



UK Threat Level: **SUBSTANTIAL**

SECURITY INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2023



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About Us

Sentinel Group Security (SGS) was formed in July 2005 and became a fast-growing security services provider within United Kingdom and Ireland. We first partnered with our customers to provide specialised and effective security solutions including open-source intelligence reporting, security vulnerability assessments and training. Our capability is defined by our employees and the high level of skills and experience they possess and the procedures they adopt.

Intelligence led security

With a 360° approach to threat detection and intelligence service provision. Outside of dealing with major incidents, the SGS National Operations Centre proactively assesses the various security threats that your business, people, assets, and brand might face by monitoring social and conventional media to identify:

- On-going threats
- Specific industry threats
- Future trends
- Best practice



Disclaimer

In compiling this report SGS has relied on the veracity of public information available at the time of publication. SGS accepts no legal, equitable or other liability whatsoever for any actual or consequent loss incurred by the client in relation to this report or for the accuracy of any statement herein.

United Kingdom's National Security Threat



Introduction

The main threats to national security are terrorism, espionage, cyber threats and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, many of which impact on the UK's national infrastructure.

National infrastructure sectors represent core strategic interests for foreign intelligence services, whose targeting against the sectors is likely to include espionage for economic, political, military, or commercial gain.

While the threat from terrorism to the UK as a whole is high, and historically both international and Northern Ireland terrorist groups have targeted UK infrastructure, the current terrorist threat to the national infrastructure can be characterised as generally limited and often aspirational.

The exception is transport which continues to face enduringly high levels of threat from international terrorism. In addition, the emergency services and defence sectors, specifically police and military personnel, also face a high level of threat from both international terrorism and dissident republic groups in Northern Ireland, for whom they are

a priority target for attack.

Generally higher levels of effective and visible protective security at national infrastructure sites are likely to act as a deterrent to terrorists, who increasingly favour 'soft' targets which allow them to achieve their aims with greater chance of success. Nevertheless, with the continual diversification of the threat, the ambition and capability of terrorist groups to target UK infrastructure is likely to continue to evolve. <https://www.cpni.gov.uk/national-security-threats>

United Kingdom's Threat Definitions



International terrorism

International terrorism from groups such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al Qaida present a threat from many others. They hold territory in places without functioning governments, making it easier for them to train recruits and plan complex, sophisticated attacks. Drawing on extreme interpretations of Islam to justify their actions, these groups often have the desire and capability to direct terrorist attacks against the West, and to inspire those already living there to carry out attacks of their own.

Northern Ireland-related terrorism

Northern Ireland-related terrorism continues to pose a serious threat to British interests. Although the Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA) has ceased its terrorist campaign and is now committed to the political process, some dissident republican groups continue to mount terrorist attacks, primarily against the security forces.

Domestic extremism

Domestic extremism mainly refers to individuals or groups that carry out criminal acts in pursuit of a larger agenda, such as "right-wing extremists". They may seek to change legislation or influence domestic policy and try to achieve this outside of the normal democratic process.

<https://www.mi5.gov.uk/counter-terrorism>

Cyber

“Cyberspace” is the term used to describe the electronic medium of digital networks used to store, modify, and communicate information. It includes the Internet but also other information systems that support businesses, infrastructure, and services.



Cyberspace lies at the heart of modern society; it impacts our personal lives, our businesses and our essential services. A secure online environment is essential to HM Government, which is providing an ever-increasing number of online services to UK citizens and businesses as part of a major digital services transformation programme. The ability to conduct online transactions securely is central to the delivery of public and commercial services and communications. However, some individuals and groups use cyberspace for malicious purposes. We call these people 'hostile actors' and they exploit cyberspace to conduct espionage operations or launch damaging computer network attacks.

Cyber security affects both the public and the private sector and spans a broad range of issues related to national security, whether through terrorism, crime or state and industrial espionage.

<https://www.cpni.gov.uk/cyber>

Espionage

The potential impact of successful State-sponsored espionage against the UK is both wide reaching and significant. The threat of espionage (spying) did not end with the collapse of Soviet communism in the early 1990s. Espionage against UK interests continues and is potentially very damaging. Several foreign intelligence services (FIS) seek to gather intelligence on a broad range of subjects, including foreign policy, defence, financial, technological, industrial and commercial interests.

<https://www.cpni.gov.uk/espionage>

Serious and Organised Crime



Serious and organised crime is defined in the 2018 Serious and Organised Crime Strategy as individuals planning, coordinating, and committing serious offences, whether individually, in groups and/or as part of transnational networks.

The main categories of serious offences covered by the term are:

- child sexual abuse
- modern slavery and human trafficking
- organised immigration crime
- illegal drugs
- illegal firearms
- organised acquisitive crime
- cybercrime
- fraud
- money laundering, bribery, corruption and sanctions evasion.

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

United Kingdom Current Threat Levels

Introduction

Members of the public should always remain alert to the danger of terrorism and **report any suspicious activity to the police on 999** or the anti-terrorist hotline: **0800 789 321**. If your information does not relate to an imminent threat, you can also contact them at <https://www.mi5.gov.uk/contact-us>

What the threat levels mean

Threat levels are designed to give a broad indication of the likelihood of a terrorist attack.

LOW

- Means an attack is unlikely

MODERATE

- Means an attack is possible, but not likely

SUBSTANTIAL

- Means an attack is likely

SEVERE

- Means an attack is highly likely in the near future

CRITICAL

- Means an attack is highly likely in the near future

Current national terrorism threat levels

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

The threat to Northern Ireland from Northern Ireland-related terrorism is **SEVERE**.



Open-Source Security Incident News

Tesco staff offered body cameras over crime fears

Staff at Tesco stores are to be offered body cameras amid a rise in violent attacks, the supermarket's chief executive has said. The company has seen physical assaults increase by a third since last year. It mirrors findings by the British Retail Consortium (BRC) published earlier this year, which found abuse against retail staff had almost doubled compared to pre-Covid levels. Similar action has already been taken by Sainsbury's, Waitrose and Co-op.

In the BRC's Crime Survey published in March, it recorded more than 850 daily incidents in 2021/22, a steep rise from pre-Covid level of 450 a day in 2019/20.

These incidents included racial and sexual abuse, something it said was having a "huge emotional and physical impact on people". The trade association, which represents more than 200 retailers in the UK, said the cost of retail crime was £1.76bn in 2021/22, with £953m lost to customer theft, and £715m spent on prevention.

"The pandemic has normalised appalling levels of violent and abusive behaviour against retail workers," said Helen Dickinson, the group's chief executive.

In July, food retailer Co-op warned that some communities could become "no-go" areas for the company due to the rising levels of crime, which it said had increased by more than a third in the past year. <https://www.bbc-co-uk>

PSNI data breach: Two men arrested under Terrorism Act

Two men have been arrested under the Terrorism Act by officers investigating the breach of data from the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

The suspects are aged 21 and 22 and were held following a "search in the Portadown area on Saturday", the PSNI said on X, formerly known as Twitter. They have since been released on bail to allow for further enquiries. The force added: "The arrests are part of our investigation into criminality linked to the freedom of information data breach." <https://news.sky.com/>

Woman ends up in court after fly-tipper set fire to her two sofas



A woman who handed over a load of household rubbish to a man who dumped and burned it faces a hefty bill from the courts. Samantha Graham, 35, was prosecuted after she paid a man £30 to take her unwanted goods. The waste was fly tipped, set alight and ended up in a charred mess on grassland, Teesside Magistrates' Court heard.

A dump of two sofas, a shopping trolley, carpet and other items was reported to Middlesbrough Council. CCTV footage showed the unnamed man taking two sofas from the home on Enderby Gardens, Hemlington, Middlesbrough.

He put them over a fence on to a footpath, with a bed base or mattress and several trolley loads of waste, said Megan Worrall, prosecuting for the council on Tuesday (August 29). A scorched area with the remnants of a wooden frame and mattress springs was found near Enderby Gardens and Cass House Road. Graham admitted she paid £30 for a man to do some work for her but she did not have information about who he was. She did not provide a statement or pay a fixed penalty, which would have cost her £180 if paid in 10 days. <https://www.gazettelive-co-uk>

Knife thugs armed with huge machetes brawl in street in front of crowds of revellers at Notting Hill carnival



With the final day 'marred by violence' as eight are stabbed and police officer is sexually assaulted. Shocking photographs show Notting Hill Carnival revellers armed with huge machetes in the street in front of crowds of people in broad daylight.

One image shows a young man appearing to approach a group of men while waving a large weapon in the air, as many stand back and watch.

Separate video footage also emerged today of a gang of youths, one holding a suspected machete, running down a west London Street dressed in black and wearing balaclavas amid a violent end to the annual festival.

The Metropolitan Police says it made 308 arrests across Sunday and Monday, as eight people were stabbed on Monday in just a matter of hours, including a 29-year-old man who was taken to hospital in a 'critical' condition. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk>

Shrewsbury night club manager prosecuted

A Shrewsbury man was prosecuted at Doncaster Magistrates' Court on 28 June 2023 for managing illegal security at a Shrewsbury night club between 10 July 2021 and 04 November 2021.

The court sentenced Kenneth Bailey to a £120 fine, ordered him to pay £500 prosecution costs and a £34 victim surcharge. We brought the prosecution following an inspection and enforcement operation in partnership with West Mercia Police on 22 October 2021. During the operation we carried out checks of venues across Shrewsbury, Telford and Wolverhampton.

SIA investigators inspected Shrewsbury's Buttermarket night club and found a man named Stephen Dion working without an SIA licence. During the investigation they discovered that he had worked without a licence on 14 occasions over a three-month period. The investigation identified that Kenneth Bailey was his manager and an SIA licence holder, and he performed the role of head doorman at the Buttermarket. <https://sia.gov.uk/>

Worcester man prosecuted for working illegally



On Friday 11 August 2023, Vikramjit Sharma from Worcester was prosecuted (in his absence) at Worcester Magistrates' Court. He was caught working illegally during a routine inspection by our regional investigators and West Mercia Police.

Sharma was sentenced to a £250 fine, required to pay a victim surcharge of £100 and the court ordered him to pay the full £1,663.80 prosecution costs and a collection order was imposed. Sharma now has a criminal record.

The case began when West Mercia Police joined our investigators to carry out a routine inspection of Worcester's nighttime economy on 04 November 2022.

The investigators approached a well-known pub chain where two men were working as door supervisors. Sharma was one of them and he was displaying his SIA licence which had been revoked by the SIA on 05 September 2022 as Sharma had no longer any right to work in the UK.

<https://sia.gov.uk/>

A suspected gun and ammunition have been seized by police.

Merseyside Police found the firearm after an open land search in Mossley Hill, on Tuesday, August 29. The gun, which was found on Elmswood Road, has been forensically recovered and will now be tested to confirm if it's a viable firearm.

Detectives have now opened a full investigation, which includes CCTV and forensic enquiries in the local area. Detective Sergeant Astbury said: "Every weapon we seize makes our

communities safer and this gun was stored with ammunition, which could have been used to cause serious harm. <https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/>

More than 20,000 migrants have already crossed the Channel in small boats this year



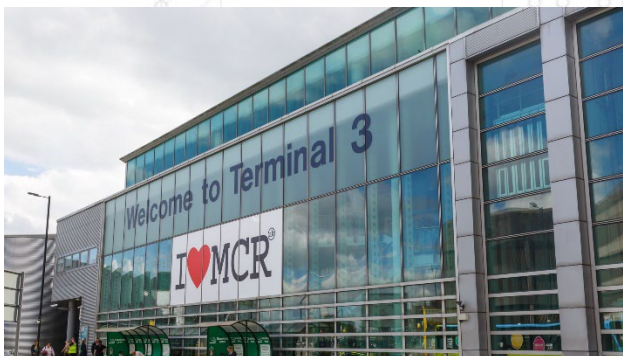
An average of around 60 people per boat. It means the provisional total for 2023 to date is 20,101, according to Home Office data. The figures show a drop compared to last year, when more than 25,000 people had already made the journey. Pictures of some of the arrivals showed a dinghy packed with men and boys, some without lifejackets, perched on the sides while their legs dangled in the water. It comes just seven months after Rishi

Sunak made 'stop the boats' one of his top priorities as Prime Minister.

Mr Sunak said he wants people to "have confidence" in his plan to curb Channel crossings, with the decrease in migrants making the journey showing his plan to "stop the boats" was "working".

But Labour's Shadow Immigration Minister Stephen Kinnock blasted the Tories for still allowing criminal smuggling gangs "to rule the roost on Britain's borders". <https://www.lbc.co.uk>

Manchester Airport: Sham parking firm boss jailed



A man who "lied to customers" with a sham airport car service in which up to 500 vehicles were left in a farmer's field or on nearby streets has been jailed for 17 months.

Mohammed Isaq, 62, of Hale Barns in Cheshire, charged up to £70 to meet travellers driving to Manchester Airport, collect their cars and park them in a secure compound, covered by floodlights and CCTV.

But owners later found their vehicles damaged, scratched and covered with mud, Manchester Crown Court heard.

The three parking firms Isaq was involved with, operated one after another as each was dissolved, were Manchester Airport Parking Ltd, Manchester Airport Parking Services and Manchester Meet and Greet Ltd - all offering services on websites.

The court heard the combined turnover was up to £200,000 but the extent of the fraudulent trading was between £30,000 and £100,000. <https://news.sky.com>

Man charged after '£300,000 worth of jewellery' stolen from Raheem Sterling's house



A man has been charged after £300,000 worth of jewellery and watches were reportedly stolen from Chelsea star Raheem Sterling's home. His property in Oxshott, Surrey, was targeted while he was on international duty at the World Cup with England in Qatar.

Sterling had to leave the national team camp and rush back to the UK to be with family after thieves broke in on December 3 last year. Emiliano Krosi, 23, of Ditton Court Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, has been charged with 33 offences of conspiracy to commit burglary. <https://metro.co.uk>

Birmingham student accused of terrorism wanted to 'debate against' views of Islamic State

A University of Birmingham PhD student accused of plotting to make a drone capable of delivering a bomb was "fascinated" by so-called Islamic State because he wanted to argue against the terror group's views, a court heard.

The second day of the trial of Mohamad Al-Bared, 26, heard he was not a supporter of Islamic State and his work on a drone was part of research into removing heat from electric motors. Prosecutors alleged at the trial, at Birmingham Crown Court, that the mechanical engineering graduate, from Coventry, intended to supply terrorists with a drone to carry a bomb or chemical weapon.

He has denied 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>

Police to get powers to seize and destroy machetes and zombie knives



The Home Office is banning more of the weapons and introducing a new offence for those found in possession - but Labour claims it is the "sixth time in seven years that the Conservatives have promised to outlaw zombie knives".

A new offence will also be introduced for possessing bladed articles "with the intention to endanger life or cause fear of violence".

The maximum sentence for the importation, manufacturing, possession and sale of the weapons will be two years, the Home Office announced.

The government said the measures, first proposed in April, will be legislated "when parliament allows" and after a public consultation has taken place.

The possession of so-called "zombie" knives, which the government defines as a blade with "a cutting edge, a serrated edge and images or words suggesting it is used for violence", was made illegal in 2016.

Under the new measures, the Home Office said the definition of a zombie knife would be expanded to include any bladed weapon more than eight inches long with a plain-cutting edge and sharp pointed end that also has either a serrated cutting edge, more than one hole in the blade or multiple sharp points like spikes.

The government hopes the changes will close a loophole which has allowed some dangerous weapons to be sold without breaking the law by removing certain banned features.
<https://news.sky.com>

Met Police warrant cards, hackers stole details

The force spent £467,587 on the cards and civilian passes, a Freedom of Information request revealed, after security breaches at police buildings.

Forgery of old-style police IDs by villains for use in robberies and to dupe people into paying Covid fines was also behind the move.

The disclosure comes after hackers stole details from the cards produced for the 47,000 cops and civilian staff in the London force.

Cyber crooks took the photo, name, rank, -vetting status, payroll number and security details from a microchip on the IDs. <https://www.thesun.co.uk>

Cars stolen from Premier League footballers found in shipping containers



The Ferrari and Range Rover Sport are among the 517 vehicles or parts, worth more than £16m, recovered by an Essex Police unit so far this year.

Stolen cars belonging to two Premier League footballers are among a haul of vehicles and parts worth more than £16 million that have been recovered by an Essex Police unit so far this year.

The Ferrari and Range Rover Sport belong to two players who have not been named, but have more than 100 international caps between them.

The vehicles were stolen in neighbouring counties but discovered in shipping containers due to be transported to Dubai from London Gateway Port in Thurrock, Essex Police's stolen vehicle intelligence unit (SVIU) said. In total, 517 vehicles or parts were recovered, with police saying thieves could have been hoping to be paid two or three times more than the UK value, once they sent were overseas. <https://www.standard.co.uk>

Police escort London theatre-goers from Grease The Musical over 'disturbance'

Police officers escorted a group of theatregoers from the Dominion Theatre in London following reports of a "disturbance". A video posted to Facebook showed spectators shouting "out" as police officers spoke to individual members of the audience, who were there to see Grease The Musical starring Jason Donovan. The Metropolitan Police said it was called to the theatre just over an hour into the show, which starts at 7.30pm every Monday to Saturday.

A police spokesperson said: "Shortly before 8.40pm on Saturday, August 26 police received reports of two men and two women causing a disturbance at a theatre in Tottenham Court Road, W1. "Officers attended and the group were escorted from the premises. No arrests. No injuries reported." <https://www.standard.co.uk>

Two people charged with murder of Andy Foster after 'doorstep ammonia attack'

Two men have been charged with the murder of Andy Foster, who died after an alleged ammonia attack on his doorstep in Gateshead.

In a statement issued late on Sunday Night, Northumbria Police said: "Two men have been charged with the murder of Gateshead man Andy Foster. Andy, 26, suffered life-threatening injuries following an assault in Wrekenton on August 20 at was taken to hospital. "Despite the best efforts of medical staff, he sadly passed away. An investigation was immediately launched into Andy's death. <https://www.chroniclelive.co.uk>

Man jailed for stealing 144 chocolate bars in brazen sweet heist caught on camera



Jordan Thomson was jailed for 22 weeks at Crawley Magistrates' Court after pleading guilty to the haul that would have put Willy Wonka to shame.

The 144 bars included well-loved brands which were stocked at the Co-op store in New Broadway, Worthing. In total, Thomson made away with 48 Twix bars, 48 Snickers bars, 24 Yorkies and even 24 of the divisive coconut chocolate bar Bounty.

The brazen shoplifter also took 10 jars of coffee, five packs of washing detergent, two bottles of vodka and meat from various other stores in the Worthing area. Shoplifting made headlines recently when gangs of youth descended on Oxford Street, London in a raid coordinated on TikTok.

Mayhem continued into the evening on Oxford Street earlier this month as flocks of youths have clashed with the police after a social media call for a "shoplifting rampage". <https://www.lbc.co.uk>

Every theft should be investigated, Braverman tells police,

The Home Secretary will issue police forces with new guidance to investigate all thefts in a new push to increase solution rates for low-level offenses. Suella Braverman told the Daily Telegraph that all thefts will be investigated if there is a "reasonable line of inquiry" after her Home Office struck a deal on advice to be issued across England and Wales by the College of Policing. it emerged that more than three-quarters of burglaries reported go unsolved, amounting to some 213,000 burglaries in 2022.

In June, the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) confirmed that police would now attend every burglary. The fall in investigations into these 'minor' crimes have been chalked up to austerity measures, as police have insisted they must focus on high-harm cases that impact the most vulnerable victims.

Chief constables have previously promised to investigate every crime reported with a "reasonable lead" in a bid to clamp down on "low-level" crimes. <https://www.lbc.co.uk>

Home Office considers plans to put electronic tags on asylum seekers



The Home Office is considering fitting asylum seekers arriving in the UK via unauthorised means with electronic tags, it has been reported. The officials are mulling it as a way to prevent migrants who cannot be housed in limited detention sites from absconding, according to The Times. The Illegal Migration Act places a legal duty on the government to detain and remove those arriving in the UK illegally, either to Rwanda or another "safe" third country. However, as spaces in Home Office accommodation are in short supply, officials have been tasked with a "deep dive" into alternatives, according to the newspaper.

While the preferred solution is to increase the number of detention places, electronic tagging has been mooted, as has cutting off financial allowances to someone who fails to report regularly to the Home Office, the Times cited a source from the department as saying.

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

Man fined almost £1,500 for flying drone over airport to get festival pictures

A man has been fined almost £1,500 for flying a drone over one of the country's busiest airports to get footage of a festival. Daniel Cesare flew the device in the prohibited airspace above East Midlands Airport to get footage of this year's Download Festival, held at neighbouring Donnington Park in Castle Donington, Leicestershire. <https://www.independent.co.uk>

Small boat traffickers jailed for Channel crossings

A gang of traffickers who organised people to be smuggled into the UK from France and Belgium have been jailed. Three men have been sentenced to a total of 13 years, while a fourth awaits sentencing.

Banet Tershana, Klodian Shenaj and Jetmir Myrtaj, who are Albanian, and British national Desmond Rice were responsible for a number of crossings in October 2022, the National Crime Agency found. The first incident involved a rigid hulled inflatable boat (RHIB), called Orca, which offloaded a number of migrants in Joss Bay, Kent, on October 8. The incident was spotted by a coastguard plane. <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk>

Man arrested after Telford Shopping Centre bomb threat



A man has been arrested after a shopping centre was evacuated when a serious threat about a bomb was made, police said. A cordon was placed around Telford Shopping Centre after an anonymous call was made, West Mercia Police said. The centre was searched and nothing suspicious was found. A 46-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of communicating false information and remains in custody.

Telford's hot air balloon fiesta was able to go ahead as planned after the cordon was lifted. People were thanked for their cooperation in the evacuation by Supt Edward Hancox. <https://www.bbc.co.uk>

Simon Cowell sells £15m London mansion amid fears over family safety

Simon Cowell has sold his £15million London mansion over fears for his family safety. The music mogul and Britain's Got Talent judge, 63, placed his West London home on the market in July. He lived at the mansion with his partner Lauren Silverman and their nine-year-old son Eric. However, after a number of break-ins at the Georgian property, Cowell has now sold the abode. <https://www.thesun.co.uk>

Nicola Sturgeon stripped of £600k VIP police security amid 'row' over spending

Nicola Sturgeon is being stripped of her £600,000-a-year VIP police security amid a behind-the-scenes "row" over the spending. Cop chiefs and the Scottish Government agreed to axe the 24/7 cover – still in place after she quit as First Minister in March. But a source said there had been "pushback", though not from Ms Sturgeon, following threats to her in recent years. The ex-First Minister's close protection detail was extended after she left office at the end of March amid fears she needed the security, sources revealed.

But after debate behind the scenes on the appropriate level of cover and justifiable costs to the public, insiders said Police Scotland and the Scottish Government are pulling the plug.

Former Chief Constable Sir Iain Livingstone, who retired this month, and the Scottish Government's top official, Permanent Secretary John-Paul Marks, signed off the changes. <https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk>

Armed police board Jet2 flight at Midland airport



The moment armed police boarded a plane at an airport and removed a man after a bomb scare was caught on camera. A Jet2 flight was grounded at East Midlands Airport on, August 21, over claims an explosive device was on board.

Police later confirmed no bomb was found after a search, adding the threat was not "viable". A man was arrested and later bailed. The flight to Turkey took off after a

man was removed. "The whole plane was in a state of apprehension. There was around two dozen police." Leicestershire Police were informed of a report of a male aboard an aircraft at East Midlands Airport who stated he was in possession of an explosive device. The aircraft was on the ground at the time of the incident. "Following instruction, the man safely left the aircraft where he was arrested on suspicion of possession of an explosive substance. Following the arrest, the aircraft has been fully searched. "No explosive device has been found onboard and there is no suggestion that the threat made is viable. The man arrested has since been released on bail and our enquiries remain ongoing." <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk>

Newcastle bus hijacked by knifeman

A bus was hijacked by a knife-wielding thug so he could get home. Anthony Milner threatened the driver with a knife after getting on at a set of traffic lights in Newcastle by pressing the vehicle's external emergency button, opening the doors. Without speaking to the driver or attempting to pay, he went and took a seat.

Newcastle Crown Court heard when the driver went to speak to him, Milner held a bread knife towards him, ordered him to "drive, drive" and said he wanted to be taken to the city's Central Station. Prosecutor Penny Hall said the driver diverted the bus and used a quicker route to get to the train station, where Milner left and dropped the knife. Milner was arrested, after a struggle with police, inside the station and officers found a small bag of cannabis on him when he was searched.

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

Man jailed after threatening to punch his dentist in the face and making bomb a threat



After verbally abusing his dentist, making a bomb hoax and spitting at police "embarrassed" John Fleming asked for a suspended sentence. But a court found his random spate of offences spanning from May last year to April merited a spell in prison. Fleming, 50, of Whitefield Road, Speedwell, denied a public order offence against the dentist and also denied making the bomb hoax, but he was convicted after trial. He pleaded guilty to racially aggravated public order; assault of an emergency worker; criminal damage; making a malicious communication, possessing a knife; a public order offence and a racially aggravated assault.

Judge Julian Lambert jailed him for 29 months. He told Fleming: "Most unfortunately, after a spate of offences by you, they just kept letting you go. I would not have done so. Now there are a raft of offences which need to be punished." <https://www.bristolpost.co.uk>

Irate Paignton driver rams police officer pinning him between vehicles



An angry Paignton man deliberately drove his car at a police officer then grabbed him while he was pinned in agony between two vehicles. Paul Schofield shouted "I hope that f*****g hurt" at PC Luke Holman who had arrived at the defendant's home moments earlier in response to an emergency call from Schofield's wife. The injured officer managed to fight off his attacker and retrain him at the scene until colleagues arrived to help. He suffered ruptured ligaments, bruises and

a fracture in the incident.

Schofield, aged 50, has been jailed for three years and nine months at Exeter Crown Court. The defendant, of Blagdon Barton, was initially charged with attempted murder but that charge was dropped. He admitted attempting to cause grievous bodily harm with intent.

<https://www.devonlive.com>

Woman 'terrorist' told police and doctors' surgery in Wakefield she had planted bombs



Courtney Longstaff made the hoax claims that she had planted devices, first at King's Medical Centre in Normanton, and then at the police station in the town, telling them that she "hated the way the police treat people".

The 22-year-old appeared at Leeds Crown Court this week where she admitted three counts of making malicious communications.

Prosecutor Shannon Woodley said that walked into the Edward Street medical practice on March 31 and went into the women's toilets where she wrote a message on the mirror claiming to be a terrorist, that she wanted to kill people in a "gun attack" and that she she had planted a bomb "somewhere".

She left the toilet and told staff that a message had been written, so the emergency services were contacted and the building was evacuated for more than three hours as a careful search was conducted. The court was told more than 30 appointments at the centre had to be cancelled.

Four days later Longstaff began a webchat on the West Yorkshire Police website from her home in Windross Close in Altofts in which she said: "I'm going to kill you and cut your f*****g throat." She then told them she had planted a device "in the entrance somewhere". Again, a search was carried out but no bomb was found.

Finally, on April 7, she contacted Cambridgeshire Police via their webchat, and told them she had again left a bomb outside the station in Normanton. However, after the internet IP address was recognised as being Longstaff's, the decision was taken not to evacuate. The court heard that she has five previous convictions for 15 offences, including possessing an offensive weapon in public, threats to kill and causing a public nuisance.

Mitigating, Rachel Webster said that Longstaff should be given credit for early guilty pleas, and that she was "deeply remorseful". It was heard that Longstaff had been on medication for mental health issues but had to be stop taking them because she was suffering from heart palpitations.

No further mitigation was offered after Judge Christopher Batty said he would not send her to jail, describing her as a "troubled young lady who needs help".

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

£1m counterextremism funding returned to Home Office

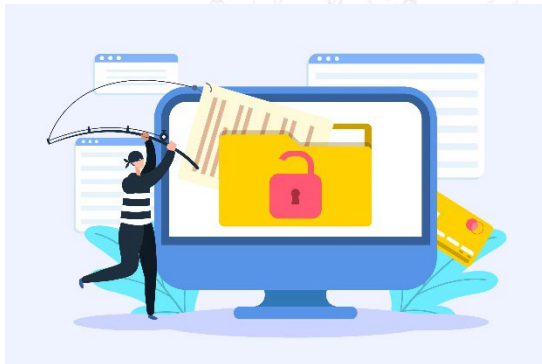
Almost £1m of unspent funding for counterextremism work has been handed back to the government despite a warning that "the risk from terrorism is rising".

The Commission for Countering Extremism (CCE) was formed by the Home Office following the 2017 Manchester Arena bombing but the government has never publicly responded to any of its recommendations or reports. Since current commissioner Robin Simcox took the helm in 2021, it has published no new research or scrutiny of government policy, despite home secretary Suella Braverman warning last month that the threat to Britain is rising as attackers become “increasingly unpredictable” and harder to detect. Shadow security minister Holly Lynch said tackling extremism “should be a top priority for this government”.

“It is crucial that the commission is open and transparent about the work it undertakes and must demonstrate that it is upholding its obligations to provide impartial, expert advice and scrutiny,” she added. “These findings pose serious questions for the home secretary.”

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

PSNI data breach: Man in court on terrorism-related charges



A 50-year-old man has appeared in court charged with terrorism offences linked to the major data breach by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). It is alleged Christopher Paul O'Kane had a spreadsheet containing the names on a phone found at his home.

The phone allegedly had screenshots of sections with officers names, including one who was previously targeted in a dissident bomb attack. Mr

O'Kane of Main Street, Feeny, was remanded in custody for four weeks. He was arrested by police at his County Londonderry house.

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

Nottinghamshire fire service says naming 23 high risk buildings could make them terrorist target

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue says publicly naming the 23 buildings it has identified as 'high risk' could make them a target for terrorists. The service carried out a survey of the county's buildings following the Grenfell Tower disaster in 2017, in which 72 people lost their lives.

The survey resulted in 23 Nottinghamshire buildings, many of them high-rise, being classified as 'high-risk' due to factors such as external flammable cladding, poor compartmentation and fire safety defects. A Freedom of Information request was submitted to the service asking for the location of these buildings. But the service has declined the request, saying the information being made public would "likely endanger the safety of people". The service said it believed there was a likelihood of the buildings being targeted by people with malicious intent, such as terrorists or arsonists, if the information was disclosed. <https://www.nottinghampost.com>

Teen arrested after video of attack on Sainsbury's security guard



A teenager has been arrested after a video of a Sainsbury's security guard being attacked went viral on social media.

Footage of the incident at the supermarket in Kingsmead Road, Canterbury has since been viewed more than 80,000 times on Instagram. Police were called after a man aged in his 40s suffered an injury to his leg that required hospital treatment. A video of the incident, which happened at about

3.30pm, was captured by a customer at the supermarket and shows the guard being pushed and shouted at by a boy. The youngster is then surrounded by staff and customers trying to move him away from the security guard. But the footage then shows the boy pushing the guard near the fruit and veg aisle. <https://www.kentonline.co.uk>

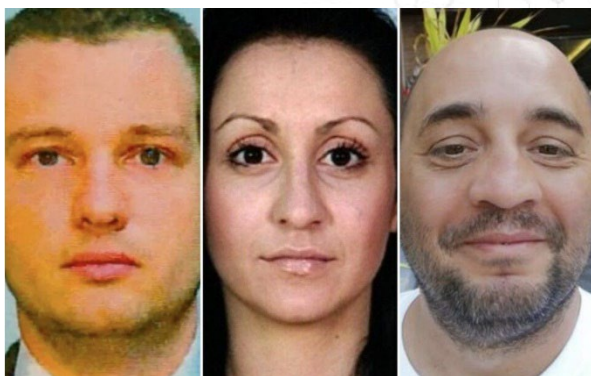
Designer watch robbers who toured London boroughs

Two men who toured London in search of designer watches have been jailed for a total of 22 years. Asonu McKenzie, 29, and Reshaun Nembhard, 29, both pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery between May 25 and July 15 last year.

The designer watch robbers were both sentenced at Southwark Crown Court with McKenzie receiving a 14-year jail term and Nembhard being jailed for eight years. The pair were involved in 12 robberies across London of high value watches and were both jailed after a successful four-week manhunt by detectives.

Last summer over a two-month period, a series of robberies were carried out in Lambeth, Southwark, Bromley, Croydon, Wandsworth and Hammersmith and Fulham. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk>

Suspected spies for Russia held in major UK security investigation



Three suspected spies for Russia in the UK have been arrested and charged in a major national security investigation, the BBC can reveal.

The defendants, all Bulgarian nationals, were held in February and have been remanded in custody since. They are charged with possessing identity documents with "improper intention" and are alleged to have had these

knowing they were fake. It is alleged they were working for the Russian security service.

The documents include passports, identity cards and other documents for the UK, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Spain, Croatia, Slovenia, Greece, and the Czech Republic. The trio were among five people arrested in February on suspicion of an offence under the Official Secrets Act.

They were held by counter-terrorism detectives from the Metropolitan Police, which has national policing responsibility for espionage, and are due to answer police bail in September. Three of them were charged later in February with an offence under the Identity Documents Act. They are:

- Orlin Roussev, 45, of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk
- Bizer Dzhabazov, 41, of Harrow, north-west London
- Katrin Ivanova, 31, of the same Harrow address

They remain in custody and are due to appear at the Old Bailey at a later date.

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

Norfolk and Suffolk police: Victims and witnesses hit by data breach

A total of 1,230 people, including victims of crime and witnesses, have had their data breached by Norfolk and Suffolk police forces.

The constabularies said the personal information was included in Freedom of Information (FOI) responses due to a "technical issue". They said the data was hidden from anyone opening the files but should not have been included. It included descriptions of offences including sexual and domestic assaults. The forces have apologised for the breach.

They said the information was attached to 18 responses to FOI requests for crime statistics issued by the forces between April 2021 and March 2022. The FOI responses were sent to individuals including journalists and researchers.

The data included personal identifiable information on victims, witnesses and suspects relating to a range of offences including sexual offences, domestic incidents, assaults, hate crime and thefts, the forces said. Victims of sexual offences should have lifelong anonymity under law.

<https://www.bbc.com>

Albanian migrants 'using new smuggling route to UK

Albanian migrants are using a new smuggling route to the UK as an alternative to small boats, according to reports. People smugglers are providing passage in lorries from Santander on the north coast of Spain to Portsmouth for £14,000. The route is being advertised on social media including TikTok using emojis and images of lorries, ferries and landmarks in London.

The path means migrants are less likely to be picked up, identified and deported back to Albania.

Those crossing the Channel on small boats are taken by Border Force for processing by immigration officials at Manston near Dover with the prospect of being deported after the UK struck a returns deal with Albania last year. <https://www.express.co.uk>

TikTok craze led to five hours of chaos



For shoppers on London's Oxford Street, an evening of browsing and buying was thrown into chaos, with stores forced to shutter their doors as dozens of police officers descended on Europe's busiest shopping destination.

Over the following hours, several shoppers were forced to leave stores as officers formed human shields around shops in anticipation of violence.

A growing trend on social media calling for riots and looting in JD Sports, shared by hundreds of teenagers, had caught the attention of Met Police. The widely shared posts on TikTok and Snapchat began trending under the tag "Oxford Circus JD robbery", with youths encouraging others to congregate and loot stores along the street. A dispersal order has been put in place giving officers the power to exclude people from the area for 48 hours. It includes a number of Tube stations, including Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square, Charing Cross and Covent Garden.

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

Man jailed for racially abusing John Lewis security guard



Desmond Thompson has been jailed for three months for racially abusing a John Lewis store security guard who he wrongly believed was Albanian (Image: Gloucestershire police//GNS)

A 49-year-old Cheltenham man has been jailed for three months for racially abusing a John Lewis store security guard who he wrongly believed was Albanian. Prosecutor Simon Goodman explained to Gloucester Crown Court that Desmond Thompson of Pitman Road, St Marks, had gone into the John Lewis store in Cheltenham's High Street on November 4, last year and was looking around the shop's perfumery department in what the security officers described as being in a suspicious manner.

Thompson pleaded guilty to the racially aggravated harassment of a security guard at John Lewis store in Cheltenham on November 4, 2022. Judge Rupert Lowe told Thompson: "You have 182 previous convictions. That is an enormous number of offences. Three of these are for racially aggravated offences."

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

Seven arrests made during immigration enforcement action



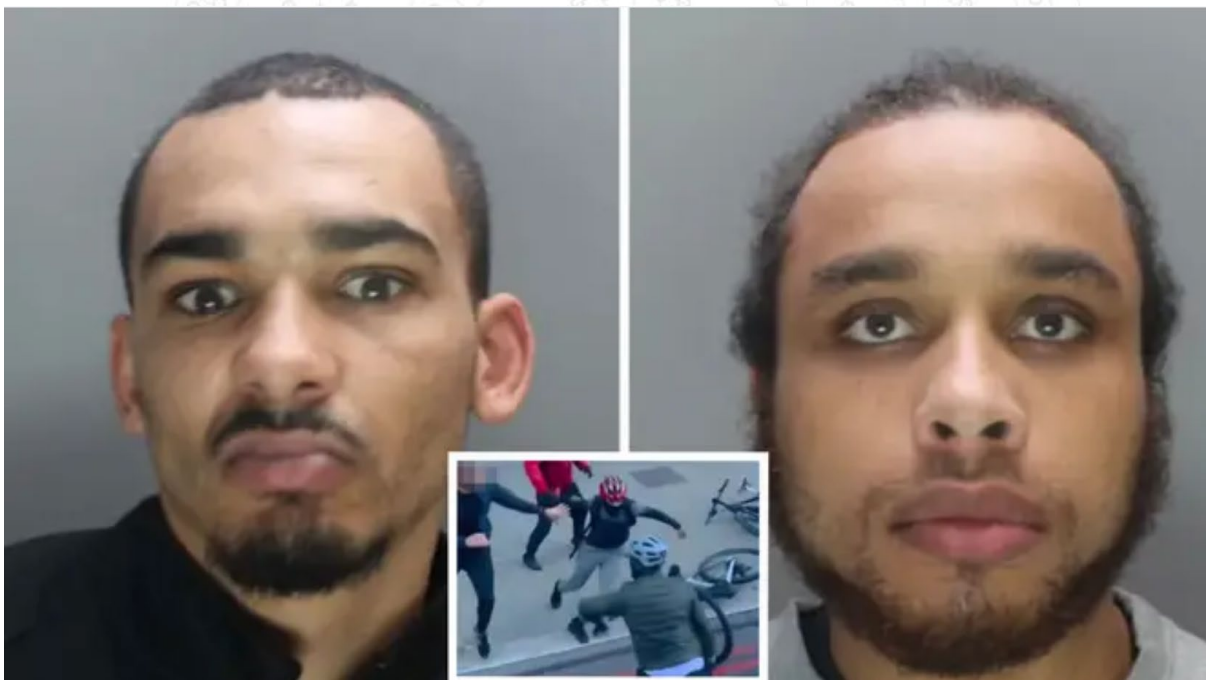
Immigration enforcement officers speaking with a man of Chinese origin during an immigration raid in Warrenpoint in County Down (Liam McBurney/PA)

Seven arrests were made in Northern Ireland by immigration officials. It came as part of Operation Tornado 2, in which the Home Office is increasing immigration enforcement visits to target illegal working.

A number of similar raids took place across the UK. The actions in Northern Ireland included the targeting of a female Chinese national at a restaurant/takeaway in Warrenpoint, Co Down. There was an arrest warrant for the woman who was not suspected of any other criminality beyond illegal working.

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

'Extremely violent' phone thieves on London rampage stabbed 3 people



The pair embarked on a brutal knife spree as they robbed phones. Picture: City of London Police

A pair of mobile phone snatchers 'rampaging to steal as many as possible' stabbed three members of the public as they tried to get away from one of their victims. They have now been jailed for 17 years each after a sentencing at Inner London Crown Court.

Tyrone Dean, 24, of Willow Walk, Tottenham, pleaded guilty to eight offences, including having an article with a blade or point, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, wounding with intent and theft. Louis Parkinson, 26, of Catherall Road, Islington, pleaded guilty to five offences, including wounding with intent, assault occasioning actual bodily harm and having an article with a blade or point. <https://www.mylondon.news>

PSNI: Major data breach identifies thousands of officers and civilian staff



The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has apologised for mistakenly revealing details of all its 10,000 staff. NI's Police Federation said the breach could cause "incalculable damage". In response to a Freedom of Information (FoI) request, the PSNI had shared names of all police and civilian personnel, where they were based and their roles. The details were then published online, before being removed.

<https://www.bbc.com>

18-year-old jailed for terrorism offences

An 18-year-old has been jailed after he was found in possession of viable bomb making instructions. Mohammed Afzal, of Preston, posted extremist material that was deemed to 'encourage terrorism' on a number of social media accounts. He also collected terrorist information, including directions on how to make a bomb.

He was arrested on suspicion of encouraging terrorism and the dissemination of terrorist publications, and later pleaded guilty to eight terrorism-related charges. He was jailed for three years and nine months at Liverpool Crown Court on Wednesday August 2.

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

Weston-Super-Mare man, 23, charged with terrorism offences

A Weston-Super-Mare man has been charged with terrorism offences linked to an 'extreme right-wing ideology', police say. Gabrielle Budasz, 23, of Drove Road, Weston-Super-Mare, has since been charged with offences including collecting information likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism.

He was also charged with the dissemination of terrorist publications to encourage people to engage in terrorism, or provide information that could be useful to terrorists, Avon and Somerset Police say. <https://www.itv.com>

Two men arrested under Terrorism Act

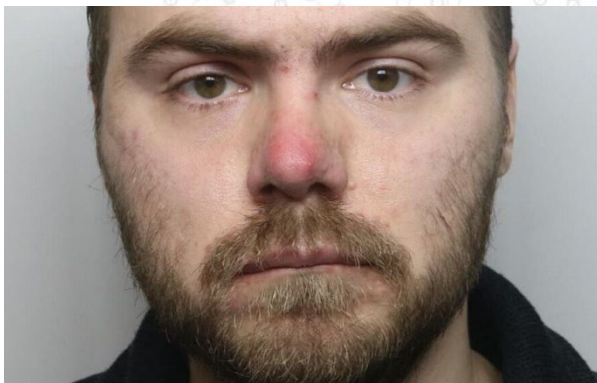
Two men aged 38 and 36 have been arrested under the terrorism act in relation to a shooting in Bushmills. A man was shot in his right knee and hand and a head injury at an apartment in the main street area on Wednesday 2 August. Both men are currently being questioned by police.

<https://www.itv.com>

Cumbria police admit huge breach of data of officers and staff

Another British police force has experienced a huge breach of the data of all its officers and staff, the Guardian has learned. Cumbria police has admitted accidentally publishing the names and salaries of every one of its more than 2,000 employees and has apologised. One officer told the Guardian of dismay in the force at the leak. The data breach happened in March and has not previously been publicised. <https://amp.theguardian.com>

Man who fled to Bulgaria to escape terrorism charges jailed after return to UK



David Bodill was described as a 'dangerous individual' by police (Derbyshire Police/PA)

A man who fled to Bulgaria after bomb-making manuals and videos of beheadings and terrorist attacks were found on his laptop has been jailed after being extradited back to the UK. David Bodill failed to show up at a court hearing last year after police discovered various chemicals and notes about how to mix them to create an explosive at his home in Buxton, Derbyshire, on March 2, 2020. Analysis of the 29-year-old's devices also found extremist material from both extreme right-wing and Islamic terror organisations

which showed attacks, beheadings and bomb-making tutorials, Derbyshire Police said.

After being charged, he failed to appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court last October and later told police he had fled to Bulgaria with no intention of returning. He was arrested by Bulgarian authorities in January 2023 and extradited back to the UK for his trial at Manchester Crown Court, where a jury found him guilty of an offence under section 4 of the Explosive Substances Act 1883. He was jailed for two years and six months at the same court.

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

Glasgow homes are evacuated, and bomb team are called

Homes in Glasgow have been evacuated and a bomb team was called after a 'hazardous substance' was found in a block of flats. Residents have told of fleeing in their pyjamas as up to 100 people were removed from their homes on Altyre Street, in the Shettleston area of the city. Numerous emergency service vehicles, including a bomb disposal team, were at the scene

dealing with the incident. It was claimed electrical equipment, ethanol and white powder in bags was found. Reports said that airspace has been restricted over the area and a temporary 'No Fly Zone' is in place. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk>

Organised shoplifting gang stole £70,000 worth of booze



Vincentiu Gheorghe, Alin Chica (Image: Kent Police / SWNS)

The thieves targeted Champagne during their crime campaign hitting stores in London, Essex, Kent and Norfolk over a nine-month period. Valeriu Cobzarencu, Andrei Stefan, Vincentiu Gheorghe, Ionut-Razvan Gheorghe and Alin Chica targeted the likes of Tesco, Morrisons, Asda and Sainsbury's between November 21, 2021, and September 1, 2022.

Alcohol worth between £2,000 and £5,000 were stolen during each raid in towns such as Aylesford, Gravesend, Maidstone, Broadstairs and Dover, as well as Colchester, Essex and King's Lynn, Norfolk. On February 5 last year, they stole nearly £6,000 worth of alcohol from Sainsbury's in South Woodham Ferrers in Essex. Each of the men had distinct roles and worked together using earpieces and mobile phones to ensure vehicles were nearby to swiftly remove the stolen goods. Officers were able to build up a picture of the supermarket raids and they were all later arrested and subsequently charged with conspiracy to steal alcohol. The case concluded at Maidstone Crown Court on July 14 where 35-year-old Stefan, of Greater London, was sentenced to two years in jail.

Meanwhile, 30-year-old Cobzarencu, of the same address as Stefan, was sentenced to one year and eight months in jail. The other men were sentenced at a previous sentencing on July 7 at the same court.

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

British Museum stabbing

Horrified witnesses described “pools of blood” after a man was stabbed while waiting in the queue outside the British Museum. Officers were called to the world-renowned tourist attraction in London following reports of a knife attack with an eyewitness reporting that a “pool and trail of blood” was visible on the ground.

Witnesses said the middle-aged male victim, who was stabbed in the arm, attempted to escape and was “dripping blood everywhere” along the busy street, which was packed with tourists. The man was initially treated at the scene and was taken by London Ambulance Service to hospital. He was taken to a major trauma unit and his condition is being assessed. The Met Police said a man had been arrested on suspicion of causing grievous body harm following the incident.

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

Crime gang members sentenced for recruitment of illegal workers



Members of a criminal gang which recruited illegal migrants to work as cleaners across a string of Sainsbury's supermarkets in Oxfordshire and the South West have been sentenced. On 7 August, five defendants were sentenced at Oxfordshire Crown Court (pictured) over their roles in the organised crime group, whose members profited from the facilitation, work placement and housing of

around 40 illegal workers, the majority of them hailing from West Africa.

The leader of the criminal group – namely Momodou Chune, aged 55, from Oxford – was jailed for six years after being found guilty of six counts of assisting unlawful immigration and three counts of concealing criminal property. He worked for two cleaning companies responsible for providing contracts for cleaners in nine Sainsbury's stores in Oxfordshire and Wiltshire.

The defendants were caught following an investigation conducted by the Home Office's Criminal and Financial Investigations Unit.

It's estimated that, across a decade of activity, the gang profited in the region of £600,000 from the wages of illegal workers and 'ghost' workers. The majority of the illegal workers had more than one name and identity due to the fact that Chune created fake employees in order to obtain more money in false wages from his employers.

<https://securitymattersmagazine.com>



Security industry news

The Electoral Commission flags major cyber attack by “hostile actors”

The Electoral Commission has reported a cyber attack perpetrated on its systems by “hostile actors”. The incident was identified in October last year, in fact, after suspicious activity was detected. It became clear that “hostile actors” had first accessed the organisation’s systems back in August 2021.

During the cyber attack, the perpetrators had access to The Electoral Commission’s servers which held its e-mail system, control systems and copies of the electoral registers.

They attackers were able to access reference copies of the electoral registers, which are held by The Electoral Commission for research purposes and to enable permissibility checks on political donations.

The registers held at the time of the cyber attack included the names and addresses of anyone in the UK who registered to vote between 2014 and 2022, as well as the names of those registered as being overseas voters. The registers did not include the details of those registered anonymously.

The Electoral Commission understands the concern this attack may have caused and has offered its apologies to all those affected. Since the attack was discovered, the organisation has worked with security specialists to investigate the incident and taken action to secure systems in a bid to reduce the risk of future attacks in the cyber domain. <https://securitymattersmagazine.com>

Latest Cifas data reveals range of fraud risks

In its half-year Fraudscape report, Cifas has revealed the range of external and internal fraud risks faced by today’s organisations. These “substantial and growing” threats are outlined against a backdrop of additional legal requirements for organisations to put ‘reasonable procedures’ in place in order to prevent acts of fraud.

Between January and June this year, Cifas members recorded just over 186,500 cases of fraudulent conduct to the National Fraud Database. Particularly notable within these numbers is the scale and growth in attacks on both customers and companies.



There have been upwards of 122,000 cases of identity fraud – which accounts for 66% of all cases recorded in the period – with plastic card and asset finance products particularly targeted.

A 180% increase is reported in the number of companies targeted for identity fraud, particularly so for telecoms and loan products. There was also a significant rise in criminals impersonating brokers in a bid to offer fake loans or other business services in order to harvest company details such that they could then impersonate the company.

The highest increase in cases relates to the takeover of existing facilities, which has risen by nearly a quarter (22%, in fact). This included the impersonation of banks to socially engineer victims to share their financial and personal information or otherwise make payments to a so-called 'safe account'.

Attacks against organisations also emanated from employees, which can have a devastating impact on an organisation's finances, staff and customers. In the first six months of the year, 151 instances of fraudulent conduct were recorded to the Cifas Internal Fraud Database, with nearly half of these (ie 46%) relating to dishonest actions by members of staff.

The Government's impending 'failure to prevent fraud' offence will mean that large organisations could be prosecuted if an employee or agent commits fraud for the benefit of the company where the organisation has failed to put 'reasonable procedures' in place to prevent the fraud.

<https://securitymattersmagazine.com>

Government outlines core detail of all-new National Risk Register

An all-new register setting out the Government's latest assessment of key risks posed to the UK has been published as part of ongoing cross-Government work designed to better prepare the public and the business community for the threats facing the nation.

Deputy Prime Minister Oliver Dowden has unveiled the 192-page National Risk Register, itself an assessment of the risks facing the UK. The National Risk Register outlines no fewer than 89 threats that would have a significant impact on the UK's safety, security or critical systems at a national level.

This latest version of the National Risk Register is described as being “more transparent than ever before” and publicly shares previously classified information about a number of potential risks. These include:

- disruption to energy supplies following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine
- malicious uses of drones to disrupt transport and other critical operations
- threats posed to undersea transatlantic telecommunications cables used for the Internet and communications

The Government has “robust plans in place” for each of the different risks and is also urging businesses, local Government and voluntary groups to play their part in helping to plan for them. By publishing an online digital tool for the first time, the Government is making risk details more accessible and easier to navigate.

In fact, the National Risk Register's publication is the latest example of the transparent “whole of society” approach being taken towards national resilience, which was set out in the recently published UK Government Resilience Framework and the National Cyber Strategy. It also follows the recent launch of the UK-wide Emergency Alerts system.
<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk>

Secured by Design issues Commercial Guide 2023

Secured By Design – itself part of the Police Crime Prevention Initiatives portfolio squarely aimed at crime reduction – has published its Commercial Guide 2023, which is the latest in its series of new/updated design guides. For the first time, the Commercial Guide is divided into Gold, Silver and Bronze Award gradations.

In essence, the Secured by Design Commercial Guide 2023 provides design guidance and specification requirements for commercial premises in a bid to reduce the risks of crime – such as acts of burglary, theft, arson, assault and vehicle crime – perpetrated against the person or property.

The scope of the document ranges from new schemes through to refurbishments of existing buildings and encapsulates both commercial developments where members of the public have no formal access (eg a factory or an office building) and those where public access is integral to commercial use. Such locations would include retail premises, leisure centres, warehouses and public service buildings. Such developments may range in size from a single unit with a defined use to a group of buildings with multiple uses.

The Secured by Design Commercial Guide 2023 is said to be the most comprehensive publication of its type to date. It features contributions from a wide range of individuals, among them police designing out crime officers, members of the Fire and Rescue Service, trade and industry experts, access control professionals, local authority and building control practitioners and professors in the academic arena. *The Secured by Design Commercial Guide 2023 is applicable to all Secured by Design applications made after 1 August 2023.
<https://www.securedbydesign.com>

New professional security operative apprenticeship announced



The Private Security Industry Trailblazer Group recently announced the approval of a new, 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://sia.gov.uk/>

Think Before You Link

The National Protection Security Authority has launched an innovative new app allowing users of social media and professional networking sites to better identify the hallmarks of fake profiles used by foreign spies and other malicious actors. The app has been developed with behavioural scientists to include features such as a profile reviewer, which will help individuals identify potentially fake profiles and report anything they deem suspicious. <https://sia.gov.uk/>

SIA Licence Renewals

You can't renew a licence unless you currently hold an active licence in that sector. This is because the legal permission granted by the licence ceases to exist when the licence expires. Once your licence expires it cannot be renewed, because there is nothing there for us to renew.

If your licence has expired and you wish to work in a licensable role, you need to apply for a new licence. The process is the same: we use the same application form, require the same documents and charge the same application fee. We will accept your renewal application up to four months in advance of when your current licence expires.

If we have your email address on file we will send you a reminder that your licence is about to expire and explain what you need to do to renew it. However, we would like to remind you that:

Your licence expiry date is quoted in the letter we sent you when we granted it; it is also printed on the licence card and is featured in your entry on our public register of licence holders.

You are responsible for ensuring that you apply for your new licence in good time. We cannot be held responsible if you apply late and are unable to work as a result.

We strongly recommend that you renew your licence as soon as you can. Remember: there is no standard timescale for licence applications. The time taken to process your application will be affected by many different factors and so each application will be processed according to its own individual timescale. <https://sia.gov.uk/>

SIA July month in numbers

In July 2023 we recorded the following statistics:

- Number of applications received: 17,286
- Number of paid applications received: 15,557
- Average time it took us to make a decision to grant or refuse an application: 10.7 working days
- Number of applications granted: 17,098
- Number of applications refused: 223 *
- Number of licences revoked: 304
- Number of licences suspended: 107

<https://sia.gov.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.

National Cyber Security Centre widens Cyber Incident Response scheme

The National Cyber Security Centre has announced a change to its assured Cyber Incident Response scheme with the introduction of a new level. From now on, companies assured to offer Cyber Incident Response services will be designated Level 1 or Level 2, meaning that more companies will be able to provide high-quality incident response services to a wider range and larger number of victim organisations across the UK.

The National Cyber Security Centre's Cyber Incident Response scheme is well established and assists those organisations experiencing a cyber attack to quickly and easily identify trusted providers of commercial incident response services. These assured companies support organisations to investigate and recover from a cyber attack and advise on the prevention of future attacks.



National Cyber Security Centre

Until now, the Cyber Incident Response scheme has focused on assuring companies that can provide incident response services to organisations running networks of national significance, such as central Government, Critical National Infrastructure organisations and regulated industries. These organisations are at particular risk of targeted and complex attacks organised by nation state actors.

All Level 1 Assured Service Providers are capable of dealing with all types of cyber incident for all types of organisations. The National Cyber Security Centre “strongly encourages” organisations running networks of national significance to contact a Level 1 company if they experience a cyber attack. It’s particularly important that all organisations use a Cyber Incident Response Level 1 provider if they think they’ve been the victim of a highly sophisticated attack episode.

Level 2 companies are assessed as being capable of supporting most organisations with common cyber attacks, such as those involving ransomware. This includes private sector organisations outside of Critical National Infrastructure sectors, charities, local authorities and smaller public sector organisations. <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk>

NCSC and allies reveal most common cyber vulnerabilities exploited in 2022

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/ncsc-allies-reveal-2022-common-exploited-vulnerabilities>

Categorising UK cyber incidents

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/information/categorising-uk-cyber-incidents>

NCSC Cyber Incident Response scheme now available to more organisations

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/ncsc-cyber-incident-response-scheme-available-more-organisations>



Demonstrations / protests

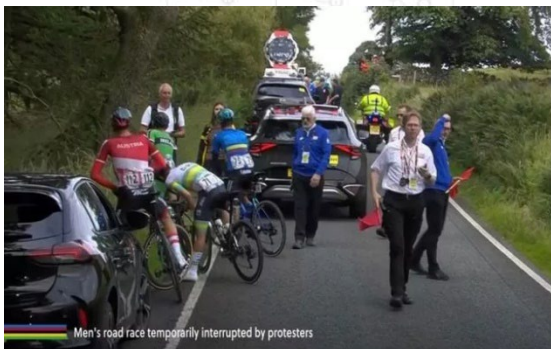
UK protests planned amid 'epidemic' of dangerous driving

A group opposed to sports utility vehicles (SUVs) said its supporters had 'destroyed' car tyres at a dealership in an 'act of retaliation' after two young girls were killed in a crash at a school. Tyre Extinguishers claimed campaigners damaged tyres on at least 60 vehicles at Jaguar Exeter in Devon. It posted a video online appearing to show someone damaging parked cars with a drill.

A spokesman for Devon and Cornwall Police said the force is 'aware of criminal damage having occurred' and 'inquiries continue'.

Nuria Sajjad and Selena Lau, both eight, died after a Land Rover crashed through a fence and into The Study Prep School in Wimbledon, south-west London, on July 6. <https://www.dailymail-co-uk>

World Cycling Championships Road race in Scotland interrupted by protesters



YouTube video screengrab of mens road race being disrupted by protest

The oil and gas activists (This Is Rigged) claim to have disrupted the 271km UCI Cycling World Championships men's road race in Scotland, forcing the peloton to stop for almost an hour on the approach to the Crow Road, near Glasgow.

After the race was neutralised a little over 190km into the action, a statement from the UCI read: "Further to Police Scotland's confirmation of a protest in the Carron Valley area, which has temporarily interrupted the men's road race, we are working closely with all relevant authorities to minimise disruption to the race and also to ensure

the safety of riders as our paramount concern." It was reported that a group of protesters had glued themselves to the road, in theory allowing enough room for the riders to pass, but preventing vehicles in the convoy, including support cars and ambulances, from passing. Police Scotland said five protesters had been arrested. <https://amp-theguardian-com>

Protestors mount Rishi Sunak's North Yorkshire home

Police were called to the North Yorkshire home of PM Rishi Sunak after protestors climbed onto the roof. Four Greenpeace protesters with ladders and ropes scaled Sunak's £2m manor house. The PM was currently away with his family on holiday in California and was not home at the time.

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

City Hall faces wave of Ulez camera destruction



Activists claim to have destroyed or damaged roughly 600 Ulez cameras in the past few weeks. The Ulez extension to the London boundary came into force this week, with drivers of older, more polluting cars in outer London boroughs now liable for a £12.50 daily charge to use their vehicles. TfL is battling against protesters sabotaging some of the almost 3,000 cameras needed to police the expansion.

Devices across the capital have been removed, had wires cut, been sprayed with paint and torn down by self-proclaimed "blade runners".

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

Vandals put 'spy' stickers over Ulez cameras ahead of expansion

Bright red stickers have been placed over ultra-low emission zone (Ulez) cameras and onto poles with the words "spy camera" in the latest act of vandalism days before the scheme expands to Greater London.



The cameras have been targeted by anti-Ulez campaigners in a flurry of vandalism and thefts in the weeks leading up to the clean air zone expansion to the Greater London boundary on August 29.

In the latest show of discontent, photos show stickers that express opposition to Mayor Sadiq Khan have been placed over the lens of some Ulez cameras that have been installed by Transport for London (TfL).

Underneath the camera, on the camera pole, red stickers with large white writing say "Ulez spy camera" with an arrow pointing up towards the camera. Other posters have been left on car windshields warning drivers of the charges being imposed on non-compliant vehicles.

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

Women charged after eco-mob protestors 'film themselves stealing King Charles' lambs'



Figure 1 The three women, Rose Patterson, 33, (right), Sara and Rosa, were then pictured in the back of the van with the young animals. Image source: Animal Rising

Animal Rising protesters claimed to be behind the lamb theft on May 24 at a field in West Newton, Norfolk. Three women have been charged after lambs were allegedly stolen from King Charles' Sandringham Estate.

Animal Rising protesters claimed to be behind the theft on May 24 at a field in West Newton, Norfolk. Police have today revealed that Sarah Foy, 23, from Alfreton, Derbyshire, Rose Patterson, 34, from London, and Rosa Sharkey, 23, also from London, have been charged with theft. They were also charged with three counts of causing unnecessary suffering to a protected animal, and three of failing to record the movement of an animal. They were released on police bail and will appear at King's Lynn Magistrates' Court on September 28. <https://www.express.co.uk>