



UK Threat Level: **SUBSTANTIAL**

SECURITY INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

MAY 2023



TABLE OF CONTENT

CONTENT	PAGE
About Us: Sentinel Group Security	2
Intelligence led security	2
Disclaimer	2
United Kingdom's National Security Threat	3
Introduction	3
United Kingdom's Threat Definitions	3
United Kingdom Current Threat Levels	7
Introduction	7
What the threat levels mean	7
Current national threat level	7
Open Source Security Incident News	8
Security Industry News	18
Demonstrations held / planned	26

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 **SEVERE**, mined consistently extremely high.



Open-Source Security Incident News

Dark Web counterfeit drugs trio sentenced



Three criminals who used the Dark Web to distribute counterfeit drugs have been jailed in the wake of pleading guilty to unlawfully supplying a variety of drugs, including counterfeit Pfizer Xanax, as well as money laundering offences.

The South East Regional Organised Crime Unit and the Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) prosecution team identified Marc James Ward as a leading global supplier of counterfeit Xanax. Ward, aged 36, along with Christopher James Kirby (aged 35) and Thomas Russell Durden (also aged 36) were sentenced to a total of 20 years and 11 months in prison following a case hearing at Portsmouth Crown Court.

The defendants were responsible for the production and supply of counterfeit Alprazolam tablets, as well as other controlled drugs (including the aforementioned counterfeit Xanax). The latter had been produced online and sold via Dark Web markets.

The defendants received payment for these drugs in bitcoin and used cryptocurrency to launder the proceeds. <https://securitymattersmagazine.com>

Guardsman jailed for selling bullets to undercover police officer



distinctive red jackets and tall bearskin hats.

A royal guardsman tasked with protecting the royal family has been jailed after he was caught selling ammunition to an undercover police officer he believed was a gangster. Rajon Graham, 34, was a lance sergeant in the 1st Battalion of the Coldstream Guards when he met with the officer, selling him a total of 300 9mm bullets he referred to as "sweets". Coldstream guards, charged with protecting the royal family and often seen outside Buckingham Palace, can be identified by their

Graham was dishonourably discharged from the Army in October 2022 after pleading guilty to charges against him, including four counts of selling ammunition. <https://www.lbc.co.uk>

Drinker who slashed bouncer's throat with razor blade is jailed



A drinker who was "millimetres" away from murdering a nightclub bouncer when he slashed his throat with a razor blade has been jailed for 28 years.

Geoffrey Ryan, 53, threw a drink on the security staff, flicked a cigarette at them and shouted racist abuse before slashing his victim's neck causing a near-fatal wound at the venue in

Braintree in Essex.

Ryan had been drinking in The Lounge, in the town's Market Square, on 9 September 2022 from 4pm, said Essex Police. He began causing trouble with other customers and at 9pm confronted two bouncers who had just come on shift. Shortly after, a group of women told staff that Ryan had been harassing them.

When the security guards approached him, he threw a drink over them and tried to assault them, shouting racist abuse at them. Ryan refused to leave, shouting abuse at staff and then flicking a cigarette at them. He threatened to kill them then left the area. Around 11.30pm, he returned to The Lounge armed with a razor blade.

He slashed the neck of one of the security guards, causing a serious wound, and was wrestled to the ground by members of the public who detained him until police arrived. <https://www.itv.com>

Paramedic steals cash from elderly woman



The son of a 94-year-old Shrewsbury woman has posted video footage of the paramedic who pocketed cash from her home just moments after she had died. Mark Titley of Linley Avenue, Pontesbury, was given an 18-week prison sentence suspended for 12 months when he admitted theft at Shrewsbury Crown Court earlier this week.

The court heard that he was one of four paramedics who attended an address in Torrin Drive, Shrewsbury, after reports that a 94-year-old lady

had collapsed in her garden on June 29 last year. <https://www.shropshirestar.com>

Four suspected pipe bombs found in cemetery in Creggan



Four suspected pipe bombs have been found by police in a cemetery in Northern Ireland. Officers sealed off the City Cemetery in Creggan, Londonderry following the discovery of a suspicious device.

Police said all four devices were located in the same area where clothes worn by participants in a republican parade on Easter Monday were removed under the cover of

umbrellas and burnt. <https://news-sky.com>

More than 4,500 migrants have crossed English Channel

More than 4,500 people have been detected crossing the English Channel in small boats this year despite Rishi Sunak's promise to crack down on the problem.

The latest Home Office figures show 77 people in two boats risked the voyage. They followed 492 people, the year's highest daily total and a figure which was revised up after it was first published. It brings the total number of people detected making crossing in small boats this year to 4,563 according to the provisional figures. <https://www.independent.co.uk>



A 74-year-old man has been extradited from Pakistan to be charged with the murder of PC Sharon Beshenivsky, who was shot dead in Bradford in 2005.

Piran Ditta Khan was brought back to the UK and taken into custody at a West Yorkshire police station, where he was charged with killing the 38-year-old officer. He is also charged with robbery, two counts of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, and two counts of possession of a prohibited weapon. Khan was arrested in Pakistan in January 2020. He will appear at Westminster magistrates court in London. <https://www.theguardian.com>

Manchester Arena memorial wins national award



The Glade of Light memorial to victims of the 2017 Manchester Arena Attack was won a national award.

According to the Manchester Evening News, the memorial has been awarded a community impact and engagement special award in the Civic Trust Awards 2023. The judges said: "The overall composition is exceptional with the landscaping and planting being a soft and responsive reflection of the existing public realm and surrounding environs."

The Civic trust added that the memorial had "become a significant place in the heart of Manchester for the personal and communal process of remembrance, grieving and healing".

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com>

Biden marks 25 years of Good Friday Agreement



US President Joe Biden has marked 25 years of the Good Friday agreement in a visit to Belfast. Biden commented on the "tremendous progress" that has been made since the agreement was signed.

He said: "This place is transformed by peace; made technicolour by peace; made whole by peace." Biden also met with Prime Minister Rishi

Sunak and with some of Stormont's political party leaders.

He also urged politicians to return to government but praised them for their unity following the attempted murder of a police officer in February. Sunak visited John Caldwell and his family in hospital.

A large security operation was in place for the visit, with 2,900 officers deployed for the £7 million operation. However, the PSNI is investigating after a document that seems to give details of the operation was found on a street in the city by a member of the public.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com>

The Russian ships accused of North Sea sabotage

Russia has a programme to sabotage wind farms and communication cables in the North Sea, according to new allegations.

The details come from a joint investigation by public broadcasters in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. It says Russia has a fleet of vessels disguised as fishing trawlers and research vessels in the North Sea.



They carry underwater surveillance equipment and are mapping key sites for possible sabotage. The BBC understands that UK officials are aware of Russian vessels moving around UK waters as part of the programme.

A Danish counter-intelligence officer says the sabotage plans are being prepared in case of a full conflict with the West while the head of Norwegian intelligence told the broadcasters the programme was considered highly important for Russia and controlled directly from Moscow.

<https://www.bbc.com>

Armed police swarm West Midlands after six are injured



West Midlands Police had to deploy armed cops to defend a neighbourhood terrorised by a crazed dog who left a man in hospital and five others with injuries.

The elderly man was among six victims of the attack which also saw a child injured. Police announced that they have arrested a 28-year-old man in relation to the alleged attacks at Willow Gardens, Winson Green. Two dogs

were seized after the police were called. <https://www.lbc.co.uk>

Suella Braverman to try to declare Channel crossings an 'emergency'

Suella Braverman will attempt to declare Channel crossing an emergency in order to override local concerns over her planned use of RAF Wethersfield to house asylum seekers.

The Home Secretary has instructed lawyers to make the case that the influx of asylum seekers through Britain's south coast constitutes an emergency under a 2015 law to override planning laws amid an application for an injunction from Braintree District Council.



Braverman will attempt to invoke Class Q, an obscure rule which allows the Home Office to circumvent planning laws for government-owned lands in an emergency.

The rule reads that these lands can be developed for "preventing an emergency, reducing, controlling or mitigating the effects of an emergency or taking other action in connection with an emergency". <https://www.lbc.co.uk>

Armed police knock man 'carrying firearm' off his bike



A video has emerged showing the moment a man who was thought to be carrying a firearm is knocked off his bike by police in Grimsby and arrested.

A cyclist can be seen coming towards the camera along Weelsby Street at the junction of Tunnard Street seconds before two police vehicles enter the screen at the top and bottom of the camera's view. The car approaching from the bottom hits the cyclist, sending him flying off his bike and into the ground. The man lands on his back, holding his arms on his face. Another

car then comes on camera before at least five armed officers approach him. Humberside Police said a man had been charged with a number of offences, including carrying an imitation firearm,

possession of a bladed article and assault of an emergency worker. [https://www-grimsbytelegraph-co-uk](https://www.grimsbytelegraph-co-uk)

Cruddas Park man punched court security officer



A defendant punched a court security officer just moments after leaving the dock. Anthony Banda had been asked to leave the building due to his aggressive behaviour and was being escorted out by a staff member. After initially complying and starting to walk towards the exit, the 58-year-old suddenly changed his mind, turned and marched back towards the officer.

Prosecutors said that mindless Banda then lashed out and punched the victim and swung further punches, which missed. He was eventually detained by the victim and two police officers, who happened to be nearby for another case. <https://www.chroniclive.co.uk>

Government strips safeguards on asylum seeker applications

Ministers have stripped out safeguards that prevent asylum seekers' claims from being wrongly dismissed, as they try to speed up the deportation of Albanian small-boat migrants.

The government quietly announced the change, which removes the need for a "second pair of eyes" on decisions that allow people to be deported to their home countries. The new power applies to migrants from an outdated list of nations that were previously deemed safe, including Ukraine.



It is mainly being used in respect of Albanian nationals, The Independent understands, as nationals of the other countries on the list – which include Bolivia, South Korea and Serbia – do not currently account for significant numbers of asylum seekers or small-boat migrants. The change is part of a wider push, codenamed Operation Bridora, to declare as many as possible of the asylum applications received from Albanians "unfounded", and remove these people from the UK, after a surge in the number arriving on small boats. <https://www.independent.co.uk>

Boy, 16, kidnapped by four men



Police are appealing for witnesses after a boy, 16, was kidnapped by four men with Irish accents in a black Mini Clubman while he walked down a road.

The teenager was walking along Warwick Avenue in Slough on Saturday around 4pm when he was approached by the men in the car, Thames Valley Police said. Three men got out of the car and "shouted aggressively" at the boy, forcing him into the vehicle, police said.

The car left and travelled towards Canterbury Avenue and turned right. Around 10 minutes later, the Mini returned to Canterbury Avenue and the teenager was let out of the car. The man driving the car is described as white, aged in his twenties, with short dark hair, wearing black clothing.

Thames Valley Police said: "The front seat passenger is described as a white man, aged in his twenties, with short, dark hair, approximately 5ft 8ins tall, wearing a light grey puffa-style hooded top and grey tracksuit bottoms. He was carrying an object around 1 metre in length that is believed to be either a stick or a knife. <https://www.standard.co.uk>

Woman hired private detective to spy on boss



A besotted supermarket employee has admitted stalking her boss - after she hired a private detective to find out where he lived.

Laura Dolman, 33, developed 'romantic feelings' for the Marc Klaver who was manager at the Co-op supermarket in Haslington, Cheshire. She worked at the store as a team leader. After Mr Klaver rebuffed her advances, Dolman paid the private investigator to plant a tracker device on the dad-of-three's car to find out where he lived.

She also sent him a number of texts and calls between April 2021 and August 2022, and even wrote a letter to his ex-wife, causing him 'serious distress'. Dolman, from Crewe, who is now thought to be working for another retail outlet, pleaded guilty to stalking involving serious alarm or distress. <https://metro.co.uk>

Armed forces member accused of sharing 'highly sensitive military information'

Thomas Newsome, 36, appeared at Westminster Magistrates' Court on Saturday charged with sharing "highly sensitive" military information which, if leaked, would pose a "real and immediate threat to Britons outside the UK" and "facilitate the targeting of personnel", the court heard.

A serving member of the UK's armed forces has appeared in court charged with offences under the Official Secrets Act. <https://news-sky.com>



Newtownards businessman sentenced to pay £1240 after pleading guilty to supplying illegal security

On Tuesday 28 March 2023, Christopher Butler was fined £750 at Lagside Courts and ordered to pay £500 prosecution costs.

Butler was sentenced following his guilty plea on 25 January 2023 to 5 offences for supplying illegal security to a Newtownards bar and restaurant in October 2019. We brought the case

after their investigations found unlicensed security operatives who were working illegally in Newtownards, County Down.

Our investigators conducted licensing inspections in Newtownards accompanied by Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) officers on 12 October 2019. The investigators visited a restaurant and bar where they found two unlicensed security operatives working illegally. Strangford Security, Butler's business had supplied illegal security between June and November 2019 to the restaurant. The area manager of the restaurant told our investigators that Strangford was the supplier and our investigators identified that he was using illegal security. He had supplied two unlicensed men; one of whom worked 21 times and the other 12 times.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/security-industry-authority>

Royal Navy investigates after official documents 'found in Wetherspoons'



The Royal Navy says it is investigating after documents marked "official sensitive" were reportedly found in a Wetherspoons pub toilet. According to the source the files carried details about HMS Anson - one of the navy's most advanced vessels. The paper says the files were left in the Furness Railway pub in Barrow-in-Furness, with a source saying they were found on the floor of a toilet cubicle. The navy said they were "generic" papers with no classified

information. <https://www.bbc-com>

Eight men on the run after fleeing immigration detention centre

Eight men are on the run after escaping from an immigration detention centre after a riot. A disturbance broke out at Yarl's Wood, in Bedfordshire, and 13 people escaped through the perimeter fencing. Five people have been found but the remaining eight others. The seven Albanian men in their 20s and one in his 30s are being searched for by police.

<https://www.independent.co.uk>



Masked gang send west London restaurant up in flames



A passer-by has filmed the moment that west London restaurant Monak went up in flames after a masked gang reportedly entered and threatened staff, before setting the venue on fire. Monak, located on Abbey Road, is a popular sushi eatery, and diners apparently 'fled for their lives' as the 'military-style' operation took place.

The restaurant later released a statement on Instagram, apologising to those who had to witness the 'traumatic event', and that they look forward to rebuilding. No arrests have been made. <https://www.independent.co.uk>

Girl, 11, and boy, 15, injured after shooting in Wolverhampton

Two children have been injured after a shooting in Wolverhampton. Emergency services were called to parkland off Shelley Road in Bushbury. A boy, 15, and a girl, 11, both had gunshot wounds to their legs. Both children remain in hospital in a stable condition.



Police said shortly after the shots were fired, two cars - a suspected stolen black Mini and a grey Ford Focus - were reported in a chase in the Bushbury area. Police later found the Mini abandoned in Third Avenue and it has been seized for forensic examination. Officers are making house-to-house enquiries and CCTV footage is being retrieved and reviewed.

<https://www.itv.com>

Romford town bans hoodies in anti-social behaviour crackdown

Anyone who visits Romford will be banned from wearing hoodies as part of a plan to tackle anti-social behaviour. The sudden crackdown policy has left residents furious.

The use of face coverings for health or religious reasons is still permitted. The scheme, which is backed by councillors and the Metropolitan Police, was launched on April 18 after town leaders said they saw a "rise in anti-social behaviour". Posters have been put up explaining the new rules to people in the town. Those who break the rule will be asked to leave and police could be called if "there is any aggression". <https://www.essexlive.news>



Marks & Spencer security guard killed suspect with a single 'knockout blow'

A Marks & Spencer security guard is facing a long prison sentence today after a unanimous jury found him guilty of killing a homeless man he suspected of stealing meat.



A jury took four hours of deliberation to convict father-of-three Sabeur Trabelsi, 44, of manslaughter. Trabelsi had landed a 'knockout blow' to the head of homeless man Jason Page near the supermarket in Lower Earley, near Reading, Berkshire, on March 31 last year, the court had earlier heard. Mr Page fell to the ground, hitting his head so hard he never

recovered from his injuries and died in hospital.

Trabelsi been hired to work at the M&S supermarket in Lower Earley, Berkshire, following a spate of thefts of expensive meat and alcohol.

Trabelsi, who told police, 'I was frustrated, I know I shouldn't have done it', was captured on chilling CCTV footage delivering the fatal blow to Mr Page. Jurors convicted Trabelsi of manslaughter and perverting the course of justice. The manslaughter conviction means the M&S guard could be jailed for up to eight years. <https://www-dailymail-co-uk>

Controlled explosion and man arrested outside Buckingham Palace



A man has been arrested after throwing a number of items into the grounds of Buckingham Palace. The items are believed to be shotgun cartridges and have been taken away for specialist examination.

The man, who has not been named, was arrested on suspicion of possession of an offensive weapon after he was searched, and a knife was found. Police said he was not carrying a firearm. The 59-year-old is currently in custody.

A controlled explosion was carried out on a suspicious bag the man was in possession of.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com>

Man arrested under Terrorism Act after parade in Derry

A man has been arrested under the Terrorism Act, following an un-notified republican parade in Derry. The 39-year-old was arrested in Newry. Police monitoring the parade were attacked with petrol bombs in the Creggan area of Derry.

A spokesperson for the PSNI said: "Detectives investigating offences surrounding an un-notified parade in the Creggan area on 10 April have arrested a 39-year-old man in the Newry area. "The man has been arrested under the Terrorism Act and taken to the Serious Crime Suite at Musgrave Police Station." <https://counterterrorbusiness.com>



Walsall man sentenced for terror offences

A man from Walsall has been jailed for eight years and six months after being found guilty of possessing explosive material and manuals on how to make improvised explosives and firearms. Vaughn Dolphin was arrested on 27 June 2022 at an address in Cheshire on suspicion of terrorism offences, after an investigation by counter terrorism police.

He was found guilty of two offences of possessing chemicals to make explosive material at Birmingham Crown Court. He was also found guilty of six offences relating to the possession and distribution of terrorist manuals.

Dolphin was also convicted of two further charges of disseminating a terrorist publication, being reckless as to whether terrorist activity would be encouraged, as well as a charge of possession of a firearm.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com>

Monkey dust drug clampdown could be coming in UK



A relatively new and dangerous street drug called monkey dust, which is already banned in the US, could soon face tougher penalties in the UK.

The government is asking officials about the drug that can cause violence and paranoia - some users have jumped off buildings or tried to eat glass.

The city of Stoke-on-Trent has seen a big rise in users and related

crimes, including arson. Reclassifying it from Class B to A would increase jail terms for dealers.

<https://www-bbc-co-uk>

Security industry news

Operation Golden Orb: UK security plan for King's coronation

The King's coronation was a "complex", multi-pronged operation for police, who were working to stem potential terror threats, disruptive protests and criminal opportunists in dense crowds.

A thousand officers were being drawn from across the UK, overseas territories and crown dependencies for the occasion, which comes months after a huge operation to protect the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II.



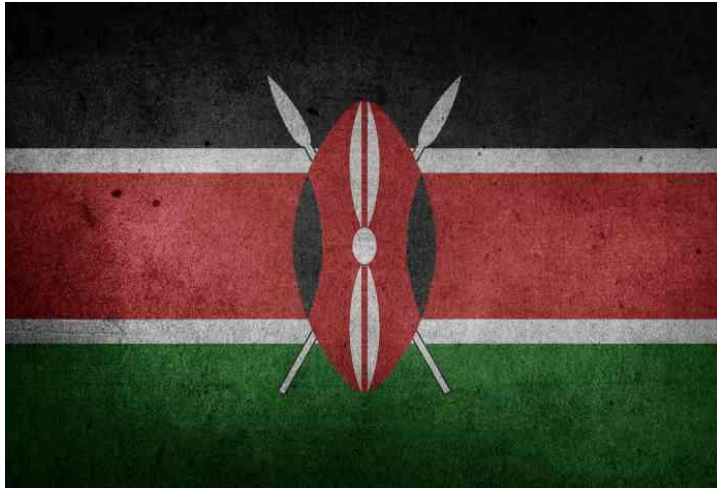
More than 29,000 police officer deployed in the lead up to the coronation, and the day itself will see over 11,500 officers on duty - the largest one-day mobilisation seen in decades. The authorities were bracing for significant potential disruption from protests, while monitoring jihadists, neo-Nazis and other extremists who revile the royal family as a symbol of the British state. Armed officers were deployed to guard coronation attendees and foreign dignitaries, while police are also responsible for ensuring the locations where events are held are secure.

Search teams with dogs swept the procession route, from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey, for potential threats hidden in phone boxes, drains, bins and other everyday objects before sealing roads off.

Police marine units will be patrolled the Thames, snipers were deployed on rooftops, as well as armed officers on overt and covert patrols to protect crowds and high-profile figures attending the coronation.

With the date announced months in advance, any hostile actors have had longer to plan for the event than they did for the Queen's funeral, but the security services have also had longer to track and mitigate any threats. <https://www.independent.co.uk>

UK announces counter-terrorism funding for Kenya,



Security minister Tom Tugendhat has travelled to Kenya to agree a new security partnership with Kenya's cabinet secretary for interior and national administration, Professor Kithure Kindiki.

The new agreement covers the full spectrum of security cooperation between the UK and Kenya and includes £10 million a year of funding to support counter-terrorism programmes, as well as commitments on defence,

international cooperation, community security, law enforcement and criminal justice, cyber security, and bilateral, multilateral and regional coordination.

A new stabilisation programme has also been launched to support local communities in Somalia's Borderlands in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia to tackle the causes of instability. The Deris Wanaag, or Good Neighbourliness, programme will encourage collaboration and collective progress, to improve regional security and counter the extremism of al-Shabaab. <https://counterterrorbusiness.com>

Ensuring legitimacy and accountability

Many police forces and other security services have been using facial recognition technology for a while now. However, it is a hotly debated topic with privacy concerns and struggles to win over the public. In February, Professor Fraser Sampson, the biometrics and surveillance camera commissioner, published his annual report in which he mentioned facial recognition technology.

The Commissioner is responsible for overseeing police use of DNA and fingerprints in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and for encouraging the proper use of public space surveillance cameras.

The report, which was submitted to the Home Secretary in November, sets out Professor Sampson's findings in relation to his statutory responsibilities, and other observations about the use of biometrics and overt surveillance. Among other topics, it also covers facial recognition technology.

Professor Sampson said: "The areas of biometrics and surveillance are becoming both increasingly important and increasingly inter-related. In recent years we have seen an explosion of surveillance technology in the public and private realms, with devices such as drones and body worn video, dashcams and smart doorbells. At the same time, there have been enormous advances in the power of AI to exploit the vast amount of surveillance data now being produced. <https://counterterrorbusiness.com>

Progress on Martyn's Law



Draft legislation for Martyn's Law is set to be published in the spring. Figen Murray, campaigner and mother of Martyn Hett, whom the law is named after, explains what we can expect and what it has taken to get this far.

The journey with Martyn's Law has so far been an incredibly long and arduous one. However, it feels like we are coming to the

point of it being presented as a draft legislation this spring, followed by a few parliamentary processes until its sign off by the King.

Meetings

December proved to be a very positive month and brought two very important encounters as far as Martyn's Law is concerned.

The first encounter was with the new home secretary, Suella Braverman and Tom Tugendhat, the security minister. Most meetings at the home office have a certain running order – Nick Aldworth, Brendan Cox and I usually meet at the café opposite the home office for a quick strategy meeting to plan how to proceed. 12th December was no different. At the time, we were very concerned about smaller venues being left unsecured. Ready to argue our corner and equipped with all the right words to say, we were pleasantly surprised to be told that there would be two tiers, with the standard tier covering venues with 100+ capacity. We no longer needed to argue the case for smaller venues, and it was great news. During the same meeting, we were told that the government had decided to call the legislation Martyn's Law. Two great pieces of news in one meeting was more than we could have wished for.

Three days later, the prime minister, Rishi Sunak, phoned me at home to reiterate that the government is giving the green light for the legislation and things will go ahead with the draft paper being presented by him in parliament in early spring. It was very poignant that he phoned me on Martyn's 35th birthday. Very surreal, but such an apt birthday gift indeed! I felt humbled and grateful. The prime minister also requested during the phone conversation that we continue working with the home office on the finer detail of the legislation.

And of course, behind the scenes, our meetings with the home office continue. We obviously want to achieve the best outcome for Martyn's Law and are negotiating some of the finer details of the legislation where there is still a discrepancy between the home office and our vision.

Purpose

For any new legislation to be effective, it needs to be fit for purpose. It needs to be practicable and proportionate. However, Martyn's Law also needs teeth so that people adhere to the changes the legislation will inevitably bring with it. Whilst event organisers and venues will need to operate differently, Martyn's Law does not intend to be something punitive. There will be a period of embedment as venues will need to adapt. Change is never straightforward or easy. Guidance and support, sometimes even bespoke support will be offered, especially for the standard tier. There is also already an abundance of training, information and support available. Several things are already on offer to help people adapt to Martyn's Law, including free-of-

charge ACT E-learning training (ProtectUK app and website); CTSAs; a variety of learning tools and a lot of guidance (ProtectUK app and website); and working groups run by the home office at various locations around the UK. As well as this, fair and credible sanctions for breaches are being established; there is a promotion of a positive culture change across the various industries the legislation applies to and there is bespoke support and statutory guidance by the government.

The two-tier system that is proposed covers the following:

Standard tier

Applies to locations with a 100+ capacity. These venues can engage in simple training and information sharing, they can prepare by establishing with staff what to do in case of a terrorist attack (e.g. locking doors, knowing where to evacuate or evacuate colleagues and customers) and it recommends that lifesaving skills are acquired and administered in the immediate aftermath of an attack until emergency services arrive. My hope was that in this tier life saving-skills would be mandatory, but they recommend it.

Enhanced Tier

The enhanced tier is for 800+ capacity venues. These venues should, on the whole, already know what is required, however the legislation crystallises what is required. The legislation stipulates that 800+ capacity venues need to undertake a thorough risk assessment and follow this up with a sound security plan. They may need to update their CCTV provision and ensure security training is up to the required standard, staff need to be able to offer life-saving training in case of an attack, and staff need to be familiar with new systems and processes.

Public awareness

Martyn's Law will of course never stop all terrorist attacks, but it will significantly reduce opportunities for them to strike and cause harm to the fabric of our society. However, I feel it would be very useful to educate the general public about the existence of Martyn's Law, enabling them to challenge poor security once the legislation is active. An educated public will result in a more resilient public. It is hoped that the government will be running public awareness campaigns sooner rather than later so that by the time the legislation kicks in properly, people are already expecting to be kept very safe when out and about.

I hope also that life-saving skills are taught more widely, ideally at school age so that the general public is better equipped to deal with life threatening emergencies where they, by default of their presence, become first responders.

Martyn's Law will bring about big changes to the way we live. People will inevitably notice increased security measures when out and about. However, it will hopefully mean that people will be attending events at venues, big and small, in the knowledge that they are kept much safer. Whilst I was initially criticised that Martyn's Law will result in turning the UK into a police state, that is obviously not going to be the case. Being quite involved within the security sector, I know that Martyn's Law will bring with it lots of opportunities, from training people better to producing equipment and security products that will become increasingly more sophisticated. Mass screening is already happening at some major venues, some in a test phase, others already actively using the technology. Feedback from the general public is that in many cases people were not even aware they were being security screened. Mass screening technology also speeds up the process of allowing people into venues, thus avoiding unnecessary queues.

Security measures in towns and cities

Street furniture such as benches, planters, bins, lamp posts, bike stands, and many other items can be transformed to be effective counter-terrorism measures. Security can become part of the landscape we live in without compromising the aesthetics of modern town and city living. And to that end, architects and town planners can find new ways of incorporating security measures into their streets and buildings without compromising the looks of either. <https://counterterrorbusiness.com>

Award of £17,600 from grant for good causes to youth enterprises



On 11 April we announced the award of our 2022/23 Grant for Good Causes. Our grant for good causes is funded from ill-gotten cash (proceeds of crime) confiscated from individuals convicted of criminal offences within the private security industry.

The beneficiaries of the grants are Young Enterprise and

1000 Black Boys. The two enterprises have different roles but are designed to improve the lives of children and young people.

This year, our grant for good causes' panel granted:

- Young Enterprise a total of £7,599.16 for its Learn to Earn program being rolled out in Manchester, Greater Manchester and West Midlands. It's the second consecutive year that we have supported this charity.
- 1000 Black Boys CIC a total of £10,000 to fully fund the enterprise as the fund will positively impact the lives and provide opportunities and role models to teenagers who are most likely to be victims of knife crime or youth violence in London.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/security-industry-authority>

A further reduction to the licence fee

From 06 April 2023, the cost of applying for an individual SIA licence for any sector in the regulated private security industry is now reduced 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 will pay 50% of the new reduced fee. The reduction has been possible due to various efficiency and cost savings we have made.

These savings have also enabled us to increase our resourcing for our inspection and enforcement work, bolstering its footprint and visibility across the UK without increasing the licence fee.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/security-industry-authority>

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 it's submitted 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.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/security-industry-authority>



Security Industry Authority

Calls for police and crime commissioners to be scrapped



The Liberal Democrats are now calling for the roles to be scrapped, claiming the money would be better spent on community policing.

Freedom of Information requests by the party revealed Welsh taxpayers have paid more than £14 million for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in Dyfed-Powys

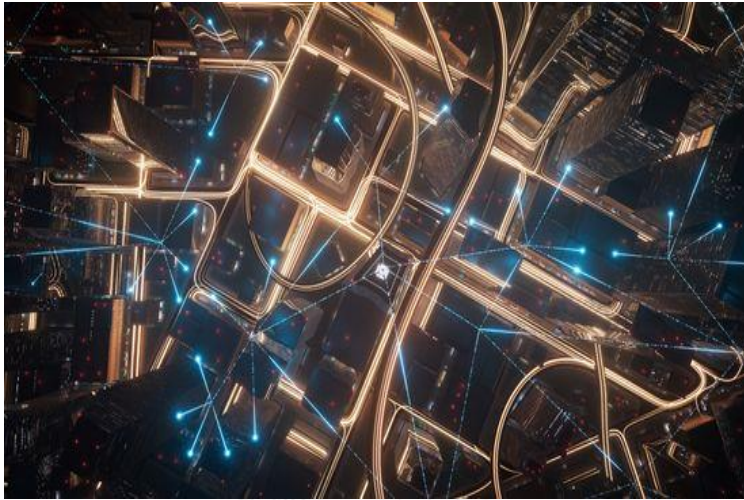
between 2019 and 2022. The West Midlands PCC spent almost £8 million in the same period to employ staff, on office running costs and expenses.

Sarah Olney MP, the Liberal Democrat treasury spokesperson, told LBC: "I agree local police forces need independent scrutiny but we think that would be better provided by a local police board, made up of people appointed from across the community.

"Spending £100 million on staffing and supporting PCCs is simply not a good use of taxpayers' money at a time when we have seen a huge drop in community police officers.

<https://www.lbc.co.uk>

NCSC warns of emerging threat to Critical National Infrastructure



The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has issued an alert to Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) organisations warning of an emerging threat from state-aligned groups.

In the alert, the NCSC – itself a part of GCHQ – warns that some groups have stated an intent to launch ‘destructive and disruptive attacks’ and that CNI organisations should ensure they’ve taken steps outlined in the

NCSC’s heightened threat guidance to strengthen their defences.

The threat emanates in particular from state-aligned groups sympathetic to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and has emerged over the past 18 months. These groups are not motivated by financial gain or subject to control by the state. On that basis, their actions can be less predictable and their targeting broader than would be the case for traditional cyber crime-focused actors.

<https://securitymattersmagazine.com>

Identity fraud cases reach all-time high



The latest research conducted by Cifas, the UK’s leading fraud prevention service, has revealed that identity fraud is now one of the biggest fraud threats facing members of the public, with cases soaring by nearly 25% across the last year.

That alarming statistic is revealed in the latest edition of Fraudscape, which identifies and analyses the

latest fraud trends based on 409,000 cases of fraudulent conduct recorded to the National Fraud Database in 2022.

The report reveals that last year witnessed the highest volume of cases of fraudulent conduct ever recorded to the National Fraud Database. Cases involving identity fraud soared by 23% and now account for circa 68% of all cases filed by Cifas members.

Although the banking sector continued to be heavily targeted, in 2022 there was a significant increase witnessed in cases of identity fraud attempted against the plastic cards and telecoms sectors. <https://securitymattersmagazine.com>

Plans to “cut unnecessary red tape” in policing

Police officers will have more time to prioritise the victims of crime and bring criminals to justice under new rules designed to cut unnecessary red tape when it comes to recording acts of criminality. As such, those victims of crime reporting multiple offences will now be privy to additional support from the police service.

The news follows on from a National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC) review process which found that circa 443,000 officer hours are spent filling in unnecessary forms and dealing with “burdensome” administrative tasks. This is time that could instead be devoted to cutting crime and keeping the streets safe. <https://securitymattersmagazine.com>

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/acd-the-sixth-year>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/commercial-cyber-proliferation-assessment>



Demonstrations / protests

Police accused over the use of facial recognition

The Metropolitan police has been accused of using the coronation to stage the biggest live facial recognition operation in British history.

The force said it intended to use the controversial technology, which scans faces and matches them against a list of people police want for alleged crimes and could identify convicted terrorists mingling in the crowds.

The announcement came as police were given new powers to crack down on protest, enacted into law by government just days before the high-profile ceremonial event. Campaigners fear the face-scanning technology could be used against protesters, and that police have done so before.

The Met insisted the technology would not be used to quell lawful protest or target activists. But campaign groups do not believe them. Britain's biggest force said: "It is not used to identify people who are linked to, or have been convicted of, being involved in protest activity."

<https://www.theguardian.com>

Just Stop Oil protester defies new laws



The controversial new Public Order Act 2023 came into force today (May 3), yet Just Stop Oil defied the government to take to the streets - and 16 protesters were arrested in Parliament Square.

The 55-strong group of climate activists were conducting a slow march through Westminster in London before the police imposed a Section 12 Order ordering them to

protest on the pavement, not the road, when marching in the boroughs of Westminster and Southwark before 6pm.

The slow march, a tactic which has been used all week, was halted just before 1pm when the arrests were made. Last Friday, new legislation was also introduced to tackle this protest tactic and support the new Public Order law which means longer jail sentences and larger fines for

protesters from today. This controversial bill is specifically designed to limit the disruptive powers of pressure groups such as Just Stop Oil and Extinction Rebellion. Many of the group refused to comply with police officers' orders resulting in their arrests. <https://www.mirror.co.uk>

Police deny accusations of being heavy-handed at Coronation after 52 arrests

Scotland Yard defended itself against accusations of being heavy handed with protesters after making 52 arrests on the day of the Coronation.

Police said they understood public concern over the arrests but insisted they were necessary to ensure the smooth running of a "once in a generation event".

Three people carrying rape alarms were arrested in by the Metropolitan Police, which said it was working on intelligence that protestors had planned to use the alarms to disrupt the procession. The Metropolitan Police said it had deployed more than 11,500 officers to keep the public safe for the hundreds of thousands of people who had come to London for their glimpse of the Coronation.

Commander Karen Findlay, who led the policing operation, said: "Our first priority has been to ensure that the tens of thousands who travelled into London today, and millions more around the world, were able to enjoy a safe, secure and dignified Coronation."

The Met said it had "received information protestors were determined to disrupt the Coronation procession" and had been determined to thwart that.

"This included information that individuals would attempt to deface public monuments with paint, breach barriers and disrupt the official movements," police said in a statement.

A total of 52 arrests were made on Saturday for offences including affray, public order offences, breach of the peace and conspiracy to cause a public nuisance.

But it has been claimed that those arrested were volunteers for the City of Westminster's Night Safety team, who were carrying the alarms in order to hand them out to women. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk>

Fake stewards caught with bottles of paint



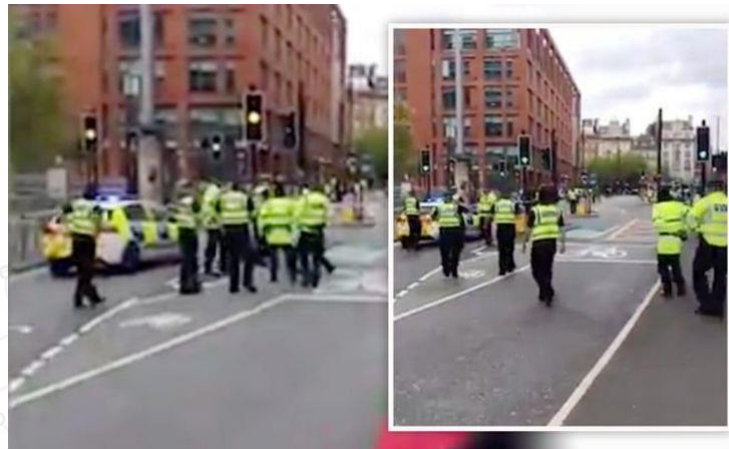
Met Police chief says fake stewards caught with bottles of paint they planned to throw at coronation procession. Sir Mark Rowley says the arrest of six anti-monarchy protesters was "unfortunate" - but insists his officers were seeking to thwart what he describes as a "criminal network". All six were released without charge.

Sir Mark Rowley claimed police had received intelligence that people planned to use rape alarms and loud hailers to disrupt the coronation, "extensively vandalise monuments" and "throw paint at the procession". <https://news-sky.com>

Police lockdown in Manchester after paramedic injured and huge crowds cause chaos

An attack on a paramedic in Manchester by a crowd of more than 150 people has sparked action by police. The unnamed emergency worker was on his bike when he was pushed off by a member of the huge crowd of people who were running amok in the city.

Following the unprovoked attack, the gang went on to cause disruption by making their way over tram tracks before entering the Arndale Centre. Inside some sprayed the walls and windows. A man was detained on suspicion of causing damage and taken into custody and police put in place a dispersal order. <https://www.mirror.co.uk>



Rise of the ULEZ 'Blade Runners'



A secret activist army is vandalising and stealing Sadiq Khan's hated Ulez cameras. Dubbed the 'Blade Runners', the covert group has been attacking ANPR cameras that catch out drivers using high-polluting vehicles across the capital.

The London Mayor's controversial scheme will force Londoners to pay £12.50-a-day to drive in Greater London from August 29, if their cars don't meet certain environmental standards. One of the secretive Blade Runners vowed: 'We are going to take down every single one no

matter what'. Dressed in a balaclava to protect his identity, the father in his mid-forties revealed he had stolen 34 Ulez cameras himself but his group and others like them have taken down hundreds. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk>

Heathrow Airport strike: 1,400 staff to walk out in May

More than 1,000 members of Heathrow Airport's security staff are set to strike for eight days in May. Unite said the staff will walk out from May 4-6, 9-10 and 25-27 in a dispute over pay.

In total 1,400 staff members will walk out which is the same number who took 10 days of industrial action over Easter.

Unite general secretary Sharon Graham said: "Yet again, we have a chief executive who thinks it is acceptable to boost his earnings while he denies his own workers a decent pay rise."

Small boat asylum seeker condemns Braverman at XR rally



An asylum seeker who crossed the Channel in a small boat declared that “no human is illegal” as Extinction Rebellion (XR) activists rallied outside the Home Office’s central London headquarters. XR climate activists carrying origami paper boats protested outside the building in Westminster to show “solidarity and compassion with refugees and climate migrants”. They marched from Parliament Square to the department on the third day of a mass protest which the climate group has called “The Big One”. The protests earlier intersected with the London Marathon outside

the Houses of Parliament, when it was feared there might be disruption, but the race appeared to pass without incident. <https://www.standard.co.uk>

Emergency alert: Millions receive message and alarm

Tens of millions of mobile phone users have received a message and loud alarm during the first nationwide test of the government's new public alert system.

However, many people received the alert a minute earlier than planned, and others claimed they didn't receive anything until 10 minutes later - or at all. And in Wales, the government made a spelling error in the translation of the alert sent out in the Welsh language. A spokesperson for mobile phone network said it was aware that some customers had not received the alert.



"We are working closely with the Government to understand why and ensure it doesn't happen when the system is in use," a spokesman said.

The Cabinet Office said it would be reviewing the outcome of the UK-wide test and acknowledged that a "very small proportion of mobile users on some networks did not receive it". A UK government spokesman said: "We have effectively completed the test of the UK-wide Emergency Alerts system, the biggest public communications exercise of its kind ever done.

"We are working with mobile network operators to review the outcome and any lessons learned." <https://news.sky.com>

Scottish Grand National protests: 25 arrests

Twenty-five people were arrested after animal rights protesters attempted to disrupt the Scottish Grand National on Saturday.

Animal Rising claimed dozens of supporters had made it onto the track and posted a video on their Twitter feed showing at least four activists breaking through the fence around the racecourse at Ayr, with some making it onto the track. None of them successfully attached themselves to jumps and gates and they were not able to cancel or delay the big race, which was won by pre-race favourite Kitty's Light.

Assistant Chief Constable Tim Mairs, of Police Scotland, said a "prompt and professional response by stewards and Police Scotland officers prevented this group from causing any disruption". He also revealed that there had been a further attempt to disrupt a later race involving a smaller group of protesters. <https://news.sky.com>

Extinction Rebellion activists mark Earth Day



Thousands of climate activists took part in a demonstration in central London as part of a mass protest organised by Extinction Rebellion (XR).

Crowds of people gathered in Parliament Square to hear speakers at The Big One event, which ran from 21-24 April and is expected to attract up to 50,000 people. Many in the good-natured crowds wore

fancy dress, including the distinctive, red-robed army of XR protesters, while others wore masks depicting the King and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. Following concerns that previous protests were alienating potential supporters for being too disruptive, XR made The Big One as accessible to all by not attempting to block London's streets or bridges. Many activists attended with their children to inspire the next generation to join their ranks. <https://news.sky.com>

Eco-activists clash with security staff

Two protesters from Just Stop Oil organisation were stopped by the security staff in a struggle as they climbed into the "Dippy the Dinosaur" display at Coventry's Herbert Art Gallery and Museum.

Footage published online by the eco-activists shows Daniel Knorr, 21, and Victoria Lindsell, 67, climb over the barrier before security staff wearing high-vis jackets bring them down.



One security guard is seen shouting: "Stop it, stop it now, do you understand?" Another takes Ms Lindsell's rucksack. Both protesters remove their jumpers to show white "Just Stop Oil" t-shirts underneath.

It was the latest in a series of attempts by Just Stop Oil activists to disrupt public exhibitions, including when a woman threw tomato soup on Sunflowers by Vincent Van Gogh in the National Portrait Gallery in London. <https://the-siu.org.uk>

Just Stop Oil protesters at the Crucible



Play was disrupted at the World Snooker Championship after a protester climbed on to a table and covered it in orange powder.

There were gasps from the crowd as the man interrupted Monday's match between Robert Milkins and Joe Perry.

Another protester tried to glue herself to the table where Mark Allen

and Fan Zhengyi were playing but was stopped by referee Olivier Marteel. Milkins and Perry's game was abandoned and will resume at 19:00 BST on Tuesday, while Allen and Fan restarted after a 40-minute break.

The protesters wore T-shirts apparently in support of the group of climate change activists Just Stop Oil, who subsequently posted online to claim responsibility for the disruption to the event. A man and a woman were later arrested by South Yorkshire Police. <https://www-bbc-com>

Animal rights groups call for jump racing ban

Animal rights campaigners are calling for jump racing to be banned after three horses died at Aintree - with one suffering a broken neck during the Grand National. Protesters had tried and failed to stop yesterday's race from going ahead, and a total of 118 people were arrested. <https://news.sky.com>

British-Iranian Prepares For 100-Day Hunger Strike

A British-Iranian man who has been on hunger strike outside the Foreign Office in London for 43 days has said he is prepared to continue his protest for 100 days.

Vahid Beheshti, who has lost more than 13kg of weight since starting his protest in late February, is demanding the government add the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corp to the UK's list of terrorist organisations. That is a policy the government appeared to be close to adopting earlier this year, but it has yet to press ahead with it. <https://www.forbes.com>



Duo found guilty of National Health Service-related fraud and bribery

Appearing at St Albans Crown Court, two men have been found guilty of Theft Act, Fraud Act and Bribery Act-related offences against the National Health Service (NHS) following a seven-week trial. A third man had entered a guilty plea prior to the trial commencing. The investigation was undertaken by the NHS Counter Fraud Authority (NHSCFA), with the prosecution led by



the Crown Prosecution Service. The total value of all offences committed stands at more than £600,000.

Hasan Abusheikha, aged 47 and formerly a theatre manager at the St Albans City Hospital NHS Trust, was found guilty of offences under the Theft Act, the Fraud Act and the Bribery Act. He was remanded in custody to be sentenced on Friday 24th March.

Elmo Emanuel, who was CEO of Implants International and Xtremity Solutions Ltd (both of which were companies supplying medical equipment to the hospital) was found guilty of one charge of bribing Abusheikha.

A second NHS Trust supplier, namely Jawid Khan (a director of TSI Med Ltd), had already pleaded guilty to one charge of bribing Abusheikha prior to the trial opening.