



UK Threat Level: **SUBSTANTIAL**

SECURITY INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

NOVEMBER 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

Passports could be used to catch shoplifters

The government has come under pressure from retailers to crack down on shoplifting, which they say has surged in the past year. This is partly due to organised crime and partly because of the cost-of-living crisis, which has squeezed living standards for households across the board.

The policing minister has presented a solution to free up police resources by integrating passport photos into the police database to find a match for CCTV footage.

Chris Philp said at a fringe event at the Conservative Party conference: "I'm going to be asking police forces to search all of those databases - the police national database, which has custody images, but also other databases like the passport database - not just for shoplifting but for crime generally to get those matches, because the technology is now so good that you can get a blurred image and get a match for it."

<https://news.sky.com>

Pair accused of terror offences used wildlife camera to spy on retired PSNI officer

A pair accused of terror offences used a wildlife camera to spy on a retired PSNI officer, a court has been told. The non-jury trial centring on two men accused of terrorist offences, including targeting a retired police officer.

A prosecuting barrister opened the Crown's case against Damien Daniel Duffy (53) and Shea Reynolds (29) on charges dating back to September 2016.

The pair have been charged with six offences: two counts of the preparation of terrorist acts, two counts of possessing articles for use in terrorism and two counts of attempting to collect or make records of information likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism. Both Duffy, of Westclare Court in Dungannon, and Reynolds, of Kilwilkie Road in Lurgan, have denied all the charges.

<https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk>

Customers risk 'getting hurt' if they tackle shoplifters, warns Tesco boss

Chris Philp urged members of the public to step in when they see thieves shoplifting by making citizen's arrests. He also called on retailers to instruct their security guards to intervene when it is safe to do so.

But Tesco chief Ken Murphy pushed back against the idea, saying his staff were trained to avoid getting into harm's way.

He said that while he would "applaud the sentiment" of Mr Philp, he did not want either customers or staff to put themselves in danger. "We don't want anyone getting hurt is the short answer," Mr Murphy said.

He instead called on police and other authorities to take crimes like shoplifting and staff abuse more seriously.

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

Man, 36, charged over 'plot to kidnap and murder' Holly Willoughby

A security guard accused of an alleged international plot to kidnap television presenter Holly Willoughby has been remanded in custody.

Gavin Plumb, 36, of Potters Field in Harlow, appeared in the dock at Chelmsford magistrates court on Friday accused of "soliciting to commit murder and incitement to commit kidnap". The charges come after an arrest made on Wednesday, said Essex Police.

The court heard Plumb, a father-of-two, is accused of plotting online with a man in the United States of America earlier this week, on October 3 and 4, to commit crimes against the TV star.

According to the charges, he is accused of having "solicited, encouraged, persuaded, endeavoured to persuade, or proposed" the murder of Ms Willoughby.

It is also said he encouraged the other man to travel to the UK to carry out a kidnap plot and had "assembled a kidnap and restraint kit capable of encouraging or assisting the commission of the kidnap of Holly Willoughby".

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

Security guard attempts to stop blind woman with sick child entering hospital

A blind woman was refused access to a London hospital with her sick daughter by a security guard, prompting an apology from the hospital trust.

Historian Dr Amy Kavanagh has described how the worker at the West Middlesex University Hospital attempted to bar her because she was accompanied by her guide dog Ava. Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has said an internal review would take place immediately.

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

'Cyber terrorist' who hid data on James Bond-style cufflink refused parole

A "cyber terrorist" who was jailed after hiding his support for the so-called Islamic State on a James Bond-style cufflink has been refused parole.

Samata Ullah, then 34, created a "one-stop shop" for terrorists from his bedroom in Cardiff, offering a range of guidance on how to stay one step ahead of police and security services. At the time of his arrest in the city on September 22, 2016, he had USB cufflinks with a Linux operating system loaded on it and a hoard of extremist data including 15 copies of the IS propaganda magazine Dabiq.

The court heard he had advised others not to store incriminating information on computers and recommended using USB sticks to keep it away from "the prying eyes of authorities". Ullah was jailed at the Old Bailey in 2017 after he admitted to five terror offences, including membership of IS, also known as Daesh, as well as training and preparation of terrorist acts.

He was handed a sentence of eight years in jail with a further five years on extended licence. Ullah was refused release by a panel of the Parole Board in September 2022 after a hearing.

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

Met Police step up patrols in London as people accused of 'glorifying terrorist activities of Hamas'

The Metropolitan Police has said it has increased police patrols across London after receiving reports of people appearing to celebrate the attack on Israel by Hamas.

Home Secretary Suella Braverman said she expects officers to "use the full force of the law" against displays of support for the militant group.

In a statement, the Met said it had been made aware of a number of incidents in the capital - some shared on social media - that were related to the ongoing Israel-Gaza conflict.

<https://news.sky.com>

Five people arrested after suspected arson attack

Five people have been arrested after two cars were set on fire outside Alnwick police station.

The vehicles were set on fire outside the premises overnight in what officers believed was a deliberate attack. While no-one was injured, two cars were significantly damaged during the incidents, one of which belonged to Northumbria Police.

Following work by Alnwick's Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) a total of five people were arrested in connection with the investigation. Three males aged 22, 18 and 17 were arrested on suspicion of arson and have since been bailed.

Another man, 33, and a woman, 21, were also arrested on suspicion of obstructing a police officer and have also been released on bail. Enquiries into the arson continue and officers have offered a message of reassurance to the community.

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

400 criminals jailed in Met Police EncroChat operation

More than 400 criminals, including senior "kingpins" in organised crime, have been jailed for a total of 3,722 years after a Metropolitan Police operation targeted the EncroChat encrypted messaging platform.

Commander Paul Brogden, head of specialist crime at the Met, said it was "the most significant operation targeting organised crime figures in the Met's history".

Operation Eternal, which was led by the National Crime Agency (NCA) and its own Operation Venetic, used data taken from EncroChat to identify criminals, solve murders and tackle the drugs trade.

EncroChat was a secret operating system accessed by a secure password on Android phones, with each user of the platform given a unique "handle" made up of a noun and an adjective.

The handsets, which cost £1,500, could only communicate with other EncroChat devices and could have all their data wiped if handed over to the authorities.

The platform messaged users urging them to get rid of their handsets after realising it had been compromised by law enforcement in June 2020, and it was shut down shortly afterwards.

The Met Police said 942 arrests had been made since Operation Eternal began in March 2020, with 784 of those charged and 426 convicted.

<https://news.sky.com>

Hemlington man who set fire to CCTV pole for dare sentenced

A man who set fire to a CCTV camera pole for a dare has been sentenced. Paul Ellis, 37, used petrol and two wheelie bins to start the blaze in Hemlington, Middlesbrough, on 10 April, Teesside Crown Court heard.

Prosecutors said the fire on Cass House Road caused £1,000 worth of damage. Ellis, from Hemlington, admitted arson and was jailed for a year, suspended for 18 months, along with a drug rehabilitation order and 60 hours of unpaid work.

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

Teenager charged with terrorism and firearm offences

A 19-year-old man has been charged with terrorism and firearm offences.

Alfie Douglas Coleman, of Great Notley, Essex, was charged on Wednesday as part of an investigation relating to "extreme right-wing terrorism", Scotland Yard said.

He is charged with single counts of preparation of terrorism, possession of a prohibited firearm, and possession of ammunition without a firearms certificate, as well as 10 offences of possession of terrorist material, the CPS said.

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



Convicted criminals could avoid jail

Convicted criminals could avoid jail from next week because prisons are full, according to reports. The Times reported that Lord Edis, the senior presiding judge for England and Wales, has said that the sentencing of criminals who are on bail should be delayed. Some prisoners may also be released early under proposals from the government designed to contain the expanding prison population.

The Times reported that one judge was concerned convicted rapists might be left on bail rather than being jailed.

But a Ministry of Justice (MOJ) spokesperson said the government was "categorical that the most serious offenders should be sent to prison and that anyone deemed a risk to public safety is remanded in custody while awaiting trial". According to the government's own projections, the prison population is set to grow to 89,100 by November, but there are only 88,667 operational prison places left - creating a shortage of 433 places.

<https://news.sky.com>

'I'm going to cut your head off', Hamas supporter tells British shop worker

Feras Al-Jayoosi, 36, followed the woman around the One Below store in Swindon, Wiltshire, before pursuing her into the staff-only stock room.

The court was told that the incident, which took place prior to her shift on October 9, saw Al-Jayoosi repeatedly shout: "Don't ignore me".

Al-Jayoosi was sentenced to 16 weeks in custody, suspended for two years, in 2021 after he wore t-shirts supporting banned Palestinian terrorist groups among North London Jewish communities.

Arrested following "targeted" incidents in Golders Green - an area known for its strong links to the Jewish community, he was found to have worn t-shirts supporting groups including Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Appearing at Swindon Magistrates' Court, Al-Jayoosi is said to have been removed from the staff-only area by another member of staff who became aware of the situation and came to the woman's aid.

After the shop worker begged him to leave her alone, prosecutor Keith Ballinger told the court that he could be heard shouting: "I'm going to take your head off, I'm going to cut your head off."

Pleading guilty to a Section 4 Public Order Act offence, Al-Jayoosi's lawyer, Stephen Collins, said that his client "accepts a lot of upset was caused".

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

Eight arrested in crackdown on group suspected of helping drivers avoid prosecution

Police have arrested eight men as part of an investigation into a suspected "Notice of Impending Prosecution (NIP) farm".

NIP farms supply fake driver details to police to help motorists avoid prosecution for traffic offences - such as speeding or being caught using a mobile phone at the wheel.

They are typically used by drivers at risk of losing their licence through an accumulation of points.

More than 60 officers executed 11 warrants across Cornwall on Tuesday as part of an investigation by Devon and Cornwall police.

Officers searched 12 residential and commercial premises in Falmouth, Penzance and Newquay as part of the investigation.

<https://news.sky.com>

Guards funded for synagogues and schools after spike in antisemitic incidents since Hamas attack

Antisemitic attacks in the UK have spiked four-fold since Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel last weekend, as Downing Street responds with funding for guards in Jewish schools and synagogues.

The Community Security Trust (CST), a charity which acts on behalf of British Jews on matters of policing and racism, recorded 89 "anti-Jewish hate" incidents between October seven to 10.

It marks a significant rise year-on-year with 21 incidents reported across the same time frame in 2022.

Thousands of Israelis and Palestinians have been killed after tensions ratcheted over the weekend when Hamas launched a fatal attack on Israel.

The CST has seen cases of assault, vandalism, direct threats and cases of abusive behaviour following the resurgence of the conflict, but warns it expects the crime rates to rise as it continues.

In response, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has announced £3 million to be given to the group to protect Jewish people and buildings.

Number 10 said it will enable the CST to place additional guards at schools it supports and allow for additional security staff outside synagogues on Friday nights and Saturday mornings when Jews are marking the sabbath.

<https://www.itv.com/>

Man charged after hot coffee thrown over security guard

A man was arrested after throwing a cup of coffee over a security guard at a Nottingham store.

The incident happened after the security guard asked the man to leave the premises, in Perry Road, Basford, as he was banned from the location for begging and pestering customers. The man, who was by the store entrance, refused to leave and so the security guard told him he was going to call the police. This angered the man and he then took off the lid of his coffee cup and threw the hot contents over the security guard.

The drink mostly went down the guard's clothing, although his face was also splattered. Officers arrived and arrested a man who had been detained at the scene by security staff. Robert Handley, of Maud Street, New Basford, has been charged with common assault.

<https://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/>

Security guard hurt in alleged Scots court attack by handcuffed prisoner

A court security guard was hospitalised after an alleged attack by a handcuffed prisoner in the dock.

The male GEOAmeys officer needed emergency treatment for a facial wound after the alleged incident at Airdrie Sheriff Court.

Joseph Mullins, 33, of Lanark, appeared at the same court on Friday and faced a charge of assault to injury. He made no plea during the private hearing and was remanded in custody to await trial.

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

Spike in petrol theft

New figures released exclusively to ITV News show a sharp rise in drivers leaving petrol forecourts without paying.

These "drive-offs" are part of a huge £100m a year problem that has been rising as petrol prices increase.

Our research reveals the criminal techniques that have become widespread - including "double tanking", where thieves carry more than one fuel container to maximise their gains. A growing number of offenders are also using false number plates.

The latest figures given to ITV News by the British Oil Security Syndicate show there are now around 1.5 million non-payment incidents a year - on average costing each site £7,500.

A typical "drive-off" is worth just over £50 and the average forecourt is now suffering around ten non-payment incidents a month.

<https://www.itv.com/>

Four terrorists sent back to prison over lie detector tests

Four convicted terrorists have been sent back to jail as a result of the mandatory lie detector tests introduced after the Fishmonger's Hall attack, according to a report.

Three were recalled to prison after disclosing "risk-related information", while the fourth didn't comply with their polygraph licence condition, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) document revealed.

Compulsory lie detector tests for terrorists convicted of a relevant offence who are granted parole were introduced by the Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Act 2021, which was drawn up after the 2019 Fishmongers' Hall attack.

Usman Khan, 28, had been attending a conference on prisoner rehabilitation when he stabbed to death Cambridge University graduates Jack Merritt, 25, and Saskia Jones, 23, who were also at the event.

The convicted terrorist - who planned to blow up the London Stock Exchange and build a training camp in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir - had been out of prison on licence for more than a year after serving half of a 16-year sentence.

The MoJ report said 46 people have been subject to the polygraph licence condition between 29 June 2021 and 30 June 2023.

<https://news.sky.com/>

Firearms and ammunition seized after anti-terrorism cops called to Glasgow home

Firearms and ammunition have been seized after anti-terrorism police were called to a Glasgow home.

A 38-year-old man has been arrested and charged following the "significant firearms recovery" in the Maryhill area of the city. Officers from Police Scotland's Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism Unit (OCCTU) executed a warrant at the property in Benview Street. During the search officers say that "firearms and a quantity of ammunition were recovered".

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

UK terror attack linked to Gaza 'has already been carried out' as asylum seeker arrested

An asylum seeker has carried out a suspected terror attack as he told police he did it for Palestine. The man, who has not been identified, came to the UK in 2020. He told police he did it because Israel had killed children in the Gaza strip during its war with Hamas. But details about the case are restricted for legal reasons, The Telegraph reported.

MPs said details should be released to the public. A security source said: "They may be downplaying it so that they don't have repeat attacks or copycat attacks."

It comes amid fears the conflict could trigger terror attacks, while a spate of crimes across the world since Hamas's massacre have been linked to the fighting.

Two Swedish fans wearing their country's football shirts were shot dead in by a Tunisian who claimed he was part of Isis in Brussels this week.

France went to its highest terror alert after a teacher was stabbed to death by a man shouting "Allahu Akbar" while various public places, including the Palace of Versailles and airports, have had to be evacuated.

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

Police budget cuts leaving Scotland vulnerable

Police Scotland no longer has the capacity to keep people safe from terrorists, it has been claimed. David Kennedy, the head of the Scottish Police Federation, warned "decimated" officer numbers have left the force increasingly limited in its intelligence gathering and rapid response capability.

It comes as MI5 is said to be considering putting the UK on high alert, as tensions rise around the world after the outbreak of war between Hamas and Israel. There have been reports an alleged terror attack has already been carried out in Britain by a man wanting to "avenge" deaths in Gaza.

In an exclusive interview with the Sunday Mail, Kennedy said: "Countering the threat of terror attacks is all about intelligence and community policing is the cornerstone of intelligence gathering.

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

Hemlington man who set fire to CCTV pole for dare sentenced

A man who set fire to a CCTV camera pole for a dare has been sentenced. Paul Ellis, 37, used petrol and two wheelie bins to start the blaze in Hemlington, Middlesbrough, on 10 April, Teesside Crown Court heard.

Prosecutors said the fire on Cass House Road caused £1,000 worth of damage.

Ellis, from Hemlington, admitted arson and was jailed for a year, suspended for 18 months, along with a drug rehabilitation order and 60 hours of unpaid work.

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

Met police officers sacked over stop and search of black athletes

Two Met police officers who committed gross misconduct over the stop-and-search of black athletes Bianca Williams and her partner Ricardo Dos Santos have been dismissed without notice.

Ms Williams and Mr Dos Santos, both international athletes, were stopped by officers on July 4, 2020, as they drove to their west London home from training with their then-three-month-old boy in the back seat of their Mercedes.

The couple accused the force of "racially profiling" after being handcuffed and separated from their son during the stop, during which nothing was found.

The police watchdog ordered that five officers involved in the stop should face misconduct proceedings after footage of the incident sparked controversy, a move opposed by the Met.

PCs Pc Jonathan Clapham and Sam Franks were found by the panel to have breached standards over integrity and honesty after lying that they smelled cannabis while searching Mr Dos Santos.

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

Prolific shoplifter threatened staff with needles and scissors

A prolific thief said he "meant no harm" after he brandished scissors and needles at shop workers while he stole hundreds of pounds worth of goods.

Wade McLean's reign of terror on stores across the county finally came to an end as he was jailed for 40 months for 11 shop thefts, six assaults, three counts of threatening with a bladed article and two counts of possession of a bladed article.

His nine-day crime spree started on August 14 this year at a Tesco store in Batley, prosecutor Victoria Barker told Leeds Crown Court on Wednesday. She said he attempted to steal £130 worth of goods and when challenged by a store manager "turned around with a pair of scissors and said 'Come any closer, I'll stab you.'" The man backed off, allowing Wade to make good his escape.

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

Man sentenced for firearms importation had searched the web for school shooting info

A man from Scotland who attempted to buy a gun and ammunition online and searched the web for details of a school shooting and primary school holidays has been sentenced.

Following an operation by the Organised Crime Partnership, a team of officers from the National Crime Agency and Police Scotland, James Maxwell, 28, from Leven in Fife, was arrested in January 2023 and charged with two counts of purchasing and attempting to acquire and possess a firearm and two counts of purchasing and attempting to acquire or possess ammunition.

Maxwell had attempted to source a firearm and hollow point bullets online.

When OCP investigators made checks on his phones they found that he had searched the web for 'Dunblane', 'primary schools in Glasgow', 'and 'when do schools break up for Christmas holidays'.

Maxwell pleaded guilty to the firearms offences on 21 September at Edinburgh High Court. He also admitted making an indecent image of a child and possession of extreme pornographic images.

He was sentenced to five years in prison with an extended four year license period at the same court.

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

Private security force prosecutes 300 shoplifters 'by doing what police used to do'

A private security force of ex-detectives claims they have prosecuted 300 shoplifters with a 100 per cent conviction rate due to "old fashioned beat policing".

Retailers in London have been paying TM Eye to patrol their area, catch thieves and prosecute them following the staggering rise in shoplifting cases. TM Eye consists of a crack team of former detectives with experience investigating major crimes including murder, terrorism and armed robbery.

The firm employs 100 "bobbies", who wear police-like uniforms with red stab-proof vests, and 28 plain-clothes detectives who mingle with shoppers. Its plain clothed officers are said to be on the scene within minutes of being alerted to a theft and will often "catch them in the act". Their success comes at a time when a Co-op boss says undercover guards have to let shoplifters go as police ignore 80% of cases.

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

Illegal security guards slapped with hefty court bills after denying charges

Two men who worked as illegal security guards – under the cover of a business site supposedly being used as a Covid-19 test and trace centre have each been left with a court bill of more than £2,000.

The pair, from Binbrook, were trapped by video evidence of them working as guards at the site and they were convicted after a trial before Grimsby Magistrates' Court.

Michael Chambers, 46, of Swinhope Road, Binbrook, and Michael Whitfield, 44, of Ingleside, Binbrook, both denied engaging in licensable conduct, involving manned guarding work at Brookenby Business Park, without a licence between August 2 and September 29, 2022.

They were both found guilty after a trial heard by District Judge Daniel Curtis. The two men were each fined £500 and were also both ordered to pay £1,500 costs and a Government-imposed £50 victims' surcharge.

The prosecutions were brought by the Security Industry Authority. After the hearing, a spokeswoman for the authority said that Chambers and Whitfield were prosecuted for working as illegal security guards for G4 Fuels Ltd. The company is the owner of Brookenby Business Park.

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

Essex teenager investigated for 'extreme right-wing terrorism' to enter pleas

A 19-year-old man will enter pleas to terrorism and firearms charges next year, a court has heard. Alfie Douglas Coleman, of Great Notley was charged as part of an investigation relating to "extreme right-wing terrorism", Scotland Yard said. Coleman was charged by police on October 11.

He is charged with single counts of preparation of terrorism, possession of a prohibited firearm, and possession of ammunition without a firearms certificate, as well as 10 offences of possession of terrorist material.

Coleman appeared at the Old Bailey on Friday via video link from HMP Bullingdon. He is due to appear at the same court on March 1 next year for a plea and trial preparation hearing.

<https://www.essexlive.news/>

Brixton Co-op security guard loses pint of blood after female shoplifter slashes him

A Co-op security guard lost a pint of blood after he was slashed with a 6-inch kitchen knife while trying to stop a shoplifter at a supermarket in South London. His attacker Susan Sparman was jailed for four years at Inner London Crown Court after pleading guilty to robbery and knife possession at the same court on July 19.

The 48-year-old drug addict was caught swiping alcohol off the shelves into her bag by CCTV cameras at the shop in Brixton on March 5 this year. She then 'clumsily' tried to leave, spilling booze on the shop floor, before being confronted by her victim, Handy Dembele, at the shop door. When he tried to stop her, Sparman waved the large knife and slashed him on the hand, the court heard.

<https://www-mylondon-news>

Police seized £10m of cocaine from ship in Kent

Police have seized £10 million worth of cocaine weighing 137kg (302lb) following a raid on a container ship at a port in Kent.

The drugs were discovered at Sheerness Port on a Panamanian-registered ship transporting bananas to the Netherlands on 14 October, the National Crime Agency (NCA) said.

Cocaine was hidden in four large holdalls placed below the water line inside the sea chest, an intake area used for seawater to maintain ship stability.

A specialist dive team took five hours to recover the drugs, which were behind bolted-up grills, with the assistance of Border Force officers and port operator Peel Ports.

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

Bolton man prosecuted for posing as a licensed security operative

Adewale Balogun was using a false instrument and possessing a false identity document when attempting to work as a licensed operative last summer at two separate events.

Balogun was sentenced at Bolton Crown Court where he received six-months imprisonment for using a false instrument, three months imprisonment for possession of a false identity document and three months imprisonment for fraud by false representation. The sentences were to run concurrently which were suspended for a period of 18 months, with a requirement of 150 hours of unpaid work to be undertaken. The court also ordered Balogun to pay prosecution costs of £500. He now holds a criminal record.

Balogun had gained employment with Number One Security Ltd, by using a counterfeit SIA licence and UK Residency Permit in the name of a genuine licensed operative, which he falsely claimed to be his own.

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

Eastbourne company prosecuted for supplying illegal security

Zac Morgan and his business First Choice (Sussex) Security Ltd were prosecuted by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) for supplying unlicensed security. Howard Morrison was prosecuted for working as an unlicensed security operative.

Zac Morgan entered guilty pleas for the company and himself for the supply of unlicensed security. Zac Morgan was fined £2,000 and ordered to pay £1,304.25 prosecution costs.

First Choice (Sussex) Security Ltd was fined £6,000 and ordered to pay £1304.25 prosecution costs.

Howard Morrison was prosecuted and fined £1,500 and ordered to pay £2,742.45 prosecution costs for working illegally as a door supervisor and for making a false statement.

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

Cwmbran man using multiple aliases prosecuted for fraud

A Cwmbran man was prosecuted for fraud for failing to disclose information to the Security Industry Authority (SIA). Ashley Marcel Zennadi, used multiple aliases to disguise prior criminal convictions. He pleaded guilty to fraud offences at Cwmbran Magistrates' Court on Thursday, 28 September 2023. The court fined him £200, ordered him to pay £645 prosecution costs and a court surcharge of £34.

The SIA issued Ashley Marcel Zennadi with an SIA licence on 10 May 2022 following his application using the alias 'Tommy Trevor Egan'. Zennadi did not declare any of his previous criminality nor the aliases that he had used in earlier applications to the SIA. Zennadi's licence was suspended by the SIA on discovery of suspicious activity.

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

Ballymena man prosecuted for supplying unlicensed security

Stephen Simmonds from Ballymena was prosecuted at Laganside Magistrates' Court.

He pleaded guilty to supplying illegal security to Belfast venues as well as failing to inform the Security Industry Authority (SIA) of his change of address.

The court fined Simmonds £700 and ordered him to pay £100 court costs and £135 prosecutions costs. The prosecution was brought by the SIA. This prosecution relates to two recent SIA prosecutions of Alan Agnew and Ryan Wilkinson. The cases began when the SIA's investigators and officers from the Police Service of Northern Ireland carried out two planned inspections of venues in Belfast's night-time economy on 28 September 2022 and 3 October 2022.

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

Cardiff man prosecuted for working illegally

Aymen Essa from Cardiff was fined £100 by Merthyr Tydfil Magistrates' Court, and he was ordered to pay £846 prosecution costs and a £40 victim surcharge.

The prosecution was brought by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) who was informed by South Wales Police that Mr Essa was working illegally without an SIA licence at a Rhondda construction site within an industrial estate on 9 January 2023.

South Wales Police officers responded to an alarm at the site on 8 January 2023 and when they arrived at the site, they noted Aymen Essa working as a security guard who was wearing a high-visibility jacket. Police officers sought from Mr Essa his SIA licence which he didn't have. Police officers found that he was deployed by a Cardiff-based security company that held the security contract for the industrial estate.

The case was referred to the SIA's Criminal Investigations team who invited Essa for an interview under caution at Cardiff Bay Police Station on 23 May 2023. Essa joined the interview but failed to answer any of the investigator's questions and he said: "take me to court". The SIA is also pursuing a prosecution against the company responsible for deploying Mr Essa.

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

Two Binbrook men prosecuted for working illegally

On 13 October 2023 two men from Binbrook were prosecuted at Humber Magistrates' Court. They worked as illegal security in 2020 for G4 Fuels Ltd in Market Rasen.

These cases are the culmination of a series of prosecutions brought by the Security Industry Authority (SIA). They follow the prosecution of Louth company director, Trevor Frater at Grimsby Crown Court in November 2021, in which Frater was ordered to pay £33,979.51 in Proceeds of Crime Act reparations, within eight weeks or face a prison sentence.

The case began when three unlicensed men were supplied from Frater's business, Elite Security, to provide round the clock illegal security to G4 Fuels Ltd between 17 July 2020 and 26 August 2020.

They were supplied under the auspices of the site being a 'COVID-19' test and trace operation. SIA's investigators found no links between an official test and trace operation and the supply of the staff to Brookenby Business Park.

On 27 October 2020 Chambers and Whitfield were invited to an interview-under-caution with SIA investigators. Whitfield joined the interview while Chambers failed to engage with SIA investigators.

On 28 May 2021, the third unlicensed operative, Frank Quinton pleaded guilty at Grimsby Magistrates' Court to working illegally. He was fined £100 and required to pay £779.40 prosecution costs and a £39 victim surcharge.

Michael Chambers and Michael Whitfield pleaded not guilty to working without a licence, despite being shown in video evidence as doing so. A new trial date was therefore set for Friday 13 October 2023.

Michael Chambers was found guilty by the court and was fined £500, ordered to pay £1,500 prosecution costs and a victim surcharge £50. Michael Whitfield was found guilty and was fined £500, ordered to pay £1,500 prosecution costs and a victim surcharge of £50.

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

Hate crime continues to soar in London amid Israel-Hamas war

Anti-Semitic and Islamophobic hate crimes have almost doubled in little over a week in London, police data showed.

Tensions in the capital are rising after the October 7 attack by Hamas militants on southern Israel and subsequent bombardment by Israel of Gaza.

Pro-Palestinian demonstrations and vigils held by Jewish groups in solidarity with hostages taken by militants, some of whom are British, have played out on London streets in recent weeks. Seventy-five arrests have been made "linked to the conflict", the Metropolitan Police said.

Commander Kyle Gordon said there had been 408 anti-Semitic incidents recorded in the capital so far this month, compared to 28 in the same period last year. There had been 174 Islamophobic offences compared to 65 in the same timeframe in 2022.

In both cases the numbers were almost twice as high as those given a week ago.

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

Man planning to bomb Leeds hospital was talked out of it by patient

A "self-radicalised" suspect who brought a pressure cooker bomb to a Leeds hospital was persuaded to hand himself in to police by a member of the public who "saved many lives", a court has heard.

Mohammed Farooq, 28, brought a device containing nearly 10kg of explosive to St James's hospital in the early hours of 20 January planning to detonate it in a terror attack, prosecutors told Sheffield crown court.

But a patient who was having a cigarette outside saw him looking anxious and spoke kindly to him, persuading him to abandon his plans and to move the bomb as far away from the hospital as possible, Jonathan Sandiford KC, for the prosecution, told the court.

Farooq was arrested outside the Gledhow wing of the hospital, where he worked as a support assistant, after the intervention of Nathan Newby, who over the course of the early hours talked the defendant down and called the emergency services, the court heard.

Farooq had intended to trigger an evacuation of that wing of the hospital, the prosecutor told the court, by texting a colleague with a warning about the bomb. However, the colleague was at home and did not immediately pick up the message, so no fire alarm was triggered.

When that failed, he drove away, returning 40 minutes later “with a new plan of attack”, the jury was told, which was to wait in the cafe for a change of shift to detonate the bomb, to “kill as many nurses as possible”.

The court heard how Farooq had “radicalised himself” by reading al-Qaida propaganda that said it was not necessary to travel to training camps to learn how to kill westerners and that a bomb big enough to kill dozens of people could be made in a month.

Police searches of his computer found he had a terror manual containing instructions to build a bomb alongside other searches for extremist materials, and he had also researched the possibility of converting an imitation firearm to make it fire live ammunition.

When the defendant’s possessions were searched on the morning of the foiled attack, he was also found to have two knives, black tape and an imitation firearm.

<https://www.theguardian.com/>

Ex-GCHQ worker jailed for terrorist knife attack on US spy at leisure centre

A former GCHQ worker who tried to kill a US spy in a “premeditated, targeted and vicious” knife attack at a leisure centre has been jailed for life.

Armed with two knives, Joshua Bowles punched and stabbed the woman repeatedly at the centre some three miles from the UK intelligence agency’s base in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, on March 9.

Afterwards, the ex-computer software coding developer said he had targeted her because he could not handle the “murky waters of ethics” and “the power that the American NSA have and the things they do”, adding: “I make a pretty shit terrorist, don’t I?”

The court heard that the 29-year-old defendant had planned the attack and searched the internet for topics including American Unabomber terrorist Theodore Kaczynski, attacks on women, and white supremacy.

Bowles, of Welwyn Mews, Cheltenham, pleaded guilty to the attempted murder of the woman, referred to by the code number 99230, and assaulting a man who attempted to intervene, causing him actual bodily harm. Mrs Justice Cheema-Grubb found it was a “politically motivated attack” driven by “anger and resentment” towards GCHQ and women.

The senior judge sentenced Bowles at the Old Bailey to life with a minimum term of 13 years.

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

Terror suspect arrested in supermarket car park 'had a gun and 200 bullets'

A terror suspect was arrested in a supermarket car park allegedly in possession of a semi-automatic pistol and 200 bullets, charges reveal.

Alfie Douglas Coleman, 19, is accused of preparing an attack and having terrorist material such as “21 Techniques of Silent Killing” and the “White Resistance Manual”. Wearing a grey prison-issue tracksuit and with dark, shoulder-length hair tucked behind his ears, Coleman spoke only to confirm his name, address and date of birth at a hearing at Westminster magistrates court today.

The charges allege he was in possession of “The terrorist explosives handbook, Vol 1, The Irish Republican Army – by Jack McPherson”, “Anarchists Cookbook Version 2000”, and the “Home workshop explosives – by Uncle Fester”. District Judge Daniel Sternberg sent the case to the Old Bailey, with the next hearing set for October 27.

He told the defendant: “I will remand you in custody until then, based on the seriousness of the charges.” Coleman, of Great Notley, Essex, was arrested on September 29 in Stratford, East London.

He was charged on Wednesday with preparation of terrorism, possession of a prohibited firearm, possession of ammunition without a firearms certificate, and 10 offences of possession of terrorist material. Police said Coleman was held as part of a probe relating to far-right terrorism.

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

Teen With ‘Deep Seated Interest in Right-Wing Extremism’ Caught Sending Bomb-Making Guides

A British teen who was 15 years old when he began sharing terrorist manifestos is now on trial for allegedly sending white nationalists instructions on how to make a bomb with the intent of encouraging a terrorist attack.

After searching the teen’s home, police allegedly found a “hoard” of right-wing materials, including literature and manifestos written by known terrorists, publications with titles like the “Terrorist Handbook,” and footage of mass shootings with Queen’s “Don’t Stop Me Now” playing in the background.

Prosecutor Brett Weaver told Winchester Crown Court that Malakai Wheeler, now 18, had a “deep-seated interest in right-wing extremism.”

“Through the use of an internet communication called Telegram, this defendant was able to share documents and other material that amongst other things provided instructions for the manufacture of explosives and how to make an improvised firearm,” Weaver told the court.

As reported by The Telegraph, Weaver said that Wheeler was not just some brainwashed teen, but instead someone who “willingly embraced the ideology of nationalist supporters.” He said that the materials Wheeler shared were sent to a group that supported racism, anti-Semitism, and “a more sinister desire to engage in violence.”

To be accepted into the private group “right-wing and extremist,” Wheeler allegedly had to prove he was white and British. He also sent the group 92 documents and 35 images of themes like weapons and terrorism to “demonstrate his worth.”

Weaver said that Wheeler created his first channel devoted to Nazism in August 2020.

<https://themessenger.com/>





Security industry news

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

Violent criminals pose more threat to UK company security than other European countries, according to report.

Violent criminals pose the greatest threat to UK companies in the next 12 months, more than in any other country surveyed in Europe, according to the 'World Security Report' published by G4S.

1,775 Chief Security Officers (CSOs) in 30 countries representing large, global companies with a reported total revenue of more than \$20 trillion took part in the report.

In the UK, the potential threat from violent criminals was reported by 42% of respondents; significantly above the world and European averages of 33% and 30% respectively, and well ahead of the previous year when 29% experienced this. Subversives – hackers, protestors, or spies – and petty criminals were both the second most likely threat actor groups at 40% and economic criminals third at 37%.

Security budgets to increase

Almost 9 in 10 (87%) UK CSOs anticipate the number of physical security threats will increase over the next 12 months. In anticipation of this, duty of care to employees is a top priority for UK CSOs with 48% of participants citing this as a driver of increased spending on security, above the world average of 40%. No other country in Europe ranked duty of care as highly.

Loss of revenue due to internal and external security incidents (33%) impacted UK companies more than anywhere else in Europe in the last year and higher than the world average (28%).

To tackle this, 40% confirmed their security budgets will increase significantly over the next 12 months and half said that increasing physical security measures is their top priority for the coming year.

Economic unrest was cited by 42% of respondents as the most worrying security-impacting hazard anticipated in the next year.

When asked what was most likely to drive an increase in security budgets over the same period half of UK CSOs said an economic downturn; higher than the world average of 42%.

<https://www-ifsecglobal-com>

Action plan to tackle shoplifting launched

The government brought together retailers and policing to set out measures to tackle the rise in shoplifting, catch more offenders and keep retail workers safe.

Policing Minister Chris Philp chaired a meeting with senior police leaders and 13 of the UK's biggest retailers today to launch the Retail Crime Action Plan.

Commissioned by the minister and published today, the plan includes a police commitment to prioritise urgently attending the scene of shoplifting instances involving violence against a shop worker, where security guards have detained an offender or where attendance is needed to secure evidence. Police attendance will be assessed based on risk, and prolific or juvenile offenders will be treated with elevated priority.

Police have also reaffirmed their pledge to follow up on any evidence that could reasonably lead to catching a perpetrator. Forces will step up targeted hotspot patrols in badly affected areas.

The plan sets out advice for retailers on how to provide the best possible evidence for police to pursue in any case. They should send CCTV footage of the whole incident, and an image of the shoplifter from the digital evidence management system, as quickly as possible after an offence has been committed.

Where CCTV or other digital images are secured, police will run this through the Police National Database using facial recognition technology to further aid efforts to identify and prosecute offenders – particularly prolific or potentially dangerous individuals.

A specialist new police team is also being created to build a comprehensive intelligence picture of the organised crime gangs that fuel many shoplifting incidents across the country, to help target and dismantle them.

The initiative, called Pegasus, is a business and policing partnership that will radically improve the way retailers are able to share intelligence with policing, to better understand the tactics used by organised retail crime gangs and identify more offenders. This will include development of a new information sharing platform and training for retailers.

Spearheaded by Katy Bourne, the Business Crime lead for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC), Pegasus is the first national partnership of its kind. It is backed by the Home Office, John Lewis, the Co-op, M&S, Boots, Primark and several more, who have collectively pledged to provide over £840,000 to get the initiative off the ground.

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

More than 500 potential cyber attacks logged every second, BT says

More than 46 million signals of potential cyber attacks are spotted by cyber security experts every day around the world, according to new data from BT.

The telecoms giant said more than 530 signals of potential attack were logged per second.

It said hackers were relentlessly scanning devices connected to the internet looking for weaknesses by using automation and machine learning to identify vulnerabilities in cyber defences.

The BT data showed that over the last 12 months the IT, defence, banking and insurance sectors were the most targeted by cyber criminals, followed by the retail, hospitality and education industries.

According to the figures, around 785,000 cyber attacks also targeted charities over the last year.

The company warned that these trends should be of greater concern when over half of businesses (61%) told a BT survey in May that they find keeping up with cyber security measures increasingly difficult.

BT has published the figures to mark Cyber Security Awareness Month, and has also launched a new podcast series called True Cybercrime Stories by BT, which details the true stories behind some of the world's most notable cyber attacks.

<https://www.itv.com/>

Government publishes report on AI capabilities and risks

The UK government has officially published a report on the capabilities and risks for frontier AI, ahead of the AI Safety Summit next week. The report draws on a range of sources, including UK intelligence assessments. The report will serve as a discussion paper at the summit.

The report is divided into three parts, the first of which is Capabilities and risks from frontier AI. This focuses on the need for further research into AI risk and covers the current state of frontier AI capabilities, how these might improve in the future, as well as the risks they currently present, including societal harms, misuse and loss of control.

The second section Safety and Security Risks of Generative Artificial Intelligence to 2025 draws on sources including intelligence assessments, which states that generative AI development has the potential to bring significant global benefits but will also increase risks to safety and security by enhancing threat actor capabilities and increasing the effectiveness of attacks.

Finally, Future Risks of Frontier AI, a report from the Government Office for Science, considers key uncertainties in frontier AI development, the risks future systems might pose, and a range of potential scenarios for AI out to 2030.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

SIA position on licence holders who act as vigilantes

Vigilantism is illegal, and we do not support or agree with licence holders who take the law into their own hands.

Vigilantism is law enforcement undertaken without legal authority by a self-appointed group of people. There are various examples of this type of activity, including actions by Online Child Abuse Activist Groups (OCAGs), sometimes referred to as 'paedophile hunters'. We hold the same view as the police on people who engage in this activity: it is illegal, and the people involved are committing a crime. Unlike the police these groups do not offer any protection to victims, their evidence is often poor, and some do it as cover for extortion and blackmail.

SIA licence holders have a vital role in keeping the public safe, and as such must carry out their duties within the law and in accordance with the standards of behaviour set out in their training.

We do not support or condone SIA licence holders engaging in vigilante activity. Holding an SIA licence does not give someone additional powers to detain or arrest someone. An SIA licence holder has the same legal powers as a member of the public. They are not the police.

If an SIA licence holder uses force to detain someone, this could amount to an assault and they may find themselves prosecuted, unless they can show that the use of force was lawful in the circumstances.

We will consider suspending and revoking a licence if the licence holder is charged and found guilty of a criminal offence.

In addition, we will consider suspending and revoking a licence if the licence holder's actions go against our 'fit and proper' standards and bring the private security industry into disrepute. This is even if the licence holder has not been charged and/or convicted of a criminal offence for those actions.

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

Utilising facial recognition to keep the public safe

Facial recognition has been in the news for featuring at high-profile events such as Harry Styles concerts. But these articles in the mainstream press often highlight the privacy concerns surrounding the technology. Without a high-profile success case, it's hard to convince the public of the technology's viability.

Ahead of Harry Styles' concerts in Cardiff on 20 and 21 June, fans were warned that they could be scanned by live facial recognition cameras deployed in the area by South Wales Police. The cameras were to be used to identify people wanted for priority offences.

South Wales Police stated: "it's being deployed specifically to seek out wanted individuals. Fully appreciate the concert has a young audience, however concert-goers won't be the only people in the city centre during this time."

How can it be used?

Live facial recognition (LFR) works by comparing faces with a watchlist, using artificial intelligence. The police stated that if you are not on a watch list, the biometric data collected won't be stored and it will immediately be deleted.

At a Beyoncé concert earlier in the year, the force said the technology would be used “to support policing in the identification of persons wanted for priority offences... to support law enforcement... and to ensure the safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons”.

South Wales Police have used the technology at previous events. Using the technology at a rugby match, 108,540 faces were scanned, resulting in the arrests of two people.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

MI5 chief warns of emerging AI threat at Five Eyes Summit

Speaking at the 'Five Eyes' security summit in California, Director General of MI5 Ken McCallum has warned about the emerging use of sophisticated technologies by malicious actors.

“Deep fake technologies do clearly have potential to cause all kinds of confusion and dissension and chaos in our societies.

“The technology has now become significantly more sophisticated than was previously the case. And that clearly does open up the possibility that a range of actors of various sorts, that wouldn't necessarily just be limited to the intelligence services of adversary nations, might seek to use these technologies to influence public opinion in all kinds of ways.”

McCallum added that AI carried a range of risks, including “enabling terrorism and the spread of dangerous knowledge in ways that we would all regret”.

In their first ever joint public appearance, leaders of the Five Eyes intelligence partnership—the US, UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand—traveled to the US at the invitation of FBI Director Christopher Wray, who said:

“We've seen people essentially using AI to circumvent safeguards ... to do searches for, you know, how to build a bomb, for example, or ways to obfuscate their searches for how to build the bomb.”

Speaking on the terrorism threat posed by recent developments in the Middle East, McCallum said:

“There clearly is the possibility that profound events in the Middle East will either generate more volume of UK threat and/or change its shape in terms of what is being targeted, in terms of how people are taking inspiration”

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

SIA responds to BBC File on 4 investigation into security training

The Security Industry Authority (SIA) has issued a comprehensive response addressing the alarming issues raised by the BBC's File on 4 – the award-winning current affairs documentary series – in its recent investigation focused on training in the security sector and, specifically, the delivery of SIA licence-linked training.

The findings of File on 4's investigation process – the results of which were originally broadcast by Radio 4 at 5.00 pm on 2 October – were reported on the BBC News website the following day under the headline: 'Gig safety fears after trainee stewards helped to cheat'.

According to the BBC News report compiled by Kate West and Melanie Stewart-Smith, an undercover reporter paid an extra sum of money to complete what is a mandatory six-day training course in just a day-and-a-half, in the process missing crucial instruction in First Aid procedures. Attending one course, the reporter was told to complete timesheets for all six days and was also fed the answers to multiple choice questions.

In total, File on 4 approached 12 companies offering Level 2 SIA door supervisor training courses for sums of money between £200 and £300. The BBC suggests that many such companies advertise near-100% pass rates and also employ phrases such as 'No pass, no fee'.

Four of those firms approached offered the undercover journalist from File on 4 shortened training courses, which is very much against the regulations.

Successful completion of the six-day training programme allows individuals to apply for an SIA licence, which is then granted if subsequent identity and criminal record checks are conducted and satisfactory in terms of the end results derived by that process.

Covert filming was carried out by the undercover reporter. Some of the footage obtained is included within the report on the BBC News website, with the report suggesting that individuals are able to "fraudulently obtain work licences after attending sham training courses".

Responding to the issues raised by the BBC's File on 4 programme, the SIA has commented: "The behaviours captured in this documentary are both shocking and disappointing. It throws shade on parts of a training industry that's relied upon to play its part in public safety."

The industry regulator continued: "We have launched an investigation into the findings of the undercover operation conducted by the BBC's File on 4. We are working with the qualifications regulator in England (ie Ofqual) and awarding organisations it regulates to further examine the issues highlighted by File on 4."

The Ofqual-approved awarding organisations have confirmed to the SIA that the training providers featured have been suspended pending further investigation.

<https://securitymattersmagazine.com/>



NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY CENTRE (NCSC)

The NCSC supports the most critical organisations in the UK, the wider public sector, industry, SMEs as well as the general public. When incidents do occur, they provide effective incident response to minimise harm to the UK, help with recovery, and learn lessons for the future. Please see the links to this month's NCSC weekly threat reports.

Exploitation of Cisco IOS XE vulnerabilities affecting UK organisations



Organisations are encouraged to take action to mitigate vulnerabilities affecting Cisco IOS XE (CVE-2023-20198 and CVE-2023-20273) and follow the latest vendor advice.

Cisco has published an updated advisory detailing two vulnerabilities affecting Cisco IOS XE devices. Both are being actively exploited.

CVE-2023-20198 – A remote, unauthenticated attacker could create an account on an affected system with privilege level 15 access. The attacker can then use that account to gain control of the affected system.

CVE-2023-20273 – A remote, authenticated attacker could inject arbitrary commands as the root user.

The NCSC is working with UK organisations known to be impacted and have notified affected UK organisations signed up for the NCSC Early Warning service more advice can be found using the below link.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/cisco-ios-xe-vulnerabilities>



Demonstrations / Protests

Five charged with aggravated trespass

Five people have been charged with aggravated trespass after eco-protesters halted a Les Misérables performance in the West End. The five people charged are Hannah Taylor, 23, Lydia Gribbin, 28, Hanan Ameer, 22, Noah Crane, 18, and Poppy Bliss, 19 have been released on bail and will appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court. Footage shared online showed several members of Just Stop Oil storm the stage during the song One Day More, where an actor waves the famous red flag.

Protesters appeared holding banners reading Just Stop Oil and wearing tops saying The Show Can't Go On. The crowd could be heard booing as one member of the group addressed the theatre.

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

Go North East workers 'assaulted' while on strike

An investigation has been launched following reports that two Go North East workers were assaulted whilst on strike outside their workplace.

No Go North East bus services, with the exception of scheduled Scholar school buses, have been operating since Saturday, September 30, during strike action in an ongoing dispute over pay. It comes after pay offers were rejected by the union. Go North East said it had tabled a pay offer worth 9.5% to drivers and engineers, as well as administration staff earning up to £40,000 per year. While those earning over £40,000 were offered six per cent.

During the strikes a number of employees have attended picket lines outside the bus company's depots, including those on Mandela Way, in Dunston, and Norham Road, in North Shields.

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

Keir Starmer covered in glitter by protester

A man has been arrested after a protester gate crashed Sir Keir Starmer's speech and showered the Labour leader with glitter at the party's conference. The speech was delayed as the protester was dragged off stage by security and the man was put in a police van.

The protest was claimed by People Demand Democracy, which uses disruptive tactics to push for electoral reform. Sir Keir dusted off the glitter and said the protest did not bother him.

"Protest or power, that's why we've changed," Sir Keir said, before setting out his vision of a country governed by a Labour government.

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

Man scales Sheffield Town Hall to tear down Israeli flag

A man has scaled Sheffield Town Hall, ripped down the Israeli flag and tried to replace it with the Palestinian flag as crowds applauded.

Two men are said to have climbed the building before getting down and fleeing the scene, police said.

Footage shows a hooded man shuffling along the ridge of the roof, around 60 metres off the ground.

After reaching the mast he hauls down the flag, video shows, before trying to raise the Palestinian flag in its place.

The crowds below celebrated as Israel's flag was thrown to the floor, cheering the man who then climbed down and ran away.

<https://news.sky.com>

Just Stop Oil protester sprays building orange at Manchester University as police swarm the area

A Just Stop Oil protester sprayed a Manchester University building orange as police swarmed the area. Video footage showed the moment the Allen Gilbert building, on Oxford Road, was covered in spray-paint using a fire extinguisher before police arrived at the scene. Greater Manchester Police have since confirmed that a 19-year-old woman was arrested on suspicion of criminal damage and has been taken into custody for questioning.

Just Stop Oil claimed responsibility for the protest, that also saw buildings at Cambridge University and the University of Leeds targeted, demanding that the government 'immediately halt planned new oil and gas projects.'

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

Thousands join Palestinian protests in UK after police warn Hamas supporters face arrest

Thousands of people have joined pro-Palestinian marches in London and other cities in the UK amid an expected Israeli ground invasion of the Gaza Strip.

In London, where tens of thousands are expected to join what organisers hope will remain a peaceful protest, the Met Police has warned that anyone showing support for Hamas or deviating from the route of the march could face arrest.

Ahead of the rally, the force said it would not tolerate hate crime as it sought to reassure people it had a "significant policing plan" in place to keep people safe.

<https://inews.co.uk/>

BBC Broadcasting House sprayed with red paint

A Pro-Palestinian group has claimed responsibility for vandalising the BBC's Broadcasting House headquarters with red paint over its coverage of the Israel-Hamas conflict. Palestine Action accused the broadcaster of having "blood on its hands" after staging the protest in London.

It also targeted the BBC's Hanover Building in Liverpool city centre, again spraying it with red paint to symbolise its "complicity in spilling Palestinian blood".

Presenter Victoria Derbyshire posted images and footage of the scene in the capital showing the daubed revolving glass doors and pale stone brickwork at Portland Place as she arrived for work.

The BBC has faced criticism in recent days for maintaining its editorial stance not to describe Hamas militants as terrorists.

Palestine Action posted on X, formerly Twitter: "Palestine Action left a message overnight for the BBC: spreading the occupation's lies and manufacturing consent for Israel's war crimes means that you have Palestinian blood on your hands".

In a further statement, the group accused the BBC of being complicit in "manufacturing consent for the occupation's genocide of Palestinians".

It accused the BBC of only ever inviting Palestinians to comment when Israelis are killed, with little regard for Palestinians killed by Israel.

A spokesperson for Palestine Action said: "We at Palestine Action cannot stand by and let Western media justify and manufacture consent for genocide through racist, callous coverage."

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

Thousands attend pro-Palestinian march

Thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators have taken to the streets of central London against the backdrop of the escalating conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Fifteen people have been arrested on suspicion of offences including assaults on emergency workers, public order offences and criminal damage.

More than 1,000 officers have been deployed by the Metropolitan Police for the march, as the force warned anyone showing support for Hamas, which is a designated terror organisation in the UK, faced arrest.

Flares in the Palestinian colours of red, green and black were set off early on the route, while chants of "Free, free Palestine" could be heard as people carrying flags and placards made their way through the centre of the capital.

<https://news.sky.com/>

RAF Scampton protests prompt increased police presence

A heightened police presence will be in place outside the former RAF Scampton base due to an increase in protest activity. Lincolnshire Police said it will be monitoring and patrolling ongoing protests outside the former base for the rest of the week.

The police presence will include regular patrols in vehicles and by foot along with continued engagement to provide advice on safe and lawful protest. Police said it is working to keep protectors behaving in a lawful way following suspected crime and disorder earlier in the week by a minority of people.

It also said it would take swift and robust action against anyone who attends the area and causes disruption or commits offences. Police also confirmed that it does not believe any residents will be arriving at the former base this weekend, addressing rumours surrounding the reason for the increased police presence.

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

Palestine Action protest held at Leicester drone factory following escalation in conflict

A demonstration by pro-Palestine activists was held outside the Leicester drone factory owned by an Israeli weapons company. UAV Tactical Systems has been the site of a number of protests by activist group Palestine Action, who want to see the factory closed down.

The group claim that the factory builds drones which are then used by the Israeli military against the State of Palestine. Over the weekend, fighting in the region escalated once more, with Hamas reportedly taking hostages following their largest surprise assault on Israel in decades.

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

Campaigners concerned over hate crime protest outside New Scotland Yard

Anger at the way the Metropolitan Police has handled protests in the capital since Hamas's attack on Israel was brought to the steps of New Scotland Yard.

Hundreds of campaigners who held a rally outside the force's central London headquarters declared the organisation needs to rethink its policing policy regarding potential hate crimes and public order offences as the conflict in Israel and Gaza continues.

It comes after Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley differed with ministers this week over how to police pro-Palestine protesters shouting "jihad" after a rally in central London.

The campaigners outside Scotland Yard held banners which read "Act Against Hate Before It's Too Late" and "Zero Tolerance For Anti-Semites", claimed there have been too few arrests, lax policing, and excuses posted on social media for why certain chants and signs and phrases are not seen as hate crimes.

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

Police clashes as thousands of Pro-Palestine protesters descend on central London

Police have violently clashed with pro-Palestinian protesters close to Downing Street as thousands descended on central London with banners and posters to call for end an to the conflict in Gaza.

Some protesters were chanting "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" despite controversy around the slogan's meaning.

Counter demonstrations were also taking place, with dozens of people with Union flags standing close to the Cenotaph on Whitehall, drawing chants of “shame on you” from pro-Palestinian marchers.

Outside the gates of Downing Street, officers appeared to be detaining someone before demonstrators began scuffling with them.

As the demonstration wound to a close, fireworks were “launched at officers from within the crowd” at Trafalgar Square, Metropolitan Police said. The week before, 15 people arrested while nine police officers were injured.

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

Dozens of new oil and gas licences granted in North Sea, prompting fury from environmentalists

Another 27 licences for oil and gas production have been granted in the North Sea, prompting fury from environmental campaigners who said they would challenge the decision in court.

UK regulator the North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA) said the areas chosen had the best potential for rapid production, with the aim of improving the country’s energy security.

The decision comes in the wake of the controversial approval of the Rosebank field west of Shetland last month, which is estimated to contain up to 300 million barrels.

Earlier this year Rishi Sunak said he wanted to “max out” North Sea oil and gas reserves and that the UK Government would grant potentially hundreds of new drilling licences, in a dramatic departure from its previous stance on fossil fuels.

The NSTA said other initiatives aimed at improving the UK’s energy security were underway, including the potential licensing of offshore gas stores and the reopening of closed wells.

However, the decision is likely to infuriate environmental groups, with Greenpeace accusing UK ministers of “fuelling the climate crisis instead of helping to fix it”.

The group’s climate campaigner Philip Evans said: “UK voters want warmer homes, cheaper energy bills and a government that’s not afraid to take on the climate crisis.

<https://inews.co.uk/>

Police condemn Just Stop Oil after 60 arrested

More than 60 activists from the climate group are being held on suspicion of public order offences in Parliament Square, with one saying that their demands were “no new licences for fossil fuels”.

Police have condemned Just Stop Oil after arresting more than 60 protesters who carried out a demonstration next to parliament in Westminster.

After marching through central London, members of the activist group sat and laid down on the ground in Parliament Square.

Activist Victoria Lindsell, 68, said: “We will stop the moment Rishi Sunak listens to our demands, which are ‘no new licences for fossil fuels’.”

Protesters were seen wearing orange hi-vis vests and many were placed in handcuffs by officers after refusing to move from the area.

Commander Kyle Gordon said it was an "extremely busy time" for officers across London who have been "providing reassurance to communities" following the escalation of the Israel and Hamas conflict.

"It's unacceptable that we are having to remove officers, who are carrying out vital work in their communities at a time where there is a large number of hate crime being reported to us, to police Just Stop Oil," he said.

"We also know the majority of the public has reached their tolerance with Just Stop Oil, which on occasion is over-spilling into violence. It's clear the public has had enough."

The Metropolitan Police said officers take into account "a person's right to protest" before making an arrest, but if a demonstrator "disproportionately interferes with road transport infrastructure" one can be made under section seven of the Public Order Act.

<https://news.sky.com/>

Protesters mob Sir Keir Starmer's car in anger at his stance on Israel-Hamas war

Police were forced to intervene after pro-Palestinian protesters mobbed Sir Keir Starmer's car.

The Labour leader, who had just delivered a speech defending his approach to the crisis, was ushered into the back of a waiting Land Rover Discovery as protesters shouted at him and demanded an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.