

GF

GRASPAN FRANKTON

UK THREAT LEVEL:
SUBSTANTIAL

TWO CONVICTED
AFTER AMIR KHAN
ROBBED OF £70,000
DIAMOND WATCH
AT GUNPOINT

UK'S MOST DANGEROUS
AREAS FOR BURGLARIES
REVEALED

OSINT
INTELLIGENCE UPDATE
APRIL 2023



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Contact us to find out more about our specialist security and training solutions.

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ABOUT US

Graspan Frankton Ltd (GF) was formed in October 2011 and became a fast-growing security services provider both within the United Kingdom and Internationally. We first partnered with our customers to provide specialised and effective high end 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. GF forms part of the Triton Group.

Intelligence Led Security Services

We work in partnership with you to create a security solution, which protects what is most important to you - combining professional security personnel with cutting-edge technology. With a 360° approach to our intelligence and advisory services we help you to understand and monitor the risks to your people, assets and information, so that proportionate and effective mitigation can then be put in place.

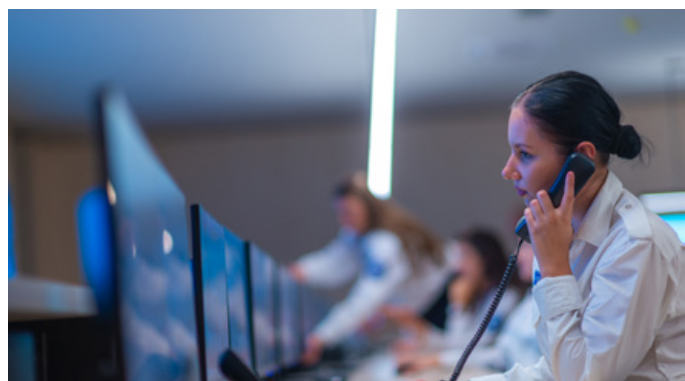
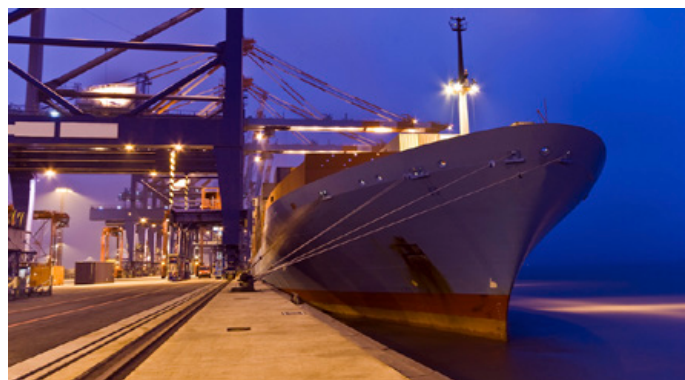
Outside of dealing with major incidents, the GF National Operations Centre based in the North East of England proactively assesses the various security threats that your business, people, assets, and brand might face by monitoring social and conventional media to identify:

On-going threats

Specific industry threats

Future trends

Best practice



Disclaimer

In compiling this report GF has relied on the veracity of public open-source information available at the time of publication. GF 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.

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UNITED KINGDOM'S THREAT LANDSCAPE

Introduction

The UK faces a range of threats from terrorism, espionage and state threats. Understanding the threats facing your business or organisation will ensure protective security measures are proportionate, effective and responsive.

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.

www.cpi.gov.uk/national-security-threats

<https://www.npsa.gov.uk/threat-landscape>

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UNITED KINGDOM'S THREAT DEFINITIONS

Terrorism Introduction

Terrorist groups use violence and threats of violence to publicise their causes and as a means to achieve their goals. Terrorism is a major threat for businesses.

Terrorist groups may seek to cause harm to the economy as a whole by attacking business premises or they may seek to attack specific businesses to advance their political agendas. The threat is not confined to the UK; companies that do business overseas may also be targeted.

The most significant terrorist threat comes from Islamist terrorism with its ambitions to mount high impact attacks designed to result in mass casualties.

Islamist terrorism

The threat to the UK from Islamist terrorism has increased and diversified, driven by developments in Syria and Iraq. The situation there provided an environment for terrorist groups, including Daesh (also referred to as ISIL, ISIS or the Islamic State) and Al Qaida (AQ)-linked groups, to plan attacks against the West. The availability of a large pool of individuals who have travelled from the UK and Europe to Syria heightens this threat.

As these individuals return to the UK, there is a risk that a terrorist group will have tasked them to conduct attacks, they will seek to conduct attacks on their own initiative, or radicalise other vulnerable individuals.

Any organisation could be directly or indirectly affected by Islamist Terrorism. Acts of terrorism vary in scale and purpose. Some aim merely to inflict superficial damage or cause public distress to draw attention to a particular cause. But others can be more violent and indiscriminate with far-reaching consequences.

The threat of terrorism emanates from the Middle East, North, East and West Africa, South and South East Asia. Here, Daesh-linked groups, as well as AQ and their affiliates, continue to pose a significant threat to UK interests overseas.

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



Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism (ERWT)

Extreme Right-Wing terrorism (ERWT) is made up of various different ideological strands that include but are not limited to, white supremacy. It is not a new phenomenon; modern ERWT ideology began to manifest in Western Europe during the 1970's, based on Nazi concepts and influences from the USA.

Since the 1970's there have been a number of notable RWT attacks both in the UK and worldwide, including: the murder of Rt Hon Jo Cox MP in 2016, the Finsbury Park Mosque attack in 2017, and the Christchurch Mosque Shootings in 2019.

In April 2020, the Security Services took over primacy of Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism investigations from the Police.

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

Northern Ireland-Related Terrorism (NIRT)

The nature of the terrorist threat in Northern Ireland has changed significantly in recent years. The Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA) and the main loyalist groups have ceased their terrorist campaigns and engaged with the political process. In April 1998 the Good Friday Agreement was signed, paving the way for a devolved Northern Ireland Executive based on power sharing between unionist and nationalist political parties. Although the Executive was suspended in 2002, it was successfully restored in May 2007 and has been in operation ever since.

However, some dissident republican groups reject the political process and the institutions created by the Good Friday Agreement and continue to carry out terrorist attacks. They seek to destabilise Northern Ireland through the tactical use of violence, targeting members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and other security personnel as well as seeking to cause disruption and economic damage. They have very little public support.

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

Terrorist Methods

Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)

Shootings and close quarter attacks

Kidnappings

Chemical, biological and radiological (CBR) devices

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.

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.

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 still continues and is potentially very damaging. A number of 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.npsa.gov.uk/espionage>



Serious and Organised Crime

Serious and organised crime is defined by the 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: 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

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**.

Contact us to find out more about our specialist security and training solutions.

OPEN-SOURCE SECURITY INCIDENT NEWS

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

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

undertaken by the NHS Counter Fraud Authority (NHSCFA), with the prosecution led by the Crown Prosecution Service. The total value of all offences committed stands at more than £600,000.

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

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

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

Trio convicted for supplying fraudulent passports

Three men who played major roles in supplying fraudulent passports to some of the most serious organised criminals have been convicted.

Following a trial at Reading Crown Court, Christopher Zietek (aged 67, of Sydenham in South East London) and Alan Thompson (aged 72, of Sutton in Surrey) have been found guilty of being involved in a conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, conspiracy to make fraudulent passports and Latvian ID documents and money laundering.

Zietek, along with Anthony Beard, aged 61, of Lewisham in London, acted as ringleaders of the criminal operation. Beard pleaded guilty to conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and conspiracy to fraudulent documents on 3 January 2023 prior to the trial.

The defendants were involved in a criminal enterprise which provided fraudulent UK passports and ID documents to criminals trying to evade justice, enabling them to cross borders and conduct illegal business undetected. The alleged crimes of those they assisted ranged from drug trafficking to murder.



Network behind £70 million criminal money laundering service dismantled

Ten members of a network who laundered £70 million for organised criminals have now been sentenced. The final three members of the London-based group were sentenced after their criminal enterprise was taken out of action following a five-year investigation by the Organised Crime Partnership (a joint National Crime Agency and Metropolitan Police Service unit).

The network was headed up by Artem Terzyan, aged 39, from Russia, and Deivis Grochiatskij, aged 45, from Lithuania. Investigators used evidence gained via surveillance, combined with the analysis of banking and Companies House records, to prove the pair set up bank accounts linked to shell companies through which they could launder the money.

Money would be sent from one shell company to another in a complex web of transfers before it was then sent out to international accounts held in countries including Germany,

the Czech Republic, the United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong and Singapore.

The two men also laundered £10 million they had generated by claiming fraudulent Bounce Back Loans for the various shell companies they had set up.

Additionally, Organised Crime Partnership investigators identified that the group traded in the sale and purchase of luxury pre-owned watches as another way in which to launder illicit cash.



Morrisons fined £3.5 million after worker died on the job by falling down the stairs

Morrisons has been fined £3.5 million for failing to ensure the health and safety of an epileptic worker who died after falling down the stairs. Matthew Gunn, 27, died at the supermarket chain's store in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire after suffering a suspected seizure. He died weeks later of catastrophic brain injuries. Morrisons was found guilty of failing to ensure Mr Gunn's safety last month, with the fine for the 2014 accident announced today.

The prosecution at Gloucester Crown Court said the company should have realised the danger of Mr Gunn having to use the stairs.

Maidenhead man prosecuted for fraud at Reading Crown Court

John Arthur Radley was sentenced at Reading Crown Court following his guilty plea to the court on Monday 21 November 2022. He is required to do a 12-month community order comprising 60-hours of unpaid work and 20 rehabilitation activity requirement days. Mr Radley is also required to pay £600 prosecution costs over a 12-month period. The sentencing followed additional hearings where Mr Radley sought

permission to retract his earlier guilty plea. This application was rejected by the court.

He was prosecuted for repeatedly providing fraudulent contracts and invoices to the Security Industry Authority (SIA) for an application he made to them in August 2018 for his business to become an SIA approved contractor.

Radley pleaded guilty to the court to fraud by false representation to the SIA when he submitted a falsified contract for the provision of security operatives to a football club.



Easter strikes at Heathrow Airport to go ahead after talks collapse

Strikes by security guards at Heathrow Airport will go ahead on Friday after last-ditch talks failed to resolve a pay dispute, with action likely to disrupt school holiday travel.

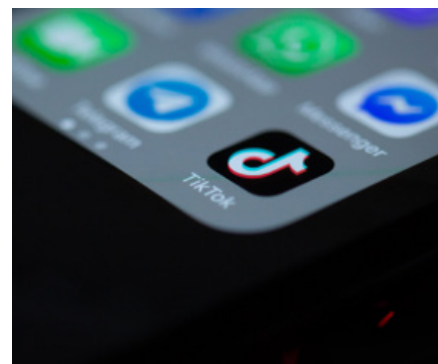
Around 1,400 members of Unite will walk out for 10 days, including most of the Easter weekend. The union said talks broke down because Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL) failed to substantially improve its pay offer.

TikTok banned on London City Hall devices over security concerns

London City Hall staff will no longer have TikTok on their devices in the latest ban imposed on the Chinese-owned social media app over security concerns.

The Greater London authority (GLA) said the rule was implemented as it takes information security “extremely seriously”.

It comes after the UK government banned ministers from using the video-sharing app on their work phones after a security review.



Killer gang members caught on CCTV celebrating

Five gang members who were caught on CCTV smiling and celebrating after shooting dead a rival in a street in north London have been convicted of murder.

Sharmake Mohamud, 22, was shot dead in Green Lanes, Haringey on September 21, 2021.

Police still do not know whether Mr Mohamud was their intended target or if they “set out that night with the intention of finding and doing serious harm to anyone they perceived to be from a rival group.”

Mehdi Younes, 22, Abdul Mohamed, 26, Ali Ceesay, 29, and two men aged 17, who cannot be named for legal reasons, were caught on CCTV smiling, shaking hands, and embracing in “what can only be

interpreted as an act of celebration” following the murder. Four of the gang were found guilty of murder and two counts of GBH with intent at the end of an Old Bailey trial.

Formula One star Lando Norris robbed

F1 star Lando Norris was restrained in a headlock and robbed of his £144,000 designer watch at his sports car after Wembley’s Euro 2020 final, a court heard.

The 23-year-old McLaren driver was held by one unknown male and the unique Richard Mille RM 67-02 watch - specifically designed for the racer - was violently ripped from his wrist by a second man.

Harrow Crown Court heard that Liam Williams, 25, of Bootle, Merseyside, is accused of being the person who snatched the timepiece, leaving his DNA on the racing driver’s arm. The trial continues,

16-year-old found guilty of terrorism offence

A 16-year-old has been found guilty of one offence contrary to S5 Terrorism Act 2006, after a jury found that he had intended to commit an act of terrorism before being stopped by Counter Terrorism Policing North East (CTP NE).

He was arrested in June 2022 after an investigation by CTP North East.

A digital search uncovered his extreme right-wing mindset and idolisation of convicted international terrorists. The defendant cannot be named due to his age.

In January 2023, he pleaded guilty to six offences including four offences contrary to S2 TACT 2006 (Dissemination of Terrorist Publications), one offence contrary to S1 of the Terrorism Act 2006 (Encouragement of Terrorism) and one offence contrary to S139

of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Possession of a Bladed Article).

The defendant will be sentenced for all seven offences at Leeds Crown Court at a later date.



Nottingham man prosecuted to working illegally at a Strelley pub

On Wednesday 1 March, Ali Nuwagy Mohamed El-Akoury pleaded guilty at Nottingham Magistrates' Court to working illegally at a Strelley pub on 14 May 2022. The court handed Mr El-Akoury an absolute discharge, but he now has a criminal record.

The prosecution follows an incident at the pub when Mr El-Akoury was working illegally as a door supervisor.

Nottingham Police investigated the original incident and referred the case to the SIA who suspended Mr El-Akoury's licence. Mr El-Akoury had held a front-line, door supervisor's SIA licence until 03 November 2021. He subsequently renewed his licence to a non-front-line licence which prevents him from working as a door supervisor.

Manchester Arena survivors to sue conspiracy theorist

Two Manchester Arena survivors have filed legal action against a conspiracy theorist who claims the attack was faked.

Father and daughter Martin and Eve Hibbert are suing Richard D Hall for defamation and harassment. Martin was paralysed from the waist down and Eve was left severely disabled by the Manchester Arena attack in 2017, which killed 22 people.

This is the first-time action of this type has been taken against a conspiracy theorist.

Last year, a Radio 4 podcast series and BBC Panorama investigation revealed that Richard D Hall tracks down survivors to their homes and workplaces to see if they are lying about their injuries. Hall admitted that he spied on Evie Hibbert from a vehicle outside their home. He has also sold a book in which he described his tactics, and promoted theories online that other UK terror attacks were staged.

The Hibbert family is now seeking an injunction to restrain Hall from making similar allegations in future and damages for some of the harm he has caused them.

UK's most dangerous areas for burglaries revealed

Greater Manchester is the current "burglary capital of England" where the highest level of crimes per 1,000 population was reported.

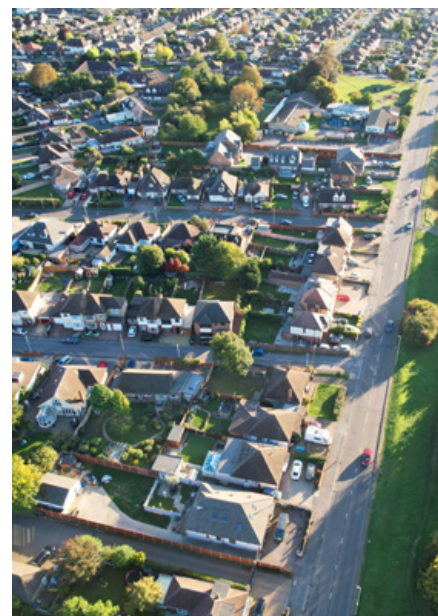
They recorded the most raids on homes and businesses between January and December last year. The numbers are calculated to show the level of crime proportionate to the number of people who live there. Manchester saw a whopping 8.2 burglaries occur per 1,000 people according to the latest ONS figures.

It is the second year in a row the northwest area has taken the top spot.

Ringling in at a close second are Cleveland and South Yorkshire where 8.1 cases were reported to cops per 1,000 people.

Surprisingly Met Police figures rank sixth, with six burglaries.

In contrast, Devon and Cornwall are the safest areas for burglaries - with just two cases per capita.





Northumberland hostel security guard robbed by residents on his first day at work

Andrew Dowsett and Josh Kellett robbed the victim at the Blyth homeless hostel where they were staying and stole £181. The security guard was robbed on his first day at work at a homeless hostel by the two residents. The victim was targeted in the security office of the accommodation in Blyth and was put in a headlock and taken to the floor while money was stolen from a safe.

Despite attempts to disguise themselves with a dressing gown and hood over their heads, Andrew Dowsett and Josh Kellett were easily identified on CCTV.

The pair have each been jailed for 12 months at Newcastle Crown Court after pleading guilty to robbery. It took place just after midnight on November 6 last year at the Marlow Lodge hostel, in Blyth.

Northern Ireland terrorism threat level rises

The terrorism threat level in Northern Ireland has been raised from substantial to severe, meaning an attack is highly likely. The move, based on an MI5 intelligence assessment, follows a rise in dissident republican activity, including a recent gun attack on a top police officer.

It reverses a downgrade in Northern Ireland's terror threat level last March - its first change for 12 years.

It was announced by Northern Ireland Secretary Chris Heaton-Harris.

MI5, the UK's Security Service, is believed to review the threat level every six months. The terrorism threat level remains substantial in the rest of the UK, meaning an attack is a strong possibility.

Threat levels are designed to give an indication of the likelihood of a terrorist attack and there are five rankings ranging from low to critical. Severe is one level below critical, meaning an attack is expected imminently.

More than £30m worth of luxury watches stolen every year in London

More than £30 million worth of luxury watches are stolen in London every year, new research shows. The capital city is the worst-affected region in the UK for watch thefts, with more than 6,000 cases reported in the last 12 months.

It is estimated £162 million worth of watches have been stolen across in London over the last five years - more than £30m per year.

In December 2022 alone, 600 watches were reported stolen, with an average value of £5,188.88 each.

It comes after watch crime fell to its lowest point during the pandemic, but rose again in 2022, which saw 15,058 watches reported as stolen in the UK. This was the highest number of cases in two-years, with the average value of the watch reported to be stolen at £1,345, according to data obtained under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) by Watchfinder & Co.

In total, more than 100,000 watches have been stolen across the UK since 2015.



Prison Officer, 27 faces jail

Joanne Hunter, 27, started a romance with an unnamed prisoner at HMP Forest Bank, Salford, in late 2020.

She has pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit misconduct in public office and bringing or conveying cannabis into the prison. The judge at Manchester Crown Court, Judge Rachel Smith, said "immediate custody is inevitable in cases like this".

American operative on secondment to GCHQ was stabbed by alleged terrorist

An American operative on secondment to GCHQ was stabbed by an alleged terrorist just three miles from its headquarters, it can

now be revealed. Police believe a woman working for US intelligence was targeted by a knifeman in an alleged terrorist attack outside a leisure centre in Cheltenham. The victim is said to have been sitting in a car when the knifeman lashed out stabbing her in the leisure centre car park before she managed to stagger out of the vehicle for help.

Initially, the apparently targeted stabbing was treated as attempted murder, but the suspect was re-arrested on suspicion of preparing and instigating a terrorist act just 24 hours later.

In recent days police have been searching a property in Cheltenham connected to the alleged offender.



£4m worth of gold reclaimed after 2019 Heathrow Airport plane discovery

Around £4m worth of gold has been reclaimed after being discovered in the cargo section of a plane at London's Heathrow Airport nearly three years ago. The National Crime Agency (NCA) seized 104kg of gold bars, some in the shape of hearts, in June 2019 on a plane that had arrived from the Cayman Islands and had stopped at Heathrow on its way to Switzerland.

The gold had been taken to the Caymans on a private jet which arrived from Venezuela, South America.



Met police firearms officer faces criminal charges

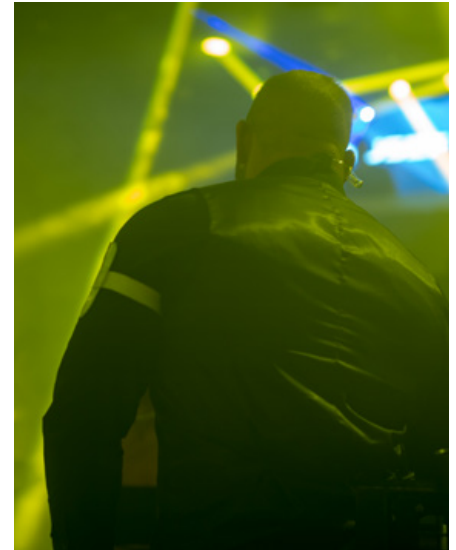
A Met Police officer is facing possible criminal charges over the fatal shooting of Chris Kaba last year. Mr Kaba, 24, was shot dead by a police officer in Streatham Hill last September while driving an Audi that had been linked by police to a firearms incident. He was unarmed and not being treated as a suspect.

Armed officers pursued him after an automatic number plate recognition camera indicated that the vehicle he was driving was linked to a firearms incident in the previous days. His car was hemmed in by two police vehicles in Kirkstall Gardens, Streatham Hill, and one round was fired from a police weapon.

Edgware company director prosecuted for breaching the Private Security Industry Act

On 14 March 2023 a Cricklewood company director Gentian Dedej, pleaded guilty at Willesden Magistrates' Court for purporting to be a Security Industry Authority (SIA) approved contractor. Dedej was fined £1,666 and required to pay prosecution costs of £2,416.33 and a victim surcharge of £167 by 31 May.

The case began when the SIA's London investigators carried out a routine licence inspection in Wembley on 7 July 2021 during the run up to the Euro Final 2021 at Wembley Stadium. During the inspection they visited a nearby Irish theme bar on Wembley Park Drive and checked the SIA licence of Erjon Xhika. The licence was fake and when he was questioned by investigators, he disappeared from the venue and the fake licence was seized. Erjon Xhika will appear in court on 16 October 2023.



Two police officers stabbed in London's Soho

Two police officers have been stabbed in central London. Scotland Yard said the male officers were off duty when the incident happened in Greek Street, Soho. Police arrived at the scene after being called by the London Ambulance Service to reports that a man had been stabbed. A man has been arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm and possession of Class A drugs.

Homophobic killer murdered man

A homophobic murderer has been jailed for beating a man to death with a claw hammer in a cemetery. Erik Feld, 38, killed Ranjith 'Roy' Kankanamalage, in Tower Hamlets Cemetery on August 16, 2021. Feld was charged with murder and claimed to have been acting in self-defence, after taking the hammer out to hit trees to relieve stress.

Private 'security guards' pin a 15-year-old to the ground and handcuff him in Superdrug

Police have launched an investigation after two private 'security guards' were filmed pinning a 15-year-old boy to the ground in a Superdrug store.

Footage shows two men pinning a teenager to the ground while they handcuff him before the police arrive at the shop in Chichester.

Loomis security driver in fake heist is jailed

A security van driver who handcuffed himself to his vehicle's steering wheel in a faked armed heist of almost £1m has been jailed for four years and 10 months.

Andrew Measor waited for two hours before using his nose to dial for help after helping Stefanos Cantaris, who masterminded the crime, to steal £920,000 in banknotes.

Measor, 51, had worked for cash-handling firm Loomis for three years

and was the "inside man" in the faked armed robbery in Ilford, east London, on 30 December 2021, Southwark Crown Court heard.

Man in court charged with mosque fire attacks in Birmingham and London

A suspect has appeared in court charged with two counts of attempted murder after attacks on men set alight outside mosques in Birmingham and London.

Mohammed Abbkr, 28, from Edgbaston in Birmingham, is alleged to have sprayed a substance on to the two Muslim victims in the separate incidents.

At Birmingham Magistrates' Court, Mr Abbkr, who is originally from Sudan, spoke only to confirm his name, age and address and was remanded in custody.

He is due at a Crown court on 20 April. Hashi Odowa, 82, was set alight by a mosque in Ealing, west London. Mohammed Rayaz, 70, was also set on fire and seriously injured in Edgbaston, Birmingham.



Masked robbers steal £5 million

Masked robbers have made off with £5 million in a daring raid that saw them sneak into a cash depot by strapping themselves to the underside of a truck. The robbery, which took place in a high-security cash storage facility Slough, targeted delivery vans set to take cash off to banks and ATMs.

Nigerian politician and wife guilty

A wealthy Nigerian politician has been found guilty of an organ-harvesting plot involving a British hospital in the first case of its kind. Senator Ike Ekweremadu, 60, his wife Beatrice, 56, and medical

“middleman” Dr Obinna Obeta, 50, were found guilty at the Old Bailey of conspiring to exploit a young man from Lagos for his body part.

The Ekweremadus’ daughter Sonia, 25, wept as she was cleared of the same charge on Thursday.

The victim, a 21-year-old street trader from Lagos, was brought to the UK last year to provide a kidney to Sonia in an £80,000 private transplant at the Royal Free Hospital in London. It is the first time defendants have been convicted under the Modern Slavery Act of an organ harvesting conspiracy.



Two convicted after Amir Khan robbed of £70,000 diamond watch at gunpoint

Dante Campbell, 20, and Ahmed Bana, 25, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to rob and possession of an imitation firearm. They will be sentenced at Snaresbrook Crown Court on a date to be set. Mr Khan was leaving the Sahara Grill in Leyton, East London, with his wife Faryal Makhdoom and their friend Omar Khalid, on April 18 last year when the attack took place.



Housekeeper stole £400,000 in jewellery and watches from wealthy guests

A housekeeper who stole nearly £400,000 in jewellery and watches from rich guests staying at London hotels and apartments is facing a lengthy jail term. Sabrina Rova worked as a cleaner at luxurious hotels and apartments in London, including the five-star Hilton Hotel in Park Lane and The Other House apartments in South Kensington, when she carried out the thefts.

Police forces outside of London 'to be held to account' following Casey report

Police and Crime Commissioners outside of London have pledged to enact reforms and hold their own forces accountable in light of the Casey report. Several PCCs acknowledged in statements that Baroness Louise Casey's review into the "institutionally racist, misogynistic and homophobic" Metropolitan Police force will impact public confidence in policing outside of the capital.

Footage shows moment moped muggers hit pedestrian to steal £211,000 watch.

Footage has captured the moment a pedestrian was barrelled to the ground by two muggers on a moped before they stole his £210,000 watch - as part of a terrifying 45-minute crime spree through Mayfair in London.

Andrei Karkar was walking along Curzon Street in Mayfair, west London, after going shopping when he was targeted by two teenagers on mopeds.

CCTV footage captured the moment one of the teens drove onto the pavement and rammed into Mr Karkar, while the other held him to the ground. He was kicked and punched by the pair as they stole his Patek Philippe watch, estimated to be worth around £210,000.



Dozens of east London businesses targeted in wave of hammer attacks

Footage shows a man deliberately smash the windows of an east London restaurant - amid a bizarre spate of attacks that have left dozens of businesses suffering thousands of pounds of damage.

Around 50 incidents are thought to have hit the Bethnal Green area in recent months, with some premises targeted multiple times - leaving worried business owners pleading for extra CCTV cover.

SECURITY INDUSTRY NEWS

SIA publishes update to the Manchester Arena Inquiry

The SIA today (3 March) published its recent update to the Manchester Arena Inquiry. The update outlines the SIA's progress on 2 monitored recommendations made by the Inquiry. It also provides a summary of various changes and improvements made by the SIA since the attack at the Manchester Arena.

The update, submitted by the SIA to the Inquiry on 16 January, has been published on the Manchester Arena Inquiry website and is now also available here:

<https://manchesterarenainquiry.org.uk/>



Second UK airport scraps liquid rule

London City Airport has become the second airport in the UK to scrap the 100 ml rule for liquids with the introduction of high-tech scanners.

Flyers are now able to carry up to two litres of liquid, and liquids no longer need to be put in separate bags.

The new C3 scanners take high-resolution 3D images of bags and the government has set a deadline of June 2024 to most UK airports to install the machines. Teesside airport introduced the scanners in March.

Travellers also no longer need to remove electronics from luggage.

According to chief operating officer Alison FitzGerald, the new system is quicker and safe at the same time.

Security Industry Authority in Numbers

In February 2023 the SIA recorded the following statistics:

Number of applications received: 15,676.

Number of paid applications received: 13,825.

Average time it took us to make a decision to grant or refuse an application: 13.7 working days.

Number of applications granted: 12,868.

Number of applications refused: 17.

Number of licences revoked: 84.

Number of licences suspended: 88.

National Counter Terrorism Security Office Competent Persons Scheme

The NaCTSO (National Counter Terrorism Security Office) recently wrote:

We were pleased to see the announcement of Martyn's Law (previously the Protect Duty) in December and look forward to the changes that it will bring.

The Homeland Security Group at the Home Office will be the single, authoritative voice for all that it mandates, so continue to look out for announcements from them.

NaCTSO continues to develop the Competent Persons Scheme and looks forward to incorporating the requirements of Martyn's Law into the work with the Publicly Accessible Locations (PALs) Programme at NaCTSO.



State Threats Task Force formed by Royal United Services Institute

State-based threats against the UK and other democratic countries are rising. They are complex and multifaceted and yet, all-too-often, the policy response lacks vision and strategy. The Royal United Services Institute's (RUSI) newly established State Threats Task Force aims to provide much-needed input to the policy debate at a time when the UK and its allies are adapting to this evolving and heightened threat environment.

The new Task Force has been set in motion to support the UK and its partners in assessing, characterising, attributing and acting on the entire spectrum of non-military state threats faced by today's democracies. It's scheduled to work for six months and draw on the expertise of RUSI's cyber, organised crime and financial crime-centred programmes.

National Cyber Force shares update on operations

The National Cyber Force (NCF) has shared how some of its daily cyber operations disrupt terrorists, counter state threats and support military operations.

The NCF is a partnership between GCHQ and the Ministry of Defence, which was established in 2020 and carries out cyber operations to protect against threats to the UK, further the UK's foreign policy, support military operations, and prevent serious crime.

The publication of a new document titled 'NCF: Responsible Cyber Power in Practice' intends to deliver on the commitment in the Integrated Review Refresh to be as transparent as possible about the NCF's cyber capabilities and provide clarity on how the UK acts as a responsible and democratic cyber power.

Part of the NCF's approach is the 'doctrine of cognitive effect', which uses techniques that have the potential to sow distrust, decrease morale, and weaken adversaries' abilities to plan and conduct their activities effectively. This may include preventing terrorist groups

from publishing pieces of extremist media online.

Over the last three years the NCF has delivered operations to protect military deployments overseas; disrupt terrorist groups; counter sophisticated, stealthy and continuous cyber threats; counter state disinformation campaigns; reduce the threat of external interference in democratic elections; and remove child sexual abuse material from public spaces online.

Government plan puts UK at forefront of fight against economic crime

Agreement has been reached on a new plan designed to crack down on money laundering, kleptocracy and sanctions evasion. The Economic Crime Plan 2 builds on the foundations of its predecessor with new actions to improve the system-wide response to economic crime through enhanced co-operation between Government, law enforcement, supervisory agencies and the private sector.

The response to economic crime will be bolstered by 475 new and highly trained financial crime investigators, spread across intelligence, enforcement and asset recovery at key agencies. This increased capacity will be targeted toward the detection and disruption of money laundering and the recovery of an additional £1 billion in criminal assets across the next decade.





Skills for Security sponsorship move addresses industry's skills crisis

Skills for Security, the largest provider of fire and security apprenticeships in the UK, has announced the launch of a new sponsorship package aimed at addressing the industry's skills crisis and supporting growth. Given the shortfall in skilled professionals across the security sector and the need to attract and retain new talent, it's crucial for businesses to invest in the development of the next generation of engineers, etc.

The sponsorship package offers four tiers, each of them providing unique benefits for businesses. The tiers are as follows: Innovation Partner, Inspiration Partner, Impact Partner and Media Partner. The packages are designed to help businesses contribute towards solving the skills crisis in the industry, while in parallel gaining valuable promotion and benefits.

By partnering with Skills for Security, businesses have the opportunity to showcase their initiatives, programmes and solutions to thousands of entrants and employers across the UK. They can demonstrate their commitment to the growth and development of the security and fire industries and their dedication to Corporate Social Responsibility, equality, diversity and inclusion, Human Resources, product development and more.

Major Home Office exercise tests response to terrorist attacks

The Home Office recently organised a large-scale exercise across two days in order to test the response of the Emergency Services – and Government itself – to a major terrorist incident. The Home Office planned and co-ordinated the national counter-terrorism exercise, working closely with partners including the British Transport Police, the Metropolitan

Police Service, North Yorkshire Police, Counterterrorism Policing North East, the London Fire Brigade and also the London Ambulance Service.

The 'Spring Resolve' exercise aimed to test the collective Emergency Services response to a series of no-notice violent attacks across multiple regions and assess the effectiveness of multi-agency Command and Control arrangements designed to stop the attacks, save lives and undertake effective and timely consequence management and recovery.

The exercise formed part of the regular counterterrorism testing and exercising programme which takes place across the UK on a regular basis.

Agencies were all set clear exercise objectives that were to be tested. Many of those objectives, in fact, were linked to the recommendations made following the publication of the Volume 2 report produced by the Manchester Arena Inquiry.

Security industry bucks trend as demand for officers soars

Amid headlines focused on hiring freezes and job cuts, the security industry is bucking the trend. New figures published by the British Security Industry Association (BSIA) indicate that the sector is booming, with businesses recruiting an estimated 65,000 new members of staff across the last six months as demand has grown. A survey of BSIA members suggests that security businesses have increased the size

of their workforces by almost one fifth (i.e. 16 per cent) since July 2022 as the industry comes to terms with new legislation and prepares for the full-scale return of major events and festivals in 2023.

A major national recruitment initiative entitled 'People, Property, Places: Professionally Protected', which was launched by the BSIA in 2022, focused on improving perceptions around a career in the industry and raising awareness of the crucial work security officers do among members of the public.

Data from the Security Industry Authority suggests that young people and women are two important groups contributing to the industry's growth.

In the 12 months to March 2023, the biggest increase in the licensed security officer population was experience in the 18-25 age bracket with a 14% increase. Over the same period, there was a 6% increase in licenced female security officers, which was double the 3% increase in licenced male officers.

Government unveils plans for life-saving public Emergency Alerts system

An all-new system that will afford the Government and the Emergency Services the capability to send an alert directly to mobile phones when there's a risk posed to life has been unveiled. Working with mobile broadcasting technology, the new Emergency Alerts system will "transform" the UK's warning and informing capability, providing a means to send urgent messages rapidly to circa 90% of mobile phones in a defined area and providing clear instructions on how best to respond.

The system is now ready to be tested across the country following successful tests in East Suffolk and Reading as the Government continues to strengthen the nation's resilience capability, making sure it offers the best possible protection against what is now an ever-evolving range of threats.

A UK-wide alerts test will take place in the early evening of Sunday 23 April, which will see individuals receive a test message on their mobile phones.

The alerts will only ever emanate from the Government or the Emergency Services. Those alerts will issue a warning, always include the details of the area impacted and provide instructions about how best to respond, duly linking to GOV.UK/alerts where people can receive further information.

Emergency Alerts will be used very rarely and will only be sent where there is an immediate risk posed to people's lives. On that basis, individuals may not receive an alert for months or even years.

The Government introduce NPSA for business protection against national security threats

State-sponsored attempts at stealing sensitive research and information can undermine UK businesses and harm competitiveness for the home nations on the world stage. That being so, the Government has announced the creation of the National Protective Security Authority (NPSA) to help businesses and organisations alike defend themselves against national security threats. The new body, which has been established as part of MI5,

will increase the UK's resilience to state threats as well as terrorism and, in tandem, play an important part in strengthening economic security.

The NPSA has absorbed the responsibilities of the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure but enjoys a broader remit. This reflects the fact that the threats facing the UK today extend far beyond Critical National Infrastructure.

Advice will be provided in an accessible and informative way such that it can be understood and used by a broad range of private and public sector organisations, including tech start-ups, businesses, event venues and universities.



NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY CENTRE (NCSC)

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

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/threat-report-10th-march-2023>

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

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DEMONSTRATIONS /PROTESTS

Lawyers sign declaration to withdraw legal services from new fossil fuel projects and charges against climate protesters

MORE than 140 prominent lawyers signed a declaration today highlighting their concern that the climate crisis poses an “existential risk to humanity and the rule of law.”

The signatories to the Declaration of Conscience, launched at a demonstration outside the Royal

Courts of Justice in London, say they will withdraw their legal services from new fossil fuel projects and criminal or civil action against climate protesters.

Between 2017 and 2022 the legal sector globally supported at least \$1.62 trillion (£1.3trn) worth of transactions for the fossil fuel industry, according to the Carbon Tracker platform.

And according to the 2022 Law Firm Climate Change Scorecard by the Law Students for Climate Accountability, London’s law firms support at least 15 per cent of global emissions.

This is despite the scientific consensus that breaching the 1.5°C temperature limit established by the Paris Agreement of 2015 will cause massive loss of life and catastrophic harm to the health of millions of people worldwide.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change also issued a “final warning” report this month, emphasising that there is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all and that new fossil fuel supply projects would be inconsistent with the 1.5°C global temperature limit.



Anti-monarchy protest in London during Commonwealth Day

As members of the Royal family were arriving at Westminster Abbey to attend the annual Commonwealth Day service, an anti-monarchy protest was staged outside Westminster Abbey in London. Protesters held signs reading “Not my king”.

This annual celebration is held in every country that makes up the Commonwealth. King Charles led this religious service as a monarch for the first time.

Climate protesters who stormed British Grand Prix avoid jail

Six climate change activists who stormed the track at last year's British Grand Prix Formula 1 race in one of a series of disruptive protests against fossil fuels were spared prison sentences. Five of the activists had to be dragged from the

track as cars passed by during the July protest on behalf of the group Just Stop Oil, which has staged a series of protests blocking a major highway and targeting priceless artworks with stunts designed to attract publicity.

The protesters ran onto the track at the Silverstone Circuit after a crash on the first lap led to a red flag that slowed traffic.



400,000 workers strike in the UK, tens of thousands rally in London

Around 50,000 people took part in a national demonstration of striking workers in London.

School, university, and London Underground workers, plus junior doctors, assembled in Hyde Park before marching to Trafalgar Square.

Government workers staged their own demonstration, gathering at Embankment before joining the main rally.

More protests were held in the UK's other main cities, with well-attended picket lines mounted across the country.



Protests against illegal migration bill held in London, Glasgow and Cardiff

Protesters have marched against the government's illegal migration bill in cities across the UK on Saturday, with organisers claiming thousands had attended.

Demonstrators carried signs and banners, some reading "no human is illegal", as they marched towards Downing Street in central London.

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