effectively in 2023 will be the ones best equipped to weather the financial challenges ahead.

In terms of major trends within the supply chain environment, the report observes that thefts from hijacking have fallen as a proportion of cargo theft from 24.4% to 17.0%. This form of theft is now second to thefts from facilities, which now account for more than a quarter of total thefts, having increased from 24.2% to 26.0%.

Food and beverages remain the most commonly stolen commodity. Indeed, the report highlights that the theft of such goods has risen considerably in 2022, increasing its share by 2.8%.

The proportion of automotive and fuel thefts is also rising, whereas the proportion of electronics, agriculture and construction theft has fallen.

While hijacking has also fallen as a proportion of cargo theft, the BSI observes that this continues to exert a real impact on global supply chains with food, pharmaceuticals and construction materials the most effected.



Another of the report's key findings is that unprecedented price inflation, exacerbated by the Russia-Ukraine conflict (but also an enduring legacy of COVID-19-related shutdowns and the resulting prolonged shortage of key manufacturing components), has awakened Governments to the importance of global supply chains in relation to national interests.

This has led to the launch of new legislation such as the CHIPS Act

and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in the US, as well as increased General Data Protection Regulations across the European Union, the combination of which is placing greater accountability on suppliers and purchasers. Government intervention spans efforts to bolster domestic supply chains, reduce carbon emissions and enhance governance.

Monitoring rapidly changing regulatory agendas is highlighted as one business imperative that decision-makers need to be aware of if organisations are to succeed in the face of ongoing global disruptions.

A further reduction to the SIA licence fee

From 06 April 2023, the cost of applying for an individual licence for any sector in the regulated private security industry will be reduced from £190 to £184. This is the lowest fee ever since licensing was introduced in 2004.



The reduction applies to both new applicants and those renewing existing licences. Licence holders applying for an additional licence after this date will pay 50 percent of the new reduced fee.

Violent offences reduced in areas with multi-agency partnerships



An estimated 136,000 violent offences have been prevented in areas of England and Wales delivering government-funded programmes to reduce serious violence. Eighteen areas of England and Wales most blighted by violent crime have been receiving targeted funding for the past three years, to increase police patrols in crime hotspots and provide more support to at-risk young people.

An independent evaluation published recently of the government's 'hotspot' policing programme and network of Violence Reduction Units has revealed promising signs the approach is working, with 136,000 violence without injury offences estimated to have been prevented in areas with the programmes.

There are also positive indications that homicides and hospital admissions for violent injuries are reducing in these locations as a result of this funding.

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-10th-february-2023>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/threat-report-24th-february-2023>



Demonstrations / Protests

Hundreds attend asylum seeker hotel protests and counter demonstration



Hundreds of protesters and counter demonstrators have taken to the streets over asylum seekers staying in hotels in two English seaside towns.

A rally of about 200 people took place in Skegness, Lincolnshire, while a protest and counter-protest occurred outside the Beresford Hotel in

Newquay, Cornwall, on Saturday. In Skegness, marchers clutched banners stating, “no more refugees” while people chanted “we want our country back”.

Patriotic Alternative, designated as a far-right group by anti-racist campaigners Hope Not Hate, led a demonstration at Tower Gardens in Skegness near to the County Hotel used to house asylum seekers. People clutched a Patriotic Alternative banner emblazoned with “stop the invasion we will not be replaced” and “you stay, migrants pay”. Lincolnshire Police said there were “no arrests or reported incidents” at the “Enough is Enough” demonstration in Skegness and the crowd “dispersed peacefully” when it finished. In Newquay, about 100 counter-protesters, with some clutching signs saying, “Refugees welcome” and “Seeking asylum is a right not a crime”, gathered outside the hotel. An opposing group of about 100 people stood on the other side of the street, with one holding up a sign saying: “You are anti-white racists.”

A Devon and Cornwall Police spokesperson said, “officers were engaging with those in attendance to ensure everyone’s safety and facilitate peaceful protest” and no arrests were made.

Just Stop Oil protesters avoid jail for raiding Esso oil terminal



A West Midlands judge has sparked fury for telling seven Just Stop Oil (JSO) protesters he was 'moved by their actions' after they raided an Esso oil terminal in Birmingham. Seven JSO activists blocked the West Midlands fuel terminal for around 12 hours in April last year, affecting commuters and a number of petrol stations' supply.

Activists Paul Barnes, Paul Fawkesley and Alan Woods were all made to pay costs of £500, while Oliver Clegg, Jon Deery, Harley Brewer and Diana Hekt were charged £250 for their actions.

District Judge Graham Wilkinson handed the group a 12-month conditional discharge. They were also made to pay a £22 surcharge but avoided jail.

Though the protesters were convicted and fined, members of the public have expressed their outrage at hearing Judge Wilkinson's remarks about the group.

Campaigners join protests outside High Court over UK arm sales



Campaigners from L8's Yemeni community joined protests outside the High Court in London over the Government's sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia. The Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) launched legal action against the Government over licensing arms sales to Saudi Arabia for use in its war with Yemen. CAAT notes since the start of the war with Yemen in 2015, the UK has licensed over £23bn worth of arms to the Saudi regime.

