



UK Threat Level: **SUBSTANTIAL**

SECURITY INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

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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	9
Security Industry News	32
Demonstrations held / planned	36

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**.



Open-Source Security Incident News

Major UK retail bosses plead for staff protection

Almost 90 retail leaders, including the bosses of Tesco, Sainsbury's, Boots and WH Smith, have written to the government demanding action on rising retail crime, in which violent criminals are "emptying stores".

The retailers, who also include the bosses of Aldi, Primark and Superdrug, call for the creation of a new UK-wide aggravated offence of assaulting or abusing a retail worker – as already exists in Scotland – which would carry tougher sentences and require police to record all incidents of retail crime and allow the allocation of more resources.

"The police consistently tell us that a lack of data about these offences means they have no visibility about the nature or scale of the issue," the letter says.

The 88 retail bosses have asked for a meeting with the home secretary, Suella Braverman, to discuss the issue after a meeting with the minister for crime, Chris Philp, led to the promise to develop an action plan.

The call comes after retailers, including the Co-op and John Lewis, highlighted what they said was a worsening issue. A survey of members of the British Retail Consortium (BRC), which represents all the major chains, found levels of shoplifting in 10 of the biggest cities had risen by an average of 27% this year.

Meanwhile, the police's own data for one major retailer shows that forces failed to respond to 73% of serious retail crimes that were reported, while 44% of retailers in the BRC's annual crime survey rated the police response as "poor" or "very poor". <https://www.theguardian.com>

Eight arrests over '£4m DWP benefits fraud plot

Eight people from the Black Country alleged to be part of a multi-million-pound fraud have been arrested. Police detained the suspects, who are aged between 42 and 82, following a joint operation.

They were arrested in the Wolverhampton and Dudley areas on suspicion of benefit and identity fraud - estimated to be worth more than £4 million. Officers also uncovered more than £150,000, a firearm, meat cleaver and large quantities of a class B drug believed to be cannabis when they searched properties following the arrests.

Some of the people arrested are thought to be known to one another, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) said. Police have since released five suspects under investigation.

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

'Neo-Nazi' ex-prison officer jailed for possessing terrorist handbook



Ashley Podsiad-Sharp possessed a document called the *White Resistance Manual*. Photograph: Counter-Terrorism Policing North East/PA

A "neo-Nazi" former prison officer has been jailed for 13 years for possessing a white supremacist terrorist handbook with details of how to kill people. Self-confessed National Socialist Ashley Podsiad-Sharp, 42, was described by prosecutors as a "racist, homophobic, neo-Nazi terrorist".

The lorry driver, who worked as an officer at Leeds Prison until his arrest, was found guilty in May of possession of a document likely to be useful to a terrorist. However, jurors at Sheffield Crown Court cleared Podsiad-Sharp,

from the Barnsley area, of disseminating a terrorist publication.

The court heard the document, called the *White Resistance Manual*, was found in an encrypted "virtual safe" on his computer by counter-terror police. The 200-page document said "democracy will be cast aside and votes will now be cast with bullets and bombs" before setting out "various mechanisms for armed struggle". <https://www.independent.co.uk>

Man found with 'appalling' stash of child abuse images and terror material jailed

A man who stockpiled terror documents describing how to make bombs alongside sexual abuse videos of children as young as three has been jailed. Sejr Forster, 26, of Norfolk, was jailed for four years at the Old Bailey on Tuesday after jurors heard how a counter-terror police raid uncovered the offending. The trial heard how Forster had an "extreme right-wing" mindset and collected terrorist material. He was arrested at his home in May 2022 by Met counter-terror police.

When asked for his phone, he claimed he had lost it at the pub - but it was found hidden under his mattress. Detectives found an "appalling" library of abuse material, including more than 750 indecent pictures and videos of children aged as young as three. Forster also had manuals describing how to make weapons and explosives. Commander Dominic Murphy, head of the Met's Counter Terrorism Command, said: "Forster built an appalling library of terrorist and child abuse material.

"His stockpile included the most serious types of child abuse images, and detailed bomb-making instructions. We also found texts and paraphernalia that highlighted his extreme right-wing mindset.

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

Birmingham student accused of designing 'kamikaze' drone for Islamic State



The drone built by Mohamad Al Bared. Photograph: West Midlands CTU/PA

Jurors have retired to consider the verdict of a University of Birmingham PhD student accused of plotting to make a drone capable of delivering a bomb. Mohamad Al Bared, 27, is accused of attempting to make a "kamikaze" drone for use by Islamic State terrorists.

Jurors at Birmingham Crown Court have heard claims that Mohamad Al Bared, 27, was "fascinated" by so-called Islamic State because he wanted to argue against the terror group's views. Al Bared denies being a supporter of Islamic State or its aims, having told jurors he had no plans to assist it in any way and that he made a drone for his own research purposes. Prosecutors allege the mechanical engineering graduate, of Kare Road, Coventry, intended to supply terrorists with a "single-use" video-transmitting drone to carry a bomb or chemical weapon.

The University of Birmingham PhD student denies a charge alleging he engaged in conduct in preparation of terrorist acts to benefit a proscribed terrorist organisation between January 1, 2022, and January 31 this year.

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

Man and woman appear in court to face terror charge

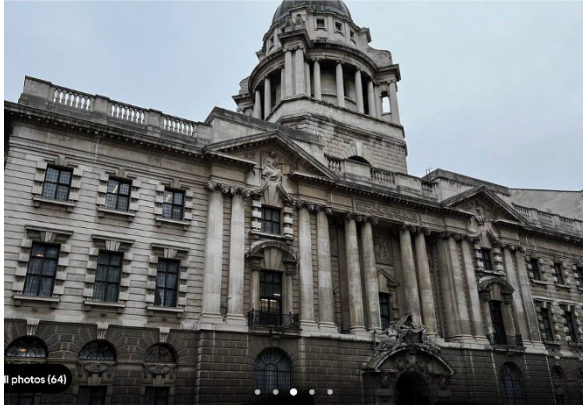
Nikolaos Karvounakis, 35, and Artemis Parissi, 32, have been charged with possessing an item in circumstances which give rise to a reasonable suspicion that it is for a purpose connected with the commission, preparation or instigation of an act of terrorism.

The pair, who appeared in private at Edinburgh Sheriff Court, have also been charged under the Explosive Substances Act with attempting to cause explosion, or making or keeping explosive with intent to endanger life or property.

Karvounakis and Parissi, both from Greece but whose general addresses were given in court as Edinburgh, made no plea and were committed for further examination and remanded in custody. Their next court appearance is expected within eight days. They are each facing a third charge of breach of the peace.

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com>

Little Eaton man denies having a stash of terrorist documents



A Derbyshire man has denied having a stash of terrorist material on homemade guns and explosives. Adrian Monk, 33, from Little Eaton, also allegedly had titles on “ethnic cleansing”, “death dealers” and the “urban guerrilla” last August.

On Friday (September 29), he pleaded not guilty to 10 counts of possession of a document useful to terrorism during a hearing at the Old Bailey, in London. Mr Justice Jeremy Baker ordered a trial at Birmingham Crown Court

before Judge Paul Farrer KC from June 10 next year. Monk was granted continued conditional bail until a plea and trial preparation hearing on February 2 next year.

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

Venues to prepare for possible terrorist attacks under new law

Venues including pubs, sports grounds, theatres and town halls will have to prepare for potential terrorist attacks under new responsibilities termed ‘Martyn’s Law’. The requirement, officially called the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) bill, when it was introduced as a draft law by the UK Government earlier this, summer is a response to a campaign by the family of Martyn Hett who was murdered, along with 21 others, when a suicide bomber attacked an Ariana Grande concert at the Manchester Arena in 2017.

Figen Murray, the mother of the 29-year-old Coronation Street superfan, had called for new laws for those responsible for venues to consider the threat from terrorism. The UK Government has said it will require the implementation of “appropriate and proportionate” measures.

<https://nation.cymru>

Ex-gang member installs West Sussex’s first bleed control cabinets

Co-founder of Project Youth Official Carl Scott, 41, said the Worthing kit was installed in Warwick Street, near the defibrillator phone box. The Crawley one was installed at the Kingsgate car park. Carl, who was a gang member before turning his life around, said: “Four or five months ago I managed to install the first bleed control cabinets for East Sussex, and one was put up at Priory Meadow Shopping Centre (in Hastings).” Now he hopes to ‘branch them out’ across the whole county. The installation of the Worthing kit comes seven months after Sussex Police said a boy was stabbed in Worthing’s McDonald’s.

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

Criminal gangs in UK sending recruits to train as prison officers

Organised crime groups are sending associates to train as prison officers with the “sole purpose” of smuggling drugs and phones into jail, the Prison Officers’ Association has warned. The POA, the union representing prison workers, blamed low pay and said online interviews were also contributing to the prison service “hiring the wrong people”. Drugs remain a huge problem in prisons despite an increase in testing facilities. Woodhill high security prison in Milton Keynes was put into special measures recently after inspectors declared it unsafe, with 38% of prisoners testing positive for drugs.

A POA spokesperson said: “Organised crime groups realise that there’s a lot of money to be made by smuggling contraband into prisons. People can be recruited as a prison officer and go into [the jail] with that sole purpose of bringing contraband in, to make a lot of money. They can do it by themselves or for an organised crime group.”

<https://amp.theguardian.com>

Metropolitan Police: MoD offers military support after armed officers turn in weapons



Chris Kaba, 24.

The Ministry of Defence offered soldiers to support armed police in London after dozens of Met officers stood down from firearms duties.

More than 100 officers have turned in permits allowing them to carry weapons, a source told the BBC. There are more than 2,500 armed officers in the Met. Police said the action was being taken after an officer was charged with the murder of unarmed Chris Kaba, 24.

Met chief Sir Mark Rowley welcomed a Home Office review into armed policing. In an open letter to the home secretary, he said it was right his force was “held to the highest standards” - but the current system was undermining his officers and suggested they needed more legal protections. <https://www.bbc.co.uk>

Hundreds of Northumbria Police officers and staff not vetted properly

Hundreds of Northumbria Police officers and staff were not properly background checked, a report has found. In May, His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspected the force to examine the effectiveness of its vetting arrangements. Personnel are vetted to assess their suitability to serve in the police service, as a police officer, special constable or member of staff. There are minimum standards that should be applied for each clearance level as well as minimum vetting checks that should be undertaken on an applicant, their family and associates.

But the HMICFRS report raised vetting concerns, which included 340 staff carrying out roles without the correct clearance. As of May, Northumbria Police had a total of 6,226 police officers, special constables, police staff and police community support officers. The force vetting unit (FVU) administration staff monitor the vetting system to identify when renewals are due, prompting them to send out application documents. But the report states there were three

people in post without recruitment vetting because their clearance had expired.
<https://www.chroniclive.co.uk>

PSNI believe firearms were 'being transported on behalf of the New IRA

The PSNI says it believes firearms were 'being transported on behalf of the New IRA for potential future terrorist use', following the sentencing of two Lurgan men at Newry Crown Court.

Shane Stevenson (35) of Drumlin Drive in Lurgan and Paul Martin McKerr (54) from Belvedere Manor, Lurgan, were sentenced at Newry Crown Court on a number of charges.

Stevenson had previously pleaded guilty to possession of firearms in suspicious circumstances, possession of firearms without a firearms certificate, and attempted possession of information of use to terrorists. He was sentenced to 16 months in prison, with a further 12 months on supervised licence upon his release. He is also subject to notification requirements under the Counter Terrorism Act 2008 for a further 10 years. McKerr, who had previously been convicted of possession of firearms in suspicious circumstances and possession of firearms without a firearms certificate, was sentenced to nine months in prison.

<https://www.northernirelandworld.com>

Passengers on Orlando flight 'searched' as plane swarmed by authorities after 'suspicious package' found



Passengers on an Orlando flight back to Manchester have claimed they were told they would be searched as their plane was swarmed by authorities after a suspicious package was found by a member of cabin crew on board.

The Virgin Atlantic flight, that landed at Manchester Airport Terminal 2 shortly before midday Thursday (September 21), was immediately met by fire crews and explosives units on the runway before passengers were quickly evacuated out of the rear doors.

Those on board reportedly saw a member of cabin crew 'wearing goggles' and 'carrying a box' shortly after taking off from Florida. It was not until they landed hours later that one couple said they became 'worried' by the dramatic scenes at the airport runway.

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

Former footballer arrested at Manchester Airport after his crimes were unmasked



A once-promising footballer whose career "fell by the wayside" was arrested at Manchester Airport after embarking on a different path. Sean Calvert had been on the books at Tranmere Rovers as a young midfielder.

But the 25-year-old was later unmasked as the EncroChat user "Sound Dill", and discovered to be sourcing kilo quantities of heroin, cocaine and cannabis on the encrypted communications platform. Those drugs were then broken down into smaller amounts for sale on the streets.

Calvert appeared at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday (September 18) via videolink after his crimes were uncovered, the Liverpool Echo reports. The court heard Calvert used the tag "SoundDill" after his contacts had called him "Calv" when EncroChat was infiltrated by law enforcement authorities in 2020. <https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk>

Russian bombs seized from New IRA terrorists



Weaponry, ammunition and detonators were among the items seized during an "intelligence-led, proactive counter-terrorist operation" in Derry on Thursday evening, with arrests triggering rioting, bringing dozens of children and young people onto the street

Russian military grenades that may have been stolen from the Ukraine frontline ended up in the hands of Northern Irish terrorists and were being stored near a children's playground, according to a report citing police officers.

Counter-terrorism police in Northern Ireland reportedly seized a huge batch of weapons including plastic explosives and grenades in Londonderry following major raids. Two hand grenades, a handgun, over 50 rounds of ammunition and over a kilogram of plastic explosives were reportedly found in the bust.

Two men and a woman were arrested during the operation. It was launched as intelligence indicated the New IRA had acquired this weaponry and may have been plotting an attack against law enforcement officers.

Mark McEwan, the assistant chief constable, said: "These items are military grade, and we believe the intention was to mount attacks in an attempt to kill police officers." <https://www.express.co.uk>

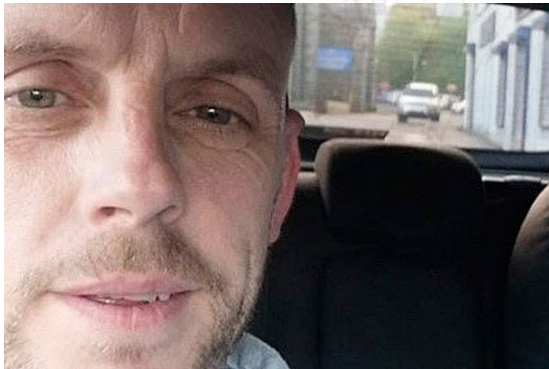
East London man, 22, arrested 'on suspicion of encouraging terrorism'

Police have arrested a young man in East London on suspicion of encouraging terrorism. He was put into custody as officers conducted a search at an address in the area. Officers detained the man and took him to a police station in the south of the capital.

A spokesperson for the Met said: "Detectives from the Met Police Counter Terrorism Command have arrested a 22-year-old man on suspicion of encouraging terrorism, contrary to section 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006.

<https://www.mylondon.news>

Omagh man Gabriel Paul Meehan to go on trial facing terror charges



Gabriel Paul Meehan

An alleged dissident republican is to stand trial in the New Year accused of a number of terrorist related offences.

Gabriel Paul Meehan, 44, of Meelmore Drive, Omagh, has denied charges of possessing articles for use in terrorism and collecting or making a record likely to be of use to terrorists. At Belfast Crown Court, defence barrister Joe Brolly told Mr Justice O'Hara that his senior counsel John Larkin KC was having "constructive discussions" with a senior prosecutor in the case and asked for it to be reviewed in a fortnight.

Mr Justice O'Hara agreed to review the case on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, and set the date for the non-jury Diplock-style trial as Monday, February 19, 2024. The trial is expected to last three weeks.

No details were given in court about the nature of the charges against Meehan but at previous court hearings Meehan was accused of having a handwritten note with the car registration number of an Army officer for terrorist purposes. Courts also heard police suspected Meehan was a leading member of the Continuity IRA (CIRA). He has been accused of possessing images of an improvised firearm, Enniskillen PSNI station and maps of the surrounding area between March 15 and May 7, 2021. <https://www.belfastlive.co.uk>

Birmingham teen arrested at airport and charged with terrorism offences

A teenager from Birmingham accused of 'sharing information useful to a terrorist' has appeared in court. The 16-year-old - who cannot be named for legal reasons - has been charged with a number of terrorism offences.

The teenager was arrested as part of an investigation by counter terrorism officers from West Midlands Police. He did not enter any pleas when he appeared at Westminster Magistrates' Court. The schoolboy was released on bail ahead of his next court appearance. Police confirmed the youth had been charged with possessing and disseminating information useful to a terrorist and inviting support for a banned organisation. They also charged him with one count of claiming to belong to a proscribed organisation. West Midlands Police said: "The 16-year-old was arrested at Stanstead Airport on Saturday, September 9. "He was charged with possessing and

disseminating information useful to a terrorist, inviting support for a banned organisation and claiming to belong to a proscribed organisation. <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk>

UK officially bans Russia's Wagner paramilitary group as terrorist organisation

The UK has formally banned Russia's mercenary Wagner Group as a terrorist organisation weeks after the death of its leader Yevgeny Prigozhin. The government order, makes it a criminal offence to be a member or a supporter of the paramilitary group in the UK. <https://www.independent.co.uk>

UK in grip of a shoplifting epidemic



In recent months, the manager of a Leeds Co-op store, and his staff have been threatened with razors, knives, screwdrivers, needles and hammers by shoplifters who have become more brazen and aggressive.

"It feels like these offenders can simply

come in and take what they want, and do what they want," the 36-year-old said. "Not one or two items – they come in with bags, sacks or clothing, which can conceal hundreds of pounds' worth of stock – coffee, meat, wine, laundry gel, anything that can be re-sold. It is looting. They are known in the city centre as repeat offenders ... They know the police don't have the resources or can't attend quickly enough."

Co-op said it had recorded its highest-ever levels of retail crime, shoplifting and antisocial behaviour in the six months to June, with almost 1,000 incidents each day. It claimed that police failed to respond to 71% of serious retail crimes, and that bosses were considering whether it was safe and commercially viable to keep some branches open.

<https://www.theguardian.com>

Facial recognition could transform policing

Britain's most senior police officer has predicted that facial recognition technology will transform criminal investigations as much as DNA testing has done, a prospect described as dystopian by human rights campaigners. Sir Mark Rowley, the Metropolitan police commissioner, said: "We've also shown recently that live facial recognition is massively effective at picking out wanted offenders from crowds of people."

Speaking at an event to mark his first year in the post, Rowley added: "The next step is more exciting: retroactively using facial recognition to identify unknown suspects from CCTV images is showing immense potential. <https://amp-theguardian-com>

Boys arrested after Co-op worker hurt in knife incident

Two teenage boys have been arrested after a shop worker suffered serious head injuries while trying to prevent shoplifting. The worker, 23, needed hospital treatment. The two boys are aged 15 and 16. The younger one was arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm, possession of a knife, possession of Class A and class B drugs and theft. The 16-year-old was arrested on suspicion of actual bodily harm, theft and possession of Class B drugs.

Shoppers who go to the Co-op, which is in Abinger Road, Portslade, said they were "sickened" by the incident. Southern Co-op said it was saddened by it and said many retailers are seeing a rise in violence towards staff.

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

Parliamentary researcher accused of spying for China

A parliamentary researcher who has been arrested on suspicion of spying for China has said he is "completely innocent". In a statement released by his lawyers, the man - who they did not name - said: "I feel forced to respond to the media accusations that I am a 'Chinese spy'. It is wrong that I should be obliged to make any form of public comment on the misreporting that has taken place.

"However, given what has been reported, it is vital that it is known that I am completely innocent. I have spent my career to date trying to educate others about the challenge and threats presented by the Chinese Communist Party. <https://news.sky.com>

Met Police use facial recognition spy technology to capture man who punched officer in the face



The Metropolitan Police used live facial recognition technology to find and arrest a man who then punched an officer in the face. At around 8.15pm on Saturday, September 9, a 26-year-old man passed through Wardour Street in central London when he was identified by a police van with Live Facial Recognition (LFR) technology operating in the area. The man was recognised as wanted for failing to appear for a sentencing at Thames Magistrates Court back in May. Officers detained the man, who then punched the police officers in the face.

The police officer, a sergeant attached to the Met's Violent Crime Taskforce, was taken to hospital for treatment to head injuries. The wanted man was found to be in possession of Class B drugs and was arrested on suspicion of assaulting an emergency worker and possession of drugs in addition to the 'wanted' offence.

The arrested man had been found guilty of two counts of possession of pointed/bladed articles at Thames Magistrates' Court on April 4, 2023. The convictions followed his arrest in Woodfield Road, W2 on November 16, 2021, after officers were called to a disturbance and he was found to be in possession of two knives. <https://www.mylondon-news>

Daniel Khalife: Escaped terror suspect arrested in north-west London



Terror suspect Daniel Khalife has been arrested in north-west London after a four-day search, police have said. Scotland Yard said the 21-year-old ex-soldier was detained after being pulled from a bicycle on a canal towpath in the Northolt area.

He was held about 14 miles (23km) from Wandsworth prison, from where he escaped. The Met had been reviewing CCTV footage and using a helicopter to search areas in west and south-west London.

Police thanked the public for contacting them with sightings, and said there had been more than 100 calls. The force said Mr Khalife is currently in police custody.

He is accused of trying to spy for an enemy state, understood to be Iran, obtaining information likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism, and plotting a fake-bomb hoax.

Mr Khalife was at Wandsworth on remand pending a trial in November after being denied bail at a court hearing in January. His escape began in the kitchens of the prison - where he held a job - after he attached himself to the underside of a food delivery lorry. <https://www.bbc.co.uk>

Tesco, Aldi and Asda security tagging products in UK supermarkets



Over the last year or so, shoppers have started to notice more and more security tags on highly sought after products in supermarkets across the UK. Food prices hitting record highs is a factor which has been linked to a rise in shoplifting cases - with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) detailing a 24 per cent rise of the crime across England and Wales over the last year.

media, showing a range of anti-shoplifting techniques being carried out by different supermarkets spanning Great Britain, with one of the most common coming in the form of security tags and stickers.

The noticeable tags and yellow stickers activate an alarm at the doors, should someone try to take a tagged product without paying for it prior. Staff usually remove these after items are paid for at the checkout.

And while these were only commonly placed on the likes of alcohol and other high-end consumables in the past, it is reported by The Mirror that shops began placing them on more basic household necessities last year. It's worth noting though, that these tags are usually applied by individual retailers - and are not a nationwide measure at present.

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

'Use EU laws to seize small boats before they leave French shores', says National Crime Agency



EU safety laws could be used to seize the boats used to bring migrant boats before they reach the Channel in a new National Crime Agency plan to stem the flow of asylum seekers being shipped to Britain.

Graeme Biggar, the NCA's director general, said his agency believed the much larger "flimsy, unseaworthy" vessel now being used by criminal gangs to transport up to 80 migrants at a time were in breach of safety regulations issued by Brussels.

He said that meant the boats – which are being specially manufactured in China and Turkey for the purpose of shipping Channel migrants – could be confiscated as they were moved across Europe to the French coast.

He said that as a result of its recent analysis of the legal position, his agency was now asking EU countries to use the safety regulations to seize the vessels. He suggested that the new tactic, if successful, could play a significant role in stemming the flow of migrants arriving on small boats. But he also warned that stopping the small boats would only lead to migrants choosing other routes to enter this country unless the government returned more failed asylum seekers to change the perception that once people arrive they are likely to stay.

Mr Biggar's comments come as Prime Minister Rishi Sunak seeks to deliver his flagship pledge to "stop the small boats" in the wake of a record number of more than 45,000 migrants arriving over the Channel last year. The number of arrivals this year has already passed 20,000, including a record daily total for this year of 872 on Saturday in a sign of the continuing inflow.

The surge in numbers - which the government had hoped to stem by sending migrants to Rwanda before the policy was declared unlawful by the Court of Appeal - has led to criticism from all sides and led to hundreds of millions of pounds being spent on hotel accommodation for small boat arrivals and a record backlog of asylum claims. <https://www.standard.co.uk>

NHS at risk of 'catastrophic' attack by terrorists

Rishi Sunak has been warned the NHS is “at huge risk” of an attack by terrorists plotting to use cutting edge technology as the “ultimate weapon” to inflict damage Britain’s health service. The Prime Minister has demonstrated his awareness of the seriousness of the issue by announcing plans to host the world’s first summit on artificial intelligence (AI) later this year. <https://www.express.co.uk>

Essex man accused of funding terrorism appears in court

A man from Colchester has appeared at the Old Bailey charged with funding terrorism during a two-year period. Farhad Mohammad, 44, was charged by postal requisition with five counts of entering into an arrangement as a result of which money or property was made available to another, contrary to section 17 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

The dates of the alleged offences ranged from May 3, 2017, to January 10, 2018. On Friday, Mohammad, of Osborne Street in Colchester, Essex, appeared in the dock of the Old Bailey for a preliminary hearing before Mr Justice Jeremy Baker

A plea and case management hearing was set for December 22 with a provisional trial from April 2 at the Old Bailey. Mr Justice Baker said the case would be heard before Judge Angela Rafferty. Mohammad was granted continued conditional bail and warned of the consequences of failing to attend court when required. <https://www.essexlive.news>

Terrorism fears as security breaches among Britain’s ‘nuclear police’



The Civil Nuclear Constabulary, which guards power stations from terrorists, reported 37 cases last year. These included thefts of uniforms, confidential documents, an officer’s diary and three “classified” Microsoft computer tablets.

There were also 12 instances of personal data being compromised, and a further 19 of staff losing their warrant or ID cards. The CNC is a unique UK force because all 1,100-plus officers are trained to carry firearms and to shoot to kill.

They protect ten civilian nuclear sites and are also responsible for the security of materials in transport. The force said it takes security issues “extremely seriously” and has a “robust process” for reported breaches.

It claimed most security incidents were “low level”, such as “mistyping an email address or sending a document with the wrong security classification”. All of the stolen items were taken from vehicles.

The tablets included classified information and were encrypted and immediately wiped, it insisted. <https://www.thesun.co.uk>

Third man arrested under Terrorism Act by police investigating Omagh hijacking and security alert

Detectives investigating a vehicle hijacking and security alert in Omagh on 6 May have arrested a 41-year-old man under the Terrorism Act following searches in the town. The man is the third person arrested in relation to the hijacking.

Two 57-year-old men, arrested earlier on Monday, remain in custody at this time. Police are appealing for anyone with information to come forward. <https://www.itv.com>

Electoral Commission failed basic security test before hack

The Electoral Commission has confirmed it failed a basic cyber-security test around the same time hackers gained entry to the organisation.

A whistleblower told the BBC that the Commission was given an automatic fail during a Cyber Essentials audit.

Last month the Commission revealed that "hostile actors" accessed its emails and potentially the data of 40 million voters. A spokeswoman said the Commission had still not passed the basic test.

In August the election watchdog announced hackers broke into their IT systems in August 2021 and had access to sensitive data until they were discovered and removed in October 2022.

The unnamed attackers accessed Electoral Commission email correspondence and could have viewed databases containing the names and addresses of 40 million registered voters, including millions of those not on public registers.

It's not yet been revealed who carried out the intrusion or how the commission was breached.

But now a whistleblower has revealed that in the same month that hackers were breaking into the organisation, the Commission was told by cyber-security auditors that it was not compliant with the Cyber Essentials scheme - a system backed by the government to help organisations achieve minimum best practice in cyber-security. <https://www.bbc.co.uk>

Pembrokeshire man prosecuted for working without a licence



Paul Haywood Dowson was sentenced on Tuesday 12 September at Haverfordwest Magistrates' Court for working illegally as a door supervisor in South Wales. Dowson worked as a security operative at a licensed premises in Tenby between November 2021 and June 2022. Dyfed Powys Police officers and a licensing officer observed him working as a door supervisor at the premises on 30 April 2022, 29 May 2022 and 04 June 2022.

On each occasion Paul Dowson was observed carrying out the duties of a door supervisor at the door of the premises. He was dressed predominantly in black, displaying an armband licence card holder and a coat bearing the text 'Security' displayed on it.

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

Speke man prosecuted for working illegally at a Wirral bar

On Thursday 17 August, Paul Skyner, a Speke company director, was prosecuted at Liverpool Magistrates' Court for working without a valid SIA licence. We brought the prosecution following a joint operation with Merseyside Police and Wirral Council's licensing department.

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

Southbourne man prosecuted for working illegally

On 06 January 2023, Ross Dewey from Southbourne, was prosecuted at Poole Magistrates' Court for working illegally as a security operative at a Bournemouth bar.

The court fined Dewey £150 and ordered him to pay £1,000 prosecution costs and a victim surcharge of £34. Dewey's sentencing follows the previous prosecution of Terence Macartney in August 2022.

On 10 December 2021 our investigators, accompanied by Dorset Police licensing officers, visited a Bournemouth sports bar while carrying out routine licence inspections. They found two men working as door supervisors, both the men told investigators that they were deployed by Maxim Security, Terence Macartney's business. One of the men was appropriately licensed. The other was Ross Dewey who was not wearing an SIA licence. Mr Dewey told our investigators that he was working as a marshal despite holding a radio and wearing a black t-shirt with the word 'Security' on it and working as a security operative.

Our investigators checked the signing-in book at the bar, which revealed that Dewey had also previously worked illegally at the venue on 15 and 16 October 2021. The owner of the venue confirmed to our investigators that Maxim Security Ltd was its security supplier.

Mark Chapman, one of our Criminal Investigation Managers said:

"The primary purpose of the SIA's licensing regime is to keep people safe. In the run-up to the festive season when bars and clubs are busier, venues and patrons should be assured that the security staff deployed to protect them are fit and proper, fully trained and SIA licensed. Mr Dewey had previously applied for a licence but as a result of earlier criminality was deemed unsuitable to hold an SIA licence. He now has a further criminal conviction and costs to pay."

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

Woman sentenced for terrorism offences

A woman from Oxford has been sentenced to four and a half years imprisonment for two counts of dissemination of a terrorist publication, contrary to Section 2 of the Terrorism Act 2006.

Roma Iqbal will then serve a year on extended license. She was also given five-year Serious Crime Prevention Order and will be subject to a notification order for a period of 15 years.

Iqbal shared publications online that has Islamist extremist content on 10 December 2021 and was arrested on 20 December 2021. The 23-year-old was charged in February 2023. Detective chief superintendent Olly Wright, head of Counter Terrorism Policing South East (CTPSE), said: "Iqbal will now spend time in prison as a result of sharing extremist publications online." <https://counterterrorbusiness.com>



Man convicted of attempted murder after Cheltenham attack



GCHQ Building at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

A man has pleaded guilty to attempting to murder a woman outside a leisure centre in March this year. Joshua Bowles pleaded guilty to one count of attempted murder and one count of assault occasioning actual bodily harm, following an investigation by officers from Counter Terrorism Policing South East (CTPSE).

At the time of the attack in March, officers from Gloucestershire Constabulary responded and handled the initial investigation. However, due to the wider circumstances surrounding the incident, the investigation was then passed to the counter terrorism policing network. CTPSE then took the lead, working alongside officers from Counter Terrorism Policing South West and Gloucestershire Constabulary. The victim was a US national, who works for the US government. She was working at GCHQ, at the time of the attack and the defendant cited this as a motive for his attack.

Bowles had previously worked at GCHQ but was not working there at the time of the attack. He is due to be sentenced at a future hearing.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com>

Sham security courses prompt gig safety concerns

Security guards - who safeguard public events - are fraudulently obtaining work licences after attending sham training courses, the BBC has found.

An undercover reporter from File on 4 paid extra to complete a mandatory six-day course in a day and a half - missing crucial first-aid training.

On one course he was told to fill in timesheets for all six days and given answers to multiple-choice questions. The industry regulator said the evidence suggested criminality.

The Security Industry Authority (SIA) also said it was now working with the organisations which oversee these training companies to further investigate the BBC material. It said it would be referring the matter to the police.

The findings come eight years after another BBC investigation revealed security guards could be fraudulently buying qualifications for cash.

This time, File on 4 approached 12 companies offering Level 2 SIA door supervisor courses for between £200-£300. Many advertise near-100% pass rates and use phrases such as "no pass, no fee".

Four of the firms offered the undercover journalist shortened courses - which is against regulations - ranging from one-and-a-half to three days.

Completion of the six-day training course lets people apply for an SIA licence - the blue cards seen on security staff armbands - subject to identity and criminal record checks. <https://www.bbc.co.uk>

UK sanctions Russian cybercrime gang members



The UK has announced sanctions for members of a Russian cyber-criminal gang who were responsible for the Trickbot/Conti ransomware attacks. The attacks targeted critical infrastructure and hospitals during the pandemic. 11 people have been targeted with asset freezes and travel bans in a coordinated effort by UK and US authorities. After investigation, the National Crime Agency (NCA) found that the group was responsible for extorting at least \$180

million from victims globally, and at least £27 million from 149 UK victims.

Foreign secretary James Cleverly said: "These cyber criminals thrive off anonymity, moving in the shadows of the internet to cause maximum damage and extort money from their victims."

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com>

Couple duck for cover after being shot at with 'powerful air weapon'

A couple were forced to dive for safety after being shot at with a "powerful air weapon" in a small English town. The incident took place in Tidworth, near Salisbury in Wiltshire - a few hundred metres away from a police station. The couple, who are in their 20s, escaped unscathed.

Police arrested a teenage boy and three men in connection with the attack, as well as for drug offences. The suspects have since been released on bail as officers continue to investigate the attack. Officers have seized the air weapon. <https://www.lbc.co.uk>

Schoolgirl stabbed to death with 'machete'



A schoolgirl was stabbed to death in Croydon after intervening when a fight broke out between her friend and her friend's ex. The 15-year-old is believed to have been cut in the neck after an argument between her friend and her friend's ex-boyfriend on the bus turned violent. The girl, named locally as Eliyanna, is reported to have been stabbed during that melee as the No60 double decker travelled past the Whitgift Centre. A 17-year-old boy thought to have been known to the victim was arrested in New Addington in south London and is in custody. <https://www.lbc.co.uk>

Fraudsters steal £700,000 from Royal Mint



Police have been hauled in after fraudsters stole £700,000 from the Royal Mint. Chiefs were alerted to the mysterious online heist after a series of suspicious transactions from their website - which sells a range of previous jewellery and metals. The Mint also sells rare coins and collectors' items, and blocks of gold.

The highest value item currently available for sale is a limited edition set of one hundred 1oz gold bullion coins, depicting Queen Elizabeth II on one side and Britannia on the other, which retails at £163,244.55.

An internal probe has also been launched to find out how the transactions - which were understood to be of multiple small sums - went undetected last year. <https://www.lbc.co.uk>

Halfords worker 'gets blamed' after suffering stroke following 'appalling' attack by shoplifters

A Halfords manager who was left unable to work following a stroke after being kicked in the head by two shoplifters has been 'blamed' for his injuries by the firm's lawyers. Marty Scott, 57, was left unable to work after being kicked in the head and chest by two thugs at the shop in Stockton, County Durham, with lawyers adding he placed "himself and potentially others at risk".

The family of Mr Scott, who has worked at Halfords for nearly 40 years, now claim he's been let down by both the store and Crown Prosecution Service after the case against the shoplifters was dropped - despite being caught on CCTV.

Initially offered just £16,000 in compensation after sustaining life-changing injuries, Mr Scott turned down the offer, alongside a subsequent offer of £20,000. But bosses are still allegedly blaming him for the injuries, adding that the action Mr Scott took in 2021 went "against store policy".

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

Brazen thieves steal parcels from DPD van in east London



Two brazen thieves jumped out of their car and stole a series of parcels from a stationary DPD van. The footage, which was taken this week in Dagenham, east London, shows two men quickly bundle parcels out of the DPD van and into their own car.

The men, whose faces were covered by masks, ignore pleas from members of the public to stop stealing the items. They carry on anyway, ignoring desperate pleas from one, and appear to take at least nine items while the video was recording.

DPD's driver, who was wearing a hi-vis jacket, watched on helplessly as Londoners' items were stolen from the van. The men then hurry into their grey Mini Cooper sport and speed away from the DPD van.

With the footage shared on social media, some users believe they may have been targeting brand new iPhone 15s. <https://www.lbc.co.uk>

Businessman Jonathan Nuttall jailed for eight years

A businessman suspected of being involved in an international money laundering ring who targeted two lawyers for Britain's FBI by orchestrating a bomb plot against them has been jailed for eight years and two months.

Jonathan Nuttall, 50, was convicted of conspiring with his driver, Michael Sode, and an ex-marine, Michael Broddle, to plant two devices in London's legal district. A four-month trial at the Old Bailey heard that Nuttall had been pursued by the National Crime Agency (NCA) over the seizure of assets worth £1.4 million.

He hatched a plot to target the NCA's lawyers, Andrew Sutcliffe KC and Anne Jeavons, after becoming upset at the prospect of losing his stately home, Embley Manor in Romsey, Hampshire. <https://www.lbc.co.uk>

Organised gangs shoplifting stores on Tube stops



John Lewis's head of security Lucy Brown has warned the groups target stores on Tube routes and the road network, allowing them to get around easier as they rampage shop to shop, threatening workers with violence.

Previously, the store has described shoplifting as an "epidemic".

Brown, who is the partnership's director of security for John Lewis and Waitrose, said: "Some shops are targeted every day, others several times a day. And we're fortunate because we're not the worst hit.

"We've seen a real increase post-Covid. We don't believe it's linked to the cost of living. You have people living chaotic lives with substance abuse who are stealing to fund their habits. "Another major problem - which is new - are organised criminal gangs. They spend as much time shoplifting as we do on our normal jobs. They will target Tube routes, road networks and steal to order.

"There have been gangs operating across North London going from shop to shop and threatening teams with violence." <https://www.lbc.co.uk>

Independent shops in Liverpool forced to create their own security network

A small business owner in Liverpool told LBC that independent shops in the city centre have taken to creating their own security WhatsApp group, warning each other of shoplifters in the area.

Bold Street is one of Liverpool's busiest and most popular streets. It's home to many independent businesses, bars, restaurants, and shops selling an array of items. But one business owner says shop theft has gone up by at least 25% this year alone and claims to have lost hundreds of pounds in the last few weeks alone through shoplifting.

Matta's International Food is a family-run business, which has had a home on Bold Street for four decades. Its owner, Dalip Matta, says the vast majority of small businesses can't afford dedicated security staff, so they've created a WhatsApp group to help each other. <https://www.lbc.co.uk>

Supermarket staff threatened with hypodermic needles



High street shop workers are being attacked by shoplifters armed with needles, knives and screwdrivers as the boss of Iceland warned the crime is becoming almost "unpunishable". He told LBC's Nick Ferrari at Breakfast that raiders are organising themselves into shoplifting gangs as the crime becoming increasingly organised and deadly.

"This is no longer about the petty theft - this is about serious violence against our store colleagues by shoplifters which sadly is becoming more and more of an occurrence," Walker said.

"Weapons deployed to reinforce these threats are things like knives, screwdrivers, hammers, hypodermic needles. "No-one should have to go through this."

Every shop on the high street is suffering in what John Lewis's chairwoman Sharon White has described as an "epidemic". The British Retail Consortium (BRC) also said violence and abuse against staff has risen from 450 incidents a day in 2019/20 to more than 850 last year. <https://www.lbc.co.uk>

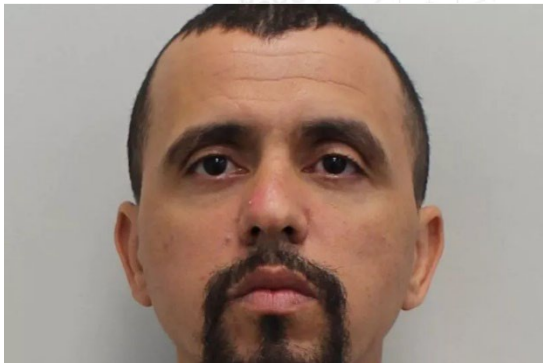
Experts fear Fentanyl slipping into drugs

At least 70 versions of the synthetic opioid, Fentanyl, have now been detected in the UK, a former Government drug advisor has told LBC.

Professor David Nutt says the substance, which has played a part in the deaths of tens of thousands of Americans, is here and "not going anywhere". Highly addictive and at least 50 times more potent than heroin, Fentanyl has fuelled one of America's worst ever drug crises in recent years. In 2021 alone, more than 70,000 people died there after taking the synthetic opioid.

"Fentanyl is a chemical series which goes from Fentanyl, which is about 50 times more potent than heroin- to Carfentanyl which is about 5,000 times more potent," Professor Nutt told LBC. <https://www.lbc.co.uk>

Man, 35, jailed after pushing baby out of pram to steal £80,000 designer watch



A 35-year-old man has been jailed after pushing a baby out of a pram to steal an £80,000 designer watch. Amine Benchoula, 35, was sentenced at Southwark Crown Court to four years in prison for robbery and assaulting a baby.

The crime happened on Saturday 24 June when the victim, his wife, their baby and his brother were walking on St James' Square towards their vehicle. The victim was preparing to put his baby into the

vehicle when Benchoula ran up behind him, grabbed his wrist and yanked off his £80,000 Patek Philippe watch.

During the ordeal, Benchoula knocked the baby out of the pram onto the pavement and ran away from the scene with the stolen watch, heading towards Waterloo Place and Pall Mall. <https://www.lbc.co.uk>

Man, 25, arrested at Royal Mews next to Buckingham Palace



The Metropolitan Police was told a man has scaled the wall and entered the Mews, a compound just next to the palace. Officers searched the area and detained a 25-year-old man outside the stables. The man was arrested for trespassing on a protected site.

The King was not at Buckingham Palace, having instead been holidaying at Balmoral in Scotland. The Mews is used to provide road transport for the royals,

holding both cars and horses.

It also looks after the state carriages and cars used by the King and the royal family during important occasions, like the State Opening of Parliament. <https://www.lbc.co.uk>

Machine gun conspirators jailed

Two criminals who plotted together on an encrypted communications platform over a sub machine gun and drugs deals have been jailed after a National Crime Agency investigation. Waheed Zaman, 43, and Aweis Bashir, 27, used EncroChat to arrange deals for a Czech manufactured Skorpon machine pistol and Class A drugs.

The firearm was not recovered and both offenders ditched their Encro phones before being arrested but a wealth of evidence proved they were the men behind their anonymising 'handles' on EncroChat. Zaman was jailed to a total of 22 years in jail and Bashir to a total of 16.

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk>

NCA make further arrests in connection with £6.8m cocaine seizure



National Crime Agency officers investigating the seizure of cocaine worth £6.8 million in Liverpool have made two further arrests in Northern Ireland.

A 65-year-old man and a 46-year-old man, both from Portadown, were arrested on 28 September on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of cocaine.

NCA officers made the arrests following the discovery of 136 kilos of cocaine which was hidden in the doors of a lorry trailer.

The lorry, registered to a Northern Irish haulage company, had been stopped in Liverpool on Friday (22 September). The driver, 37-year-old Edgaras Slusnys, was charged with possession with intent to supply and will appear at Liverpool Crown Court on 23 October. Both men arrested have been bailed pending further enquiries.

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk>



Security industry news

Physical Security Incidents Cost Companies USD\$1 Trillion in 2022

According to the inaugural World Security Report, a combined revenue loss of \$1 trillion was experienced by large, global corporations in 2022 due to physical security incidents. The report highlights that economic instability is projected to be the most significant security-related concern over the next 12 months, representing a substantial increase from the previous year.

The study also reveals that companies are anticipating a surge in threats and risks, including social unrest, climate change, fraud, and theft. Consequently, it is expected that budgets allocated for physical security will see substantial growth to safeguard people, assets, and properties. Security leaders are planning to channel investments towards advanced technology and enhancing the skills and training of security professionals.

In the upcoming year, fraud, defined as deceptive actions aimed at gaining an advantage, is anticipated to be the most substantial external threat, while the leakage of sensitive information is predicted to pose the most significant internal threat. The report also highlights a projected increase in risks associated with hackers, protestors, spies, and economic criminals.

The World Security Report, commissioned by Allied Universal and its international affiliate, G4S, compiles insights from 1,775 Chief Security Officers (CSOs) or equivalent positions across 30 countries. These CSOs represent large, global companies with a collective annual revenue exceeding \$20 trillion, accounting for a quarter of the world's gross domestic product. Participation in the survey was voluntary and anonymous. <https://www.infologue.com>

Public safety a key focus at the SIA National Conference 2023

The SIA National Conference was held last 21 September 2023 at Novotel London West. We marked 20 years since it was established under the Private Security Industry Act 2001. The theme was focused on '20 years of the Private Security Industry Act: building, learning, and adapting to new challenges in supporting public safety'.

The all-day event provided an opportunity for stakeholders, representatives from our partner organisations, security companies, security operatives and SIA to review and discuss progress on matters concerning public safety and the regulation of private security industry in the UK.

Some of the key themes of the conference included: raising standards of professionalism and training; protecting the public from risks such as terrorism; equality, diversity and inclusion in the industry.

The benefits of working in collaboration to raise standards in public protection remained high on the agenda of the conference. Compered by Security Circle Podcast host Yolanda Hamblen who introduced the conference speakers to an audience of around 200 delegates from across the UK.

Our plenary presentations focused on how the industry can share its views on proposals for a new Business Approval Scheme – which will replace the existing ACS first launched in 2006 – and how public protection is everyone's business. Paul Fullwood, our Director of Inspections and Enforcement, shared how we will make better use of data and technology to be more proactive and visible across the UK.

In the penultimate plenary, our Chief Executive Michelle Russell was joined by Debbie Bartlett, Deputy Director Protect and Prepare at the Home Office and Heather Arrowsmith-Tosley, Head of Capability Development for the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) to discuss the Protect Duty (Martyn's Law). The industry was encouraged to embrace the Duty when it becomes law and take advantage of free ACT (Action Counters Terrorism) e-learning from Protect.UK. Information was also shared on the early development of a qualification in assessing counter-terrorism risks and how the Competent Persons Scheme will work alongside the Duty.

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

Professional security operative apprenticeship announced



The Private Security Industry Trailblazer Group recently announced the approval of a government-funded level 2 Professional Security Operative Apprenticeship.

The new apprenticeship has been approved by government as a route for those wanting to join the private security industry, and for those already in employment who wish to progress.

This achievement represents three years of hard work by employers and stakeholders across industry, supported by us. The apprenticeship will

provide funded opportunities for professional training in core security skills, and allow employees to choose a specialism:

- Operational Security Operative
- Cash and Valuables in Transit
- Mobile Security Patrol
- Security Control Room Operative

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

Events guidance for suppliers of security

As part of the SIA drive to support public safety at festivals and events, we republished guidance last year to ensure that people providing security services at events are compliant with the law.

Throughout this summer we will also be issuing further information and guidance to support security operatives as they carry out their duties at these events.
<https://homeoffice.us15.listmanage.com/track/click?u=4f02ccc5fcb79e244e219a709&id=56c0db0b3e&e=cbad6a9159>

SIA Last month in numbers

In August the SIA recorded the following statistics:

- Number of applications received: 16,640
- Number of paid applications received: 14,891
- Average time it took us to make a decision to grant or refuse an application: 8.23 working days
- Number of applications granted: 15,683
- Number of applications refused: 274
- Number of licences revoked: 183
- Number of licences suspended: 90

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

New Good Friday Agreement learning materials for English language students



The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has launched new Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement teaching materials for English language students around the world. The new teaching resource has been developed to mark the Agreement's 25th anniversary.

The resource is named "25 Years On: Marking the 25th Anniversary of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement" and was launched in Colombia on Friday.

Secretary of state for Northern Ireland Chris Heaton-Harris stated: "It's marvellous that language students around the world will learn English while also studying the history of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement.

"The Agreement is a globally respected example of conflict resolution which represents a great landmark achievement in the history of Northern Ireland, the wider United Kingdom, and Ireland.

"It's absolutely right that this teaching resource marks the Agreement around the globe in its 25th anniversary year."

Jonathan Stewart, director of British Council Northern Ireland said: "I am delighted to announce the launch of our new Teaching English resource in partnership with the Northern Ireland Office.

"This milestone resource commemorates the historic Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement in its 25th year and encourages English language learners to find out more about the Agreement through lessons which teach the language of negotiation and compromise in conflict resolution.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com>

Funding announced for cyber security in Scotland



The Scottish Government has announced £500,000 of funding for communities to tackle the growing risks posed by online crime.

Organisations such as Scottish Union Learning and Community Enterprise, will be able to use the money to provide workshops aimed at tackling scams and internet safety, deliver training to upskill under-represented groups into careers within cyber security and provide digital advice in

different languages.

The projects will be targeted at specific groups, including disabled people and those with specific learning needs, minority ethnic groups, people living in areas of social deprivation or in rural or remote communities and those for whom English is not their first language.

The funding is part of £1.16 million invested by the Scottish Government in 2023-24 to improve preparedness to withstand, defend against, manage, and recover quickly from cyber incidents.

There were an estimated 14,890 cyber-crimes recorded by Police Scotland in 2022-23, which is almost twice the level in 2019-20 (7,710).

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com>

SIA staff take door training

In an exercise to provide staff at the regulator the Security Industry Authority (SIA) with a practical understanding of the training that door supervisors (DS) receive as part of their initial (or top-up) training, in March and June the SIA's decisions team go through part of the same training that door staff receive so as to apply for a licence.

The Authority's decisions teams already receive training for their role. This is because making decisions on whether individuals SIA licences are suspended, revoked or measures implemented is often a complex task and ultimately has an impact on a person's eligibility to work in private security. The staff completed Unit 3 (covering conflict management) and Unit 4 (physical intervention) over a three-day period of training and assessment.

The training involved not only the theory elements of the two units, but also the practical elements and assessments. Those taking part were filmed and assessed managing verbally aggressive customers, defending themselves from simulated attacks and carrying out low level physical intervention manoeuvres. <https://professionalsecurity.co.uk>

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.

The NCSC announces Ollie Whitehouse as new CTO

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) – a part of GCHQ – has today announced that Ollie Whitehouse will become its new Chief Technology Officer (CTO).

Ollie will play an instrumental role in shaping and delivering the UK's national approach to cyber security, working to combat the cyber threats we face today at scale, and building our collective resilience to help keep the UK safe online.

He will help maintain the NCSC's role as the National Technical Authority for cyber security and be influential in tackling the challenges of tomorrow, from diversifying the pipeline of expert talent to anticipating technological capabilities, to ensure the NCSC remains at the forefront of digital developments.

Experts reveal latest insights into world of cyber criminals

Joint white paper from the NCSC and NCA details how organised criminal groups have evolved as ransomware and extortion attacks have grown.

- New report examines how cyber criminals have developed their business model to maximise profits
- GCHQ's National Cyber Security Centre and the National Crime Agency signal rise in extortion attacks and shift towards 'ransomware as a service' model since 2017
- Joint report reveals how devastating ransomware attacks rely upon a complex 'cyber crime ecosystem'

Cyber criminals are increasingly professionalising their ransomware and extortion attack operations in a bid to gain efficiencies and maximise profits, a new report has revealed today (Monday).

The report, Ransomware, extortion, and the cyber crime ecosystem, has been published by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) – a part of GCHQ – in partnership with the National Crime Agency (NCA) and it outlines how the tactics of organised criminal groups (OCGs) have evolved since 2017. The report can be found using the following link:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/whitepaper/ransomware-extortion-and-the-cyber-crime-ecosystem>



Demonstrations / protests

UK protests planned amid 'epidemic' of dangerous driving

People are holding coordinated protests across UK towns and cities this weekend against what they call a "climate of fear" on the roads, and an "epidemic" of careless and dangerous driving that is curbing children's freedoms and putting lives at risk.

The protests come amid reports that Rishi Sunak will announce a so-called "plan for motorists" at the Conservative party conference on Monday, which will limit the number of 20mph speed restrictions and favour drivers over bus passengers.

"Parents say they do not feel their children are safe walking and playing in their neighbourhoods," says Sarah Chaundler, who lives in Birmingham with three teenage children. "There are a lot of people who are angry about this and the impact it's having on our lives."

The Safe Streets Now network began life in Birmingham with protests over the summer against speeding and red light-jumping drivers after a string of fatal hit-and-runs. A growing number of groups across the UK are calling for action in their areas, with protests planned on 30 September in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Leicester, Bristol, Oxford, Cardiff, Norwich, Havering and Bedford, and more potentially joining.

West Midlands police have already launched Operation Triton, ramping up efforts to tackle dangerous driving after protests in Birmingham, but residents say more is needed. Protesters are calling for action on dangerous and antisocial driving; safe spaces for children to play, walk and cycle; and "justice for victims of road violence, with perpetrators having their [driving] licences revoked".

<https://www.theguardian.com>

Train strikes could continue into Christmas, as fresh disruption begins

The leader of the train drivers' union has not ruled out strike action continuing into the Christmas period.

Aslef's Mick Whelan told the BBC he did not believe the government or industry wanted a resolution.

A fresh wave of industrial action begins on Friday in Aslef's long-running pay dispute, including strikes and an overtime ban.

The Rail Delivery Group, which represents the train companies, said its offer remained on the table. <https://www.bbc.co.uk>

Peckham shopkeeper goes into hiding amid protests



A Peckham shopkeeper has gone into hiding as he pleads with protesters to calm down after he was filmed grappling with a woman at his store.

Sohail Sindho said he was not with his wife and had taken his three sons out of school because of the furious reaction at the video.

The 45-year-old has insisted he was trying to restrain her as she hit him with her shopping basket and was not attempting to choke her.

Footage shows him grapple with the customer, a black woman, as she tries to free herself from his grip. It sparked a huge protest outside his shop in south London, Peckham Hair and Cosmetics, as he was accused of racism. Now, Sindho says he has received threats from as far away as the US.

He told the Mail: "If it wasn't for my wife and three children I would walk right to the shop and out to the street and talk to the people, because I am very sorry about what happened.

"I want them to know that I was only trying to restrain her. I didn't mean to put my hands around her throat, and it was only for a few seconds.

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

Now Ulez 'blade runners' start targeting camera vans

Anti-Ulez "blade runners" have begun slashing tyres and vandalising "spy" vans used to detect if cars meet London's emissions standards.

Activists opposed to Sadiq Khan's flagship policy - which has now expanded to cover the entire capital - have begun attacking the vehicles after launching hundreds of attacks on the cameras.

The vans are equipped with ANPR cameras which scan the number plates of passing vehicles to ensure if they are compliant with Ulez. If not, the driver is billed £12.50 a day.

Pictures have now emerged on social media of camera vans having had their tyres slashed, windscreen smashed, and graffiti daubed over it - one with the slogan "no Ulez".

The vans do not directly say they are enforcing Ulez but have Transport for London markings and say they are carrying ANPR cameras.

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