

GF

GRASPAN FRANKTON

BOMB DISPOSAL
UNIT CARRY OUT
CONTROLLED EXPLOSION

FOUR JAILED FOR
MORE THAN 25 YEARS
FOR COUNTY LINES
DRUG OPERATION

NEW LAW TO BAN
ZOMBIE-STYLE KNIVES
AND MACHETES



OSINT
INTELLIGENCE UPDATE
FEBRUARY 2024



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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.

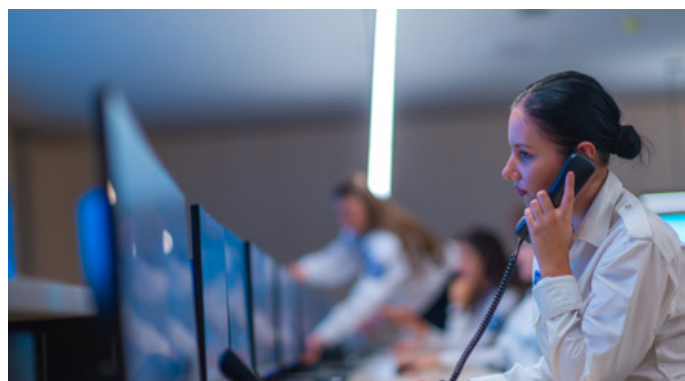
Outside of dealing with major incidents, the GF National Operations Centre based in the North East of England proactively assesses the various security threats that your business, people, assets, and brand might face by monitoring social and conventional media to identify:

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>

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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**.

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OPEN-SOURCE SECURITY NEWS



Stats show around 200 bike thefts are going unsolved every day

Around 200 bike thefts are going unsolved every day, shocking stats show. The criminals were not caught in 365,709 cases over the last five years, accounting for 89 per cent. And just two per cent of bike thefts resulted in a suspect being charged. The Lib Dems, who compiled the analysis based on official figures, said the crime had been “effectively decriminalised”.

Home Affairs spokesman Alistair Carmichael said: “These shocking figures will leave people wondering if bike theft has been decriminalised.

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

139 Met officers reinvestigated for rape and sexual abuse after being allowed to keep jobs

LBC can reveal 139 Metropolitan police officers and staff are being reinvestigated for rape and sexual abuse after they were initially allowed to keep their jobs.

Their cases have been reopened as part of a review which was prompted

by the conviction of serial rapist David Carrick, who attacked 12 women whilst serving with the force over 17 years.

Some 28 of those are facing more than one allegation, with one officer accused of eight counts of sexual assault. Another is being investigated for three counts of rape and one count of sexual assault by penetration. It has prompted fresh fears over the number of suspected predators who have been allowed to remain in the force. Last year the Met apologised

and admitted PC David Carrick should have been sacked earlier, after it emerged they were aware of allegations against him including rape, assault and harassment from 2002. He remained a serving officer until his arrest in 2021.

The Met now believes it could have missed opportunities to kick out 139 officers and staff accused of rape and sexual abuse and has reopened their cases under Operation Onyx.

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

People smuggler hides illegal migrant in compartment behind car dashboard in bid to cross the Channel

People smuggler Jozef Balog, 33, was caught trying to bring the Vietnamese woman across the Channel in a Vauxhall Vectra at Coquelles, France.

Balog, of Manchester, was sentenced to 2½ years' jail at Canterbury crown court.

The Vietnamese woman was identified and served with paperwork.

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

Drones banned from flying within 400 metres of prisons

New "no-fly zones" have been introduced around prisons in England and Wales to stop drones being used to deliver drugs and contraband to inmates.

The legal change means drone operators could face fines of up to £2,500 for flying within 400

metres of closed prisons or young offender institutions. People caught smuggling items behind bars already face up to 10 years in prison.

The new restrictions, which came into force, mean authorities should be able to swiftly identify suspicious drones and take action against suspected criminal activity, as well as enhancing security by preventing illegal filming behind prison walls.

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



Schoolboy arrested with kitchen knife in rucksack

A 15-year-old schoolboy who converted to Islam was arrested with a kitchen knife in his rucksack as he prepared for an "imminent" attack on one of his teachers who made a joke about pork, a court has heard.

The schoolboy, who cannot be named,

had allegedly previously planned an attack at the Isle of Wight music festival using a pickup truck and knife, but dropped the plan.

He discussed the new plan in chats on a social media forum for video gamers called Discord after setting up an account using an encrypted Proton email address.

Using the name TawidOverKufr - God over disbelief - he joined a group

called Caliphate Revivalists, a reference to the area once controlled by Islamic State. "It was clear from the first message [the schoolboy] posted that he must already know other members in the group," Serena Gates, prosecuting, told Kingston Crown Court. The boy, now aged 16 and from the Isle of Wight, denies planning a terrorist attack and the case continues.

<https://news.sky.com>

Terrorism arrest after men armed with handgun enter GAA social club in Dungiven

A 58-year-old man has been arrested after three masked men are reported to have entered a number

of bars in the Dungiven area and claimed to have been from 'the IRA' as they threatened customers with a handgun.

Detectives from the Terrorism Investigation Unit investigating reports that a number of masked and armed men entered the bars,

including a GAA social club, made the arrest in Dungiven.

It's understood three masked men entered the St Canice's GAC social club in the town, one armed with a revolver style handgun and the others armed with a metal pipe.

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



Metropolitan Police release footage of luxury watch robbers

Undercover officers are wearing luxury watches as bait to catch robbers red-handed as they target wealthy visitors to London's West End.

Footage released by the Metropolitan Police shows unwitting thieves being tasered, rugby-tackled and wrestled to the ground in Soho after trying to rip the high-value timepieces from their wrists.

The force has revealed the tactic for the first time and says it has driven down robberies after 300 watches worth around £4m were stolen across three boroughs in the capital between April and September 2022.

Investigators pinpointed "hotspots" in South Kensington, Chelsea, Soho and Mayfair where criminals were

targeting victims - 98% of whom are men - as they left bars and nightclubs on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights between 11pm and 4am.

The targets would be offered access to sex workers or drugs before being led down a side street or approached from behind.

Police said the "opportunist" crime gangs know exactly what they are looking for - Rolex, Patek Philippe and Audemars Piguet watches that can be worth hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Ben Russell, the commander responsible for covert operations, praised the "immense professionalism and dedication" of the undercover officers "volunteering to stand alone in a dark street in the middle of the night waiting to be robbed".

<https://news.sky.com>

New law to ban zombie-style knives and machetes

New legislation has been laid in parliament which would ban zombie-style knives and machetes. The new law would make it illegal to possess, sell, manufacture or transport

these zombie-style knives and machetes. It is hoped the laws will take the weapons of the streets and keep young people safe.

Those in possession of one of these knives are being urged to hand it in to a knife surrender bin, before the official surrender and compensation scheme is launched in the summer.

The full ban will come into force in September, at which point, anyone in possession of one of these knives will face prison time.

The government intends to work with police, communities and partners to ensure there is public awareness of the surrender scheme, which have been implemented in the past to accompany knife bans.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com>

Crossbow attacker shot dead by police

The 30-year-old died after police rushed to the scene in Southwark at around 5am following reports a man had been trying to force entry into the property.

Amid the attack, Hodgson was also threatening to harm residents inside the address, the Independent Office

for Police Conduct (IOPC) said this evening. He was known to at least one of the occupants in the house.

Local police tried to speak to Hodgson, who eventually gained access to the house, before calling in armed police for help. The armed police entered the house, where the man was shot twice and killed.

It comes after it emerged Hodgson was last month in court accused

of stalking a woman after he allegedly broke into her bedroom and repeatedly sent her messages, The Mirror reported.

Hodgson, who grew up in Sheffield but lived in Middlesbrough until 2015, was described by his South London neighbours as a “dark horse” cannabis smoker who often appeared “anxious” or “on edge”, the paper reported.

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

Boots forced to take vital product off its shelves after being targeted by shoplifting gangs

Boots has been forced to take baby milk off its shelves after being targeted by shoplifting gangs. Experts say the thieves have their eye on formula and other “hot products” to sell on to dodgy outlets here or buyers abroad.

Others want the powder to mix with drugs. Boots’ store in Purley, South London, has taken products including Aptamil, which costs up to £19 a pack, off its shelves. Customers have to take paper photocopies to the counter to get their goods.

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





New luxury crime trend

Canada Goose coats are being increasingly targeted by muggers, according to a leading criminologist, in what he warns could be a 'new luxury crime trend'. The most expensive Canada Goose coats can sell for as much as £1700 and are a growing target of muggers and thieves.

David Wilson, professor of criminology at Birmingham City University told the Mail: "It could be the start of a new spate of luxury item muggings.

"You may recall we've seen muggings of this sort before.

"Thieves used to target Rolex watches which go for thousands of pounds and then flog them online because they're usually stolen to order.

Last December, a man was allegedly slashed in the face with a knife while being mugged for his coat. British Transport Police data suggests that thefts on the Tube have skyrocketed in recent years. Some 7,899 instances were reported in 2022 - over double the 3,380 recorded the year before.

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

Woman, 56, stabbed to death in crashed Lexus before 18-year-old man dies at nearby train tracks in 'horror scene'

A woman who was stabbed to death in a crashed Lexus had just moved into a mansion after splitting from her husband, it has been claimed - as neighbours described the "horror scene".

Police launched a murder probe after the woman was stabbed to death in leafy Pangbourne, Berkshire, shortly before an 18-year-old man died on a railway track nearby. Both their

deaths are thought to be linked.

Police were called to the junction of Tidmarsh Road and Flower's Hill and found the crashed Lexus. A woman, 56, was found inside with a stab wound. She was treated at the scene but died. Half an hour later police were told a man was on the track nearby. He died at the scene.

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

Four jailed for more than 25 years for county lines drug operation

A county lines drug gang has been dismantled by Derbyshire police leading to four men being jailed for

more than 25 years between them. The four men had been involved in the distribution of crack cocaine and heroin while operating out of Derby.

The men were handed sentences along with five others at Derby Crown Court just days before Christmas after being found guilty

of conspiracy to supply Class A drugs. Danny Mulvaney, Asher Watts and Jahdel Moran were named by the police as being the main ringleaders in the gang, with each having a role in controlling the '21' line - directing runners to supply heroin, crack cocaine and cannabis.

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

Halesowen man accused of breaching anti-terror laws

A man from the Black Country accused of breaching anti-terror laws by flying flags of banned Northern Ireland loyalist groups said he was 'gobsmacked' over his arrest. A court heard. 'Patriotic' Kieron Brockhouse told police he did not think it was illegal to fly flags associated with listed

terror groups Ulster Freedom Fighters and Ulster Defence Association.

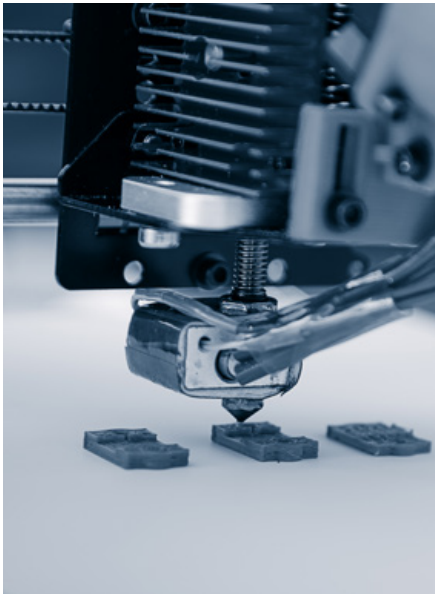
The 42-year-old instead claimed his 'naivety had got him in serious trouble' before insisting he did not 'support terrorism in any way'. Brockhouse has denied supporting the proscribed organisations by flying the flags and then posting pictures of them on Facebook and WhatsApp.

When interviewed by police, Brockhouse said: "I never thought

it was an offence - that's why I am so gobsmacked being in here. I am being classed as a terrorist for a flag."

Brockhouse, of Hurst Green Road, Halesowen, has denied two counts of supporting a proscribed organisation in April 2021 and May 2022. He is alleged to have flown flags outside two properties he lived at in Banklands Road, Dudley, and Hurst Green Road, Halesowen.

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



First cases of 3D-printed guns in Scotland, according to new figures

3D-printed guns have been recorded by Police Scotland for the first time, according to new figures. Two incidents were logged last year, with the force working with key partners to prevent the risk posed by the manufacture, distribution and possession of the crafted firearms.

Figures obtained by justice and social affairs magazine 1919 revealed that an incident occurred in the Argyll

and West Dunbartonshire division in April, followed by another in Tayside a month later. In both cases, the productions were sent to police laboratories for forensic analysis.

Forensic services flagged the incidents in a report to the Scottish Police Authority in October, stating that the "complex and novel cases" required "additional capacity to complete".

1919 Magazine said experts have warned that the guns are cheap and easy to produce, although unlikely to cause the public an increased risk. They are illegal under updated UK-wide legislation.

<https://news.sky.com>

Hampshire police officer sacked for using 'extreme' force against detainees

A police officer and power-lifting champion has been dismissed after using "extreme" force against two detainees, including a traumatised woman. Hampshire constabulary described the actions of Sgt Simon Lythgoe, who was based on the

Isle of Wight, as inexcusable and apologised to his victims. At a misconduct hearing in Eastleigh, Lythgoe was found to have used force with detainees that was unnecessary, unreasonable and disproportionate.

<https://amp-theguardian-com>

Bomb disposal unit carry out controlled explosion

A controlled explosion has been carried out in County Durham after a piece of ordnance was discovered by a member of the public.

Officers were called to an area of land behind the Church Mouse pub, in Chester-le-Street, following the discovery. A police cordon was put in place. In a statement, Durham Constabulary told the public: "A cordon is currently in place behind the Church Mouse, in Chester-le-Street after an item of unexploded ordnance was found. The device is being destroyed in a controlled detonation.

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



Parliament approves ban on Islamist group Hizb ut-Tahrir as terror organisation

Plans to ban Islamist political group Hizb ut-Tahrir as a terrorist organisation have been approved by Parliament.

Hizb ut-Tahrir has organised rallies which took place on the streets of London alongside pro-Palestinian marches in recent months, following the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas conflict. It has already been banned in Germany, as well as in several Arab and Asian countries because of what the Home Office has described as its "long-term goal of establishing a caliphate ruled under Islamic law".

With headquarters in Lebanon, the group also operates in at least 32 countries including the UK, United States, Canada and Australia. Both the Commons and Lords backed plans to proscribe the group as a terror organisation. It will mean belonging to, inviting support for and displaying symbols of the group in public will be a criminal offence.

<https://www.itv.com>

Woman charged with terrorism offences

A woman from Stratford-upon-Avon has been charged with two counts of engaging in conduct in preparation

for terrorism under section 5 of the Terrorism Act 2006. The 34-year-old appeared at Westminster Magistrates Court on 16 January and was remanded in custody.

West Midlands Police the charges relate to allegations of planning to travel to join ISIS in Afghanistan as well as sharing extremist material between 1 September 2022 and 10 January 2024.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com>

Almost 6,000 illegal migrants have gone missing in UK

Almost 6,000 illegal migrants have gone missing, ministers admitted. The Home Office said they vanished without trace after withdrawing their asylum claims.

Immigration Minister Tom Pursglove said officials were taking steps to urgently re-establish contact with them. Small boat migrants who arrive in Britain illegally currently are not detained but are supposed to check in regularly.

Labour blasted the “staggering admission” 5,931 have disappeared, revealed in a letter to the Home Affairs

Select Committee. Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said: “The fact that thousands of people have been allowed to effectively disappear into the underground economy or left vulnerable to exploitation by criminal gangs is yet more evidence of the shocking mismanagement and chaos in the Tory asylum system.”

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



Brit ex-chess prodigy who sparked fighter jet response

A British ex-chess prodigy who sparked a fighter jet response with a false bomb alert is facing six-figure fines.

Aditya Verma, 20, has been summoned to court in Madrid on Monday to stand trial for sending a text saying “I’m a Taliban” on an easyJet flight in July 2022.

The gifted student, a former star pupil at St Olave’s Grammar School in Orpington, Kent, was charged with a public order offence.

Two Spanish military fighter jets were scrambled after Aditya bragged he was going to blow up his flight from the UK to Menorca. Spanish officials are yet to release the indictment that will form the basis of the Spanish state prosecutor’s case against the super-bright youngster.

They have, however, confirmed they are not seeking a prison sentence. But well-placed sources said yesterday that Aditya, now studying economics at Bath University, is facing a €95,000 (£82,000) compensation bill if convicted.

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

Man extradited from Pakistan and charged with 2015 murder of known gang member

A 27-year-old man has been extradited from Pakistan and charged

with the 2015 murder of known gang member Andre Marshall, police said. Abdul Ahsan was initially arrested in 2015 but failed to answer police bail later that year.

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) placed a £10,000 reward on Ahsan seeking information from the public

that would lead to his capture.

After fleeing to Pakistan to evade detection, police said Ahsan, of no fixed abode, was tracked to the country and extradited in a joint effort by UK and Pakistani authorities.

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



26 billion records leaked including from X and LinkedIn

Private information from dozens of popular sites, including X, Dropbox, and LinkedIn, has been discovered on an unsecured page.

Over 280 million Twitter records were leaked in the data breach, experts say, while over 250 million LinkedIn records were affected.

Other popular sites across the world to be affected include MyFitnessPal, Canva, MySpace, Adobe, and Deezer. Bob Dyachenko, who owns SecurityDiscovery.com, discovered the data break alongside researchers from Cybernews, who have suggested a malicious actor may be behind it.

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

Two white supremacists jailed for terrorism offences after targeting Harry and Meghan's son

Two "dedicated and unapologetic white supremacists" who targeted the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's son in a neo-Nazi podcast have now been jailed for terrorism offences.

At Kingston Crown Court on Thursday, 4 January, Christopher Gibbons was sentenced to 11 years imprisonment, and Tyrone Patten-Walsh, 34, to 10 years.

Both will also be subject to a 15-year-long notification order and serve three years on licence when they are released, to reduce their ability to cause further harm.

Gibbons, 40, described Harry and Meghan's son Archie as a "creature [that] should be put down" and called for the Duke to be "prosecuted and judicially killed for treason".

He made the comments on an extreme right-wing radio-style chat show he hosted with Patten-Walsh, who also had "profoundly offensive" extreme views, the court heard.

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

Dartmoor rangers to wear body-worn video cameras after 'rise of abuse'

Rangers patrolling Dartmoor will continue to use body-worn cameras following a trial introduced over

concerns of an increase in "anti-social and hostile behaviour" by some visitors.

Staff working in the national park in Devon were issued with the devices in a pilot scheme launched in February 2022 after a report identified a rise in "verbal abuse".

The two-year trial, which cost an estimated £8,019, aimed to assess whether the body-worn cameras would help address incidents of verbal and physical abuse as well as their use in enforcing laws through legal action.

<https://news-sky.com>

Suspect arrested after Liverpool cinema attack

Merseyside Police said they received a report of three separate shootings in the Croxteth and Norris Green areas of Liverpool, no one was injured in any of the incidents.

A shot was fired at the Sangha off licence in Lower House Lane.

A man had come in, threatened the shop assistant and demanded cash. He left empty-handed, leaving the shop worker very upset but physically unharmed. An armed man was said to have come into Showcase Cinema on East Lancashire Road - about a mile from the off licence.

He threatened staff and opened fire outside in the car park before leaving, a further shot was also reported at

a property on Malpas Road close to both previous incidents.

A 49-year-old man was arrested in Fazakerley, an area slightly to the north of the three shootings.

Officers said the man was aggressive and that they Tasered him. He was arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and robbery.

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

Police use drones to crackdown on nuisance bikers

Police using drones have cracked down on nuisance bikers causing havoc on green spaces. Durham Police control room was alerted by members of public to quads riding around the fields at the back of Eastbourne Sports Complex, in Darlington. Officers from the neighbourhood police team - who are trained drone pilots -

deployed an unmanned aircraft and were able to locate the quads.

A force spokesperson said: "Due to these being driven in an anti-social manner within a designated Section 59 area (which means a seizure of any vehicle can be done straight away) this has been done and they have now been recovered! If you are suffering from nuisance riders of off-road bikes, then help us develop our intelligence to locate and remove these off-road vehicles."

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



'TQ Line' gang member used home as crack cocaine and heroin base

Two members of the "TQ" county line team, who flooded Warrington with crack cocaine and heroin, have been jailed.

An investigation was launched into Remell Da Silva, 21, and Angela Williams, 36, after detectives became aware of two mobile numbers advertising the sale of Class A drugs to users in Warrington. Da Silva, of Lindale Avenue, Manchester, was quickly identified as the controller of the county line and was responsible for sending daily "flare" messages

to sell his supply. Whereas Williams, of Stringer Crescent, Warrington, acted as a street dealer and allowed Da Silva to orchestrate his drug operation from her home.

The gang members were sentenced to a total of over six years in prison after their appearance at Chester Crown Court.

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

Bournemouth 'mass stabbing': Huge brawl in street as five rushed to hospital

Five people have been rushed to hospital following reports of a 'mass stabbing' during a huge brawl that broke out outside a college.

A large emergency services presence was seen in Bournemouth

following the incident earlier today. Two people have been arrested on suspicion of wounding with intent, police said, while a third person has been arrested on suspicion of assault by beating.

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



Police investigate 'rape' in metaverse after group of men attack girl in virtual reality room

Police are investigating an alleged rape in a virtual reality game after a child was attacked in the online "metaverse" - in what is thought to be the first time such a probe has been launched.

The girl, who is aged under 16, was using a headset to access a VR room when adult men attacked her avatar. She was not injured given the assault happened within an immersive reality game, but she is said to be psychologically and emotionally traumatised.

Details about the case have reportedly been kept under wraps to protect the child amid concern a prosecution for the online assault is not viable.

It has led to questions over whether police time is being wasted investigating such problems when it has a backlog of real rape cases to deal with.

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

Teenager arrested on suspicion of inviting support for Hamas in London

Officers arrested the woman, 19, from central London and searched an address. She is in custody at a police station after being held

for inviting support for a proscribed organisation, contrary to Section 12 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

Police said it was alleged to have happened during a demonstration in Camden on October 19.

"The arrest shows the Met's continued commitment to pursuing to the fullest extent of the law allegations of support

for a terrorist group," the force said in a statement. It comes after police were pushed to do more to crack down on people who make remarks supportive of terrorism during demonstrations.

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

£100,000 luxury goods thief finally caught by police 'super recogniser' unit

Over two and a half years, the brazen thief helped himself more than £100,000 worth of jewellery, designer clothes, posh cosmetics, and even antiques from high-end boutiques.

The 42-year-old was finally nicked himself after officers from the Met Police's Super Recogniser Unit spent days going through CCTV footage.

In one clip he was seen slipping a £9,500 bronze statue into his jacket. He also took a £580 bottle of beauty cream while staff weren't looking.

Caballero was also filmed stuffing three cashmere scarves – worth £1,200 into his trousers.

And CCTV in a jeweller's caught him pocketing two bracelets worth £8,500 while the vendor's back was turned. He was caught by officers trained to recognise individuals in CCTV footage.

Caballero, of no fixed address, stole the items from shops in Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and Camden between April 2013 and December last year. He finally admitted 40 counts of theft at Blackfriars Crown Court, where he was jailed for nearly four years.

<https://metro-co-uk>



Preacher Anjem Choudary appears in court over three alleged terror offences

Islamist preacher Anjem Choudary has appeared in court over three terror offences relating to banned organisation Al-Muhajiroun.

The 57-year-old is accused of directing a terrorist organisation, being a member of a proscribed organisation and addressing meetings to encourage support for a proscribed organisation.

He was set to enter a plea at the Old Bailey but this was put back.

Appearing in grey prison uniform over video link, the preacher spoke only to confirm his identity during the hearing which lasted around one hour.

An earlier hearing was told Choudary had provided lectures to the Islamic Thinkers Society, which prosecutors said is Al-Muhajiroun "for all intents and purposes". Al-Muhajiroun has been banned in the UK since 2010 but it is alleged the group has continued to exist under various names.

Mr Justice Jeremy Baker remanded the preacher, from Ilford in east London, into custody and he is next due in court on a date to be fixed in March. A provisional trial, which is expected to last up to eight weeks, has been fixed for May 20 at Kingston Crown Court.

Choudary was arrested in east London on July 17 while a second suspect, Khaled Hussein, was detained at Heathrow having arrived on a flight the same day. Hussein, who lives in Canada, is charged with membership of Al-Muhajiroun but did not appear at the hearing on Friday.

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

Teen 'crafted plan to commit mass murder' from bedroom

A student inspired by US terrorist the "Unabomber" wanted to launch a bombing campaign intending to kill or injure at least 50 people, a court was told.

Jacob Graham, 19, idolised the US terrorist Theodore Kaczynski and spoke online of going on a "rampage". Manchester Crown Court heard yesterday, Thursday, January 18

that Graham wrote a "manifesto" about his plans and recorded video messages from the bedroom of his mum's Norris Green house.

The student at Hugh Baird College in Bootle also blamed the government for his "unsatisfactory life", the court heard. Opening the case for the prosecution, Annabel Darlow KC told the jury Graham was motivated by a hatred and contempt for the government whom he perceived as tyrannical and oppressive of those he termed as "working class".

Ms Darlow said: "Mr Graham expressed the aim of killing and injuring at least 50 people and said that any more than this number would be 'a blessing.'" She told the jury that from May 2022 the defendant began work on a document setting out his plans for a bombing campaign and would end his violence by carrying out a shooting with an FGC9 MkII - a functioning gun that can be made using a 3D printer that he had at his home.

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

Man convicted for illegal drone use at Brighton concert

A man who crashed a drone at a concert on Brighton beach has been convicted in the first case of its kind in court. Giles Dalby lost control of the aircraft which then crashed into the stage during a live music performance.

Footage shows how the aircraft flew just over the heads of people in the audience during the event.

At Brighton Magistrates' Court this month, Dalby admitted recklessly or negligently causing or permitting an aircraft to endanger a person or property. He had used the drone contrary to the Air Navigation Order during the incident on July 24, 2022.

It is believed to be the first prosecution of its kind under the legislation. Dalby, 39, was fined £576, with a £230 surcharge and £85 costs.

<https://www.itv.com>



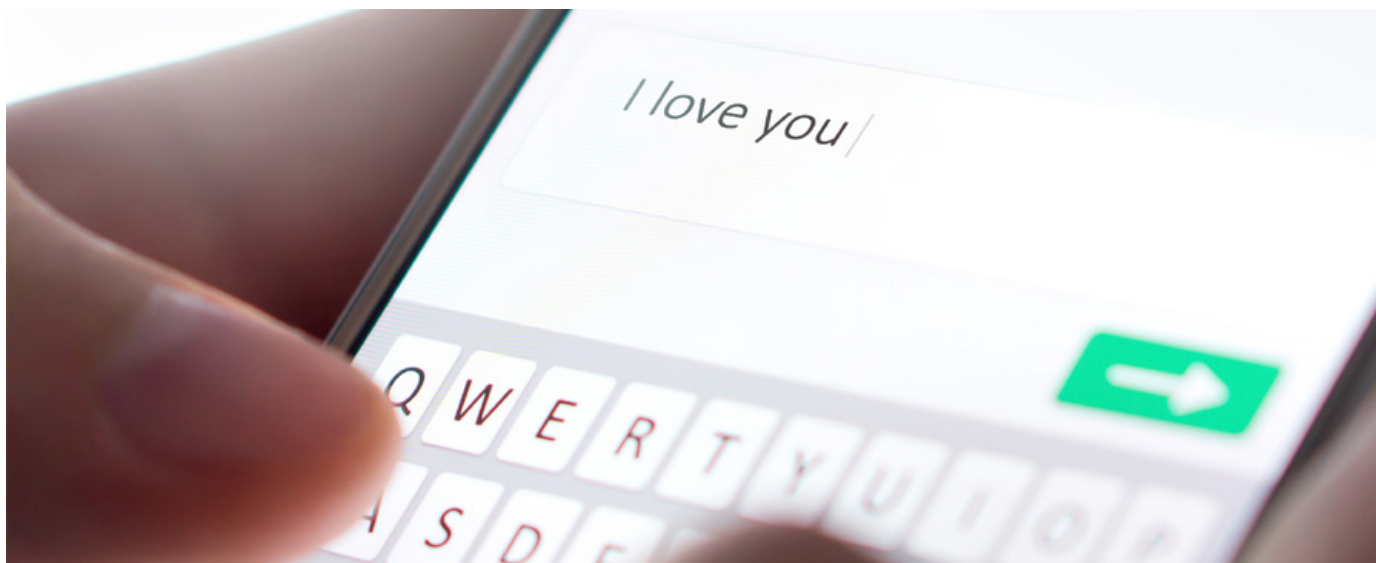
NHS 'suspends GP' for leading newly banned Islamist terror group

A GP who is also the leader of the now-proscribed terrorist group,

Hizb ut-Tahrir, has been suspended by NHS England, a source has claimed. Jewish News reported that Dr Wahid Shaida, a doctor in Harrow, west London, will not be able to continue in his role, after the group he heads

up was outlawed. The GP, who also goes by Abdul Wahid, has been a regular fixture at Hizb ut-Tahrir rallies in central London.

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



Leicester named hotspot for catfishing cases as government announces inquiry into romance fraud

As dating apps such as Hinge and Tinder gain more and more traction worldwide, research has shown that Leicester is one of the top two locations for catfishing cases in the UK. Catfishing is when a person takes information and images, typically from other people, and uses them to create a new identity for themselves. According to a study of 2,000 people aged 18 to 50 across the UK done by ExpressVPN, almost a quarter (22%) of the public have fallen victim to catfishing in their lifetime,

with Leicester and Oxford ranked as the number two hotspots for catfishing cases.

This research comes on the back of the news that the Home Affairs Committee has announced a new inquiry into fraud, following claims that social media platforms are failing to tackle the increasing issue of romance scams. As well as financial loss, being catfished can lead to serious mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression.

Particular hotspots across the country are more prone to catfishing, with Edinburgh (32%) topping the chart, closely followed by Leicester (31%), Oxford (31%), London (29%), Liverpool (29%) and Derby (29%). The safest area in regard to catfishing is Chelmsford (10%).

The research revealed that 31% of victims met their perpetrators in person, only to find out they weren't who they said they were.

The survey also showed that men are more likely to fall victim than women, with 24% of men having been catfished as opposed to 20% of women.

In regard to age range, 18-24-year-olds are most at risk of catfishing, with 34% of 18-24-year-olds having been catfished. A quarter of victims were speaking to their perpetrator for more than a year before realising they were not who they claimed to be, and 14% found their perpetrator to be someone they knew in real life.

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

Rochdale grooming gang leader still in the UK years after he was due to be deported to Pakistan

Qari Abdul Rauf was meant to be kicked out of the country after being jailed for six years for conspiracy to engage in sexual activity with

children under 16 and trafficking for sexual exploitation.

The ex-taxi driver and Muslim preacher was let out after serving just two-and-a-half years behind bars and went back to his wife and children.

He was stripped of his citizenship in 2015 and was told he would be sent back to his native Pakistan but launched appeals against it.

He failed to argue it would be against his human rights in a 2022 hearing, then lost another last year.

Pakistan reportedly refuses to allow them to come back and he, along with Adil Khan, another abuser, argue they have renounced their citizenship of the Asian country and would be left stateless.

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



US and UK announce biosecurity alliance to counter pandemics and bioterrorism

The UK and US have agreed to work together to counter growing biological threats such as pandemics, antimicrobial resistance and bioterrorism. The two nations announced a new strategic dialogue on biosecurity.

The Cabinet Office said this will strengthen their collaboration on bio-surveillance to detect threats to humans, animals, plants and the environment; vaccine and therapeutics development; research and development for a swifter response to disease outbreaks; microbial forensics; and promoting global responsible innovation in biotechnology, health and life sciences.

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

Knives seized near Manchester city centre

Two men have been arrested and their knives seized after officers from a new squad set up to tackle street crime spotted them behaving suspiciously near Manchester city centre.

At around midday on Friday (January 5), undercover officers from Greater Manchester Police's (GMP) new Operation Venture team spotted a grey SEAT car that was being driven suspiciously around Rusholme. After covertly observing the vehicle from a distance and seeing an occupant make a short visit to a block of flats on Wilmslow Road, backup was called in.

Both of the men, aged 22 and 24, were then stopped by uniformed officers, searched and found to both be carrying knives, for which they were subsequently arrested and taken in for questioning. After being arrested on suspicion of carrying a bladed article, they have been released pending further police enquiries.

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

Tommy Robinson denies charge of refusing to leave anti-Semitism march

The far-right activist, whose real name is Stephen Yaxley Lennon,

is accused of not following an order to leave part of Westminster on November 26 last year. Robinson, 40, was arrested near the Royal Courts of Justice in London during the protest, which was held to protest against the rise in anti-Semitism in the UK since the start of the Israel-Hamas war,

Organisers said English Defence League founder Robinson was not wanted at the event. He appeared in Westminster Magistrates' to deny the charge of one count of failing to comply with a dispersal order.

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

Border Force officer convicted for sharing sensitive intelligence documents

Border Force officer Jade Hearn, who shared sensitive intelligence documents with incarcerated criminals, has been handed a suspended jail sentence. Hearn, aged 26, worked on an anti-smuggling team at Gatwick Airport and was arrested by officers from the National Crime Agency's (NCA) Anti-Corruption Unit in January 2021. The arrest followed a tip-off from officials at His Majesty's Prison Service that Hearn had been sending pictures of herself in Border Force uniform

to a prisoner serving a sentence at HMP Woodhill in Buckinghamshire. Further investigations conducted by the NCA working alongside the Border Force Joint Anti-Corruption Intelligence Team revealed that Hearn had been communicating with at least four males who were using illegally held phones from inside prison. In some cases, Hearn had sent images of sensitive documents containing details of criminal records and individuals who were in custody after being arrested for drug smuggling. On 19 January, the presiding Judge in attendance at Southwark Crown Court sentenced her to 20 months in prison, suspended for two years.

<https://securitymattersmagazine.com>



Abdul Ezedi cops probe theory 'Clapham chemical attacker is dead

Police hunting for Abdul Ezedi have not ruled out the theory that the chemical attack suspect died falling

into the river Thames. The latest confirmed sighting of Ezedi is now on Southwark Bridge.

Ezedi is believed to have tracked his victim down to the two-star Clapham South Belvedere Hotel, where the council had put her up with her daughters, aged three and eight.

A 31-year-old woman is now at risk to lose her sight in her right eye after the horrifying attack.

Her daughters, aged eight and three, were also hurt but have since been discharged from hospital.

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

Man arrested on suspicion of assisting Daniel Khalife's alleged escape

A man has been arrested in connection with the alleged prison escape of terror suspect Daniel Khalife.

Khalife, 22, is accused of escaping from HMP Wandsworth after he went missing from the institution for four days in September last year.

A man, 24, has now been arrested on suspicion of assisting an offender.

The man, who is not a member of staff at the prison, was taken into custody and has since been bailed until April.

It comes as part of the Metropolitan Counter Terrorism Command's ongoing investigation into the 22-year-old's alleged escape.

Khalife was charged with breaking out of HMP Wandsworth in south-west

London while on remand for terrorism charges. He pleaded not guilty to the charge when appearing at the Old Bailey in September. He is awaiting trial on four offences and is due to go to trial at the Old Bailey in October 2024.

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

LFR leads to arrests in Croydon

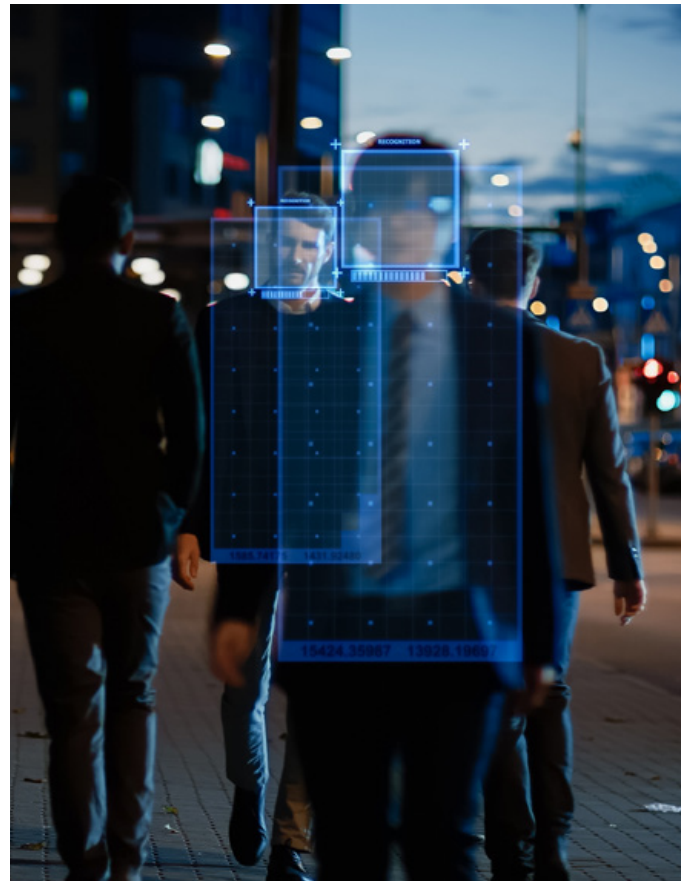
The Metropolitan Police has used Live Facial Recognition in Croydon in an attempt to reduce violence on the streets.

On the afternoon of Friday 19th January, the use of LFR led to the arrest of five people including a 32-year-old woman for failing to appear at court for burglary, 50-year-old man for failing to comply with his conditions as a Registered Sex Offender and a 34-year-old man wanted by police for robbery.

A 36-year-old man wanted by the court for offences in relation to animal cruelty and a 31-year-old woman wanted for failing to appear at court for drink drive related offences were also arrested.

Lindsey Chiswick, responsible for LFR for the Met said: "As part of our commitment to building A New Met For London we are using this technology to identify harmful criminals. Trying to identify people who are wanted by the police is not new. LFR does what the police have always done but with much more accuracy, precision and far quicker. If there is no match, all biometric details are immediately destroyed."

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com>



Youths found with 'large knives and ballistic grade body armour' at tram stop

Four youths were found with 'three large knives and ballistic grade body armour' at a tram stop in Manchester.

The juveniles were arrested at Cornbrook Metrolink on suspicion

of possession of offensive weapons and conspiracy to commit robbery.

Officers said they believe that all four 'have links to local organised crime groups linked to a series of violent offences'. The arrests were made after a number of 'violent robberies' in the city centre and in Trafford.

Police also confirmed they seized three knives and some ballistic grade

body armour. Sergeant Andrew Dixon, from GMP Transport Unit, said: "This was an excellent recovery by our officers who are patrolling day and night across Greater Manchester's Transport Network to detect and disrupt organised crime, ensuring commuters and residents are safe."

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

Hunt for terrifying 'Night Watcher' who violently robs wealthy homes

A ruthless robber dubbed the "Night Watcher" has been linked to four more raids - as cops try to end his £10m burglary spree.

The crook - who police believe could have military training - has been attacking properties, sometimes armed with a sawn-off shotgun, sometimes tying up his victims, since 2006.

He has struck homes across the South East, and is now linked to 17 burglaries, having been connected to three in Kent and one in London since 2019. He is believed to be responsible for a raid on a home

on the Keston Park estate in Bromley in 2021, which led to two women at the home needing hospital treatment.

The other three happened in Tonbridge in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Police have been hunting the robber - dubbed the "Night Watcher" - for six years. They believe he has a military background because of how he operates. He chooses isolated homes in wealthy areas and goes on night-time reconnaissance to watch the occupants' routines and security.

His victims include celebrities like Boris Becker and Nicolas Anelka and aristocrats like the Duke and Duchess of Richmond, who were tied up at Goodwood House in West Sussex in 2016 as they were forced to hand over £700,000 worth of valuables.

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





Police at York Minster explained as armed cops and 999 crews take part in Operation Obtundity

A multi-agency exercise took place at York Minster (Monday, January 22) to test the joint response of the emergency services to a series of terrorist incidents.

The exercise scenario involved an acid attack, hostile vehicle and knife attack, and a siege within the Minster. Almost 300 volunteers took part in the exercise, some simulating casualties from the attacks and some

playing the part of hostages within the Minster.

The emergency services, along with Counter Terrorism Police and York Minster Police, responded to a series of scenarios to practice their joint response to hostile attacks in and around York Minster.

Following on from the Manchester Arena enquiry there is now an expectation that venues, such as York Minster, should conduct reviews to understand the risks of terrorist attacks and be able to take proportionate and reasonable measures to mitigate against them.

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

Children being linked to alleged online terrorism offences

Children as young as 11 are being linked to alleged online terrorism offences on a “monthly basis”

following the Israel-Hamas conflict, UK counter-terror police say.

They say information from the public about potential extremist materials or behaviour jumped by 25% after October 7 2023, when Hamas attacked Israel. Some 3,000 reports of online extremist behaviour have

been received in that time, around 700 linked to the UK, a sevenfold rise from the same period last year. This includes people who have never before engaged in extremist behaviour, as well as young children, counter-terror police said.

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

Knife-wielding ‘attacker’ forced from North London kosher supermarket

Footage shows a small group of men use a trolley and poles as they try to force off a man wearing a grey

hoody and a tracksuit.

He pulls out a blade, but one man manages to force him away with a trolley and he leaves. The Campaign Against Antisemitism group said it was told a man tried to speak to staff about Palestine but was told they did not want to talk about politics.

The Metropolitan Police said officers were called to the store in Hamilton Road, Golders Green, on Monday afternoon and quickly arrested a 34-year-old man. Shomrim, a Jewish community safety group, also intervened.

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

Retailers want the rest of UK to follow Scotland's example over law protecting shop staff

Reported assaults on shop staff in Scotland have increased by 50% year on year since Holyrood introduced a standalone offence aimed at protecting retail workers facing escalating levels of violence since the pandemic.

Retail representatives across the rest of the UK are calling for similar protection as the most recent figures compiled for the Guardian by Police Scotland reveal the shocking rates of assaults and threatening or abusive behaviour against retail workers since the legislation came into force in August 2021.

Figures from 2023 running up to the end of November showed that there were 2,233 reported assaults, an average of 203 each month and an increase of 50% from the previous year.

Likewise, there were 2,582 reports of threatening or abusive behaviour in the same period until November 2023 – an average of 235 every month – another 50% rise.

The Protection of Workers Act, which was brought before Holyrood as a member's bill by Daniel Johnson, of Scottish Labour, created a new statutory offence of assaulting, threatening or abusing a retail worker and was backed unanimously by MSPs.

<https://amp-theguardian-com>



Hundreds of mobile phones snatched across Lewisham, Greenwich and Southwark uncovered in home

Hundreds of mobile phones stolen by street snatchers have been found at a home in South London. Five men - aged between 20 and 50 - were arrested on suspicion of handling stolen goods after police raided a property in Brockley, Lewisham, on Wednesday, January 3, seizing multiple bags of phones, some packaged in foil bricks.

Detective Constable Callen Fahey, from the South East Command Unit, said: "the arrests will play a significant role in disrupting mobile phone robbery and theft in South London and keeping our communities safe.

<https://www-mylondon-news.cdn>

Fraud gang stole £1m using Suits and The Riot Club aliases

A gang of investment fraudsters stole more than £1 million from victims using aliases from television hits Suits, The Riot Club and Hart to Hart. Sujanthan Sotheeswaran, 35, and two accomplices acted as “brokers” on behalf of Choice Option and later Blue Crest Capital Options.

Members of the public were cold-called and pressured into investing in a managed account scheme.

They used names such as Jonathan Hart, from 1970s crime show Hart to Hart, Miles Richards and Harry Villiers, characters in 2014 British thriller

The Riot Club, and Harvey Specter from Suits, the US law drama Meghan Markle starred in before meeting husband Prince Harry.

The trio were found guilty of fraud by false representation at Southwark Crown Court on Friday.

For his part, Sotheeswaran, of The Forum, Molesey was sentenced to three years imprisonment.

Darren Peck, 43, of Leighton Road, Kentish Town, received 21 months, suspended for two years. He must also complete 25 days rehabilitation activity and 100 hours unpaid work.

Denis Deegan, 49, of David Wildman Lane, Mill Hill, was jailed for two years and eight months.

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



Police warn of rising threat of terror attack in UK

The chief of Britain’s counter terror unit has warned of the rising threat of an attack on UK soil sparked by the conflict in the Middle East.

Head of counter terror policing Matt Jukes issued the warning as he said the world was facing “a moment of radicalisation”.

He described a picture where the world is as “dangerous and unstable” as it has been in his three years at the helm. He warned that the main threat was from a “low sophistication, lone actor” attempting a terror attack.

He gave an update on the terror threat during a review of the counter terror unit’s operation during 2023. The terror chief said that since the “terrible” attack by Hamas on Israel there had been a “spike” in radical activity which could lead to terror attacks.

He said: “Clearly that has been the focus in our work in recent months.

“These global events are extraordinary we have supported out colleagues most notably in London (where there have been protest marches). This is a radicalisation moment”.

The commander said that there had been 33 arrests in connection with potential terror offences since Israel was attacked by Hamas on October 7 last year.

Seven of those have been charged. Nineteen of the arrests were in connection with protest marches while 13 were for activity on social media. Meanwhile he said there had been 700 complaints about social media posts regarding the conflict which could be in breach of UK laws. That is a seven fold increase compared from the three months from October last year.

Assistant Commissioner Jukes said that social media could be “a dark and dangerous place” and that as many as 20 per cent of complaints were against children.

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

Newcastle United player Joelinton's home burgled

Burglars have targeted the home of Newcastle United footballer Joelinton.

Northumbria Police officers were called. The homeowner, who the force is not naming, reported there

were three men inside the house in Darras Hall, Northumberland.

A force spokesperson said: "Thankfully the homeowner was not home but had received a security alert on their phone and immediately reported concerns to police."

Officers were sent to the house, but anyone who had been inside had left, the force said.

Newcastle were playing Manchester City at St James' Park at the time. Joelinton is currently injured but was at the ground. It comes only weeks after a break-in at the home of Manchester City player Jack Grealish.

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



Bid to stop predatory 'cuckooing' criminals invading the homes

Newcastle City Council have teamed up with partners in a bid to stop a type of crime that preys on vulnerable residents.

Predatory criminals are invading the homes of some of the city's most vulnerable residents.

A new campaign has been launched to raise awareness of the issue of home takeover, also known as home invasion cuckooing, in Newcastle. The tactic sees gangs use violence, threats and abuse to target the homes of vulnerable people to use them as a base for crime, often drug storage or dealing.

Now a number of organisations in Newcastle have teamed-up to produce two new animations to help explain the issue and

show members of the public and professionals how they can help. The partnership is made up of the Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board, the Newcastle Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Safe Newcastle Board. They worked with Northumbria University on the project.

Home takeover can be used for various reasons including, using the property to deal, store or take drugs, for sexual exploitation or sex work, taking over the property as a place for criminals to live, or for them to financially abuse the owner or tenant. It allows criminals to operate from a property rather than the street, which is out of sight of police and other authorities, and perpetrators will often only stay for a short period of time.

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

Cardiff man jailed for sharing extreme right-wing propaganda videos

A man from Cardiff has been jailed for terrorism offences after sharing extreme right-wing propaganda videos. Kristen Persen, 22, from Fairwater, was arrested at an address in Cardiff on November 30, 2022, following a joint investigation

between the West Midlands Counter-Terrorism Unit and Counter-Terrorism Policing Wales.

On his laptop detectives found instructional books and manuals for the manufacture of firearms, explosives, and detonators as well as white supremacist propaganda. Officers also discovered material glorifying proscribed extreme right-wing banned organisations relating to Nazism, racism, and anti-Semitism ideology as well as a large amount

of clothing, flags and stickers illustrating and supporting right-wing views.

Persen admitted six counts sharing terrorism material and four counts of collecting terrorism information. He appeared at Bristol Crown Court on and was jailed for four years and eight months. He must serve a minimum of two-thirds of the sentence before he can be considered for release.

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

Bodycam footage shows moment former Lidl worker who plotted mass murder at school is shot by police

Reed Wischhusen was obsessed with infamous killers and built firearms and explosives to carry out a “hitman-style attack” on his former school and the headquarters of Avon and Somerset Police while disguised as an officer.

Reed Wischhusen built homemade firearms and explosives in a bid to carry out a “hitman-style” attack, targeting 10 people including ex-classmates and teachers at Priory School in Worle, Somerset, while disguised as a police officer.

The 32-year-old - who had a “macabre” obsession with serial killers and lone gunmen including Dunblane murderer Thomas Hamilton and Raoul Moat - also intended to attack Avon and Somerset Police HQ.

On Friday 12th January, Wischhusen was jailed for life at Bristol Crown Court after being convicted of a series of weapons, ammunition and explosives charges.

The former Lidl warehouse worker wrote down his plans in a 1,700-word document he dubbed “revenge”, the court heard. He amassed an arsenal of homemade weapons including pistols, submachine guns and a shotgun, together with ammunition, bombs, grenades and poison.

But the plot was thwarted after police raided the home he shared with his father in Wick St Lawrence, Somerset, on 28 November last year, following a tip-off about weapons.

<https://news-sky-com>





Police smash international crime gang

Eight people were arrested and £500,000 in cash was seized after homes were raided as part of a major police crackdown on a suspected drug smuggling operation from the USA.

Specialist officers for Greater Manchester Police's organised crime division smashed their way into homes across Manchester, Cheshire, West Yorkshire and Lancashire in the early hours of this morning (Thursday, January 4). The raids were carried out as part of a major police operation targeting a group that are suspected to be importing huge amounts of cannabis into the UK from the US.

Eight people - aged between 18 and 52 - were detained. They were all arrested on suspicion of importation of cannabis. They have been taken into custody to be quizzed by detectives. Police believe they all 'had various roles within the conspiracy'.

These range from 'orchestrating the importation, to arranging payment for the shipments, to selling the drugs to criminals across the UK'. During the raids, police also seized £500,000 in cash and a BMW M4 as part of the investigation.

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

Murder investigation launched after man, 30, dies in suspected road rage incident

An 18-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of murder, after the death of the 30-year-old motorist in Didsbury, Manchester.

The men were travelling in separate vehicles along Kingsway, south Manchester before the incident, police said. An "altercation" broke out at the traffic light, before the suspect fled the scene in their vehicle.

Police arrived shortly to the scene at the junction of Parris Wood Lane and Queensway.

A silver Mercedes was pictured at the scene with a smashed front passenger window. The victim was rushed to hospital but later died from his injuries. His family have been notified and they are being supported by police.

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



Podcasters jailed for terrorism offences

Two men have been jailed for terrorism offences after an investigation by the Met's Counter Terrorism Command.

The duo used a podcast series to encourage listeners to commit violent acts against ethnic minorities and have been jailed for a combined total of 15 years. Christopher Gibbons and Tyrone Patten-Walsh from London were identified as the hosts of a neo-Nazi online podcast by Met officers.

The podcasts included homophobic, racist, antisemitic, Islamophobic and misogynistic views, and on some occasions encouraged listeners to commit acts of terrorist violence.

It was also found that Gibbons had also created an online library containing hundreds of extreme right-wing texts and other material. The content in the online library and podcast was assessed and some of the material was found to be in breach of terrorism legislation.

The men were arrested in May 2021, and in August 2021 Met detectives charged them with a number of terrorism offences.

The pair were convicted of all charges following a trial at Kingston Crown Court in July.

At the same court on 4th January, Gibbons was sentenced to eight years in prison for eight counts of encouraging acts of terrorism, contrary to section one of the Terrorism Act 2006,

and two counts of dissemination of terrorist publications, contrary to section two of the Terrorism Act 2006. Patten-Walsh was sentenced to seven years in prison for eight counts of encouraging acts of terrorism.

They will also be subject to a 15-year-long Part 4 notification order and serve three years on licence when they are released, to reduce their ability to cause further harm.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com>

SECURITY INDUSTRY NEWS



New Online Safety Act offences come into force

New offences from the Online Safety Act have come into effect, meaning sharing fake news intended to cause non-trivial harm, encouraging others to self-harm and other online abuse could now result in a prison sentence.

The offences include threatening messages, the non-consensual sharing of intimate images (revenge porn) and sending fake news that aims to cause non-trivial physical or psychological harm.

Technology secretary Michelle Donelan said: "From today, online abusers and trolls will be prosecuted and put behind bars for their cowardly and menacing acts – ensuring the public are protected and can have better peace of mind when online."

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com>

London Assembly to discuss designing out crime

The London Assembly Planning and Regeneration Committee is meeting to investigate the role of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) in the design of London's communities, and the impact this role could have in safety design.

There is no statutory legislation requiring the police to be involved in the planning process, but the police could provide advice regarding safety in design for large-scale developments.

This type of guidance could lead to features like car parking and private areas being well lit, safety of public areas, secure and climb resistant fencing, and avoiding unnecessary alleyways.

Specialist police officers known as Designing Out Crime Officers (DOCOs) liaise with architects, developers, and local authorities to implement crime prevention measures in the built environment.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com>



PSNI urges public to use online reporting tool

The Police Service of Northern Ireland has encouraged the public to use its online reporting tool to report an incident or crime.

The service allows people to make a report anytime, anywhere, straightaway and without delay.

Around 27,200 reports were made online to the Police Service from 1st January 2023 to 1st January 2024, while close to 499,642 '101' calls were made during the same time.

The online services takes people through a series of steps, including identifying whether the incident is an emergency.

Online reports are considered in live time, the same way as a 101 call and is triaged by a professionally trained call handler from a Contact Management Centre (CMC), just as 101 calls are.

Assistant Chief Constable Ryan Henderson said: "So many of us use technology to do our daily business. Everyone wants to be able to do what they need to do at a time that suits them, and is quick and easy.

We want to make sure people can contact us when they need us, and that we are here to help and respond to them as soon as possible, no matter where they are.

Online reporting means there's no waiting in a '101' queue and people get an incident reference number straightaway. It's a simple, quick and easy process, and we're hoping for more people, online reporting will be the option they use rather than dial 101."

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Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner's annual report laid in Parliament

The Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner's Annual Report for 2022 to 2023 has been laid in Parliament.

The report was produced by the previous Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner, Professor Fraser Sampson, who held the role during that period. He left office on 31 October 2023.

The report sets out the findings and observations of the Commissioner in relation to his responsibilities for overseeing police use of DNA and fingerprints in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and for encouraging the proper use of public space surveillance cameras.

The report covers a few topics such as research on use of surveillance cameras and drones, including police use of surveillance cameras; local authority use of surveillance cameras and police use of unmanned aerial vehicles/drones.

It also discusses DNA handling errors, with the number of DNA samples

unusable because of handling errors increasing from 953 last year to 1,214 during this reporting period.

The report found an increase in use of Section 63g powers (asking the commissioner for permission to keep DNA and/or fingerprints of people who are arrested, but not convicted, of qualifying offences).

There was a decrease in the number of occasions when police forces applied for NSDs to allow them to keep the biometrics of convicted people who are believed to present a risk to national security.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com>

Airports set to miss scanner deadline

It has been reported that major airports in the UK are set to miss the deadline for installing new security scanners.

The government has told major airports to have the scanners, which would end the 100 ml liquid rule, in places by 1 June.

However, the BBC has reported that Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester are not expecting to have their scanners ready by then.

The new scanners use CT X-ray technology to produce 3D images, meaning that larger quantities of liquids can be taken through security and laptops can be left in bags. They are already in use at Teesside and London City Airports.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.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.

The near-term impact of AI on the cyber threat

An NCSC assessment focusing on how AI will impact the efficacy of cyber operations and the implications for the cyber threat over the next two years.

During the Bletchley AI Safety Summit in November 2023, international leaders came together to discuss the vast potential of AI models in promoting economic growth, propelling scientific advances, and providing a wide range of public benefits.

They also underscored the security risks that could arise from the irresponsible development and use of AI technologies. The UK government is evaluating and addressing the potential threats and risks associated with AI.

While it is essential to focus on the risks posed by AI, we must also seize the substantial opportunities it presents to cyber defenders. For example, AI can improve the detection and triage of cyber attacks and identify malicious emails and phishing campaigns, ultimately making them easier to counteract.

The Summit Declaration highlighted the importance of ensuring that AI is designed, developed, deployed, and used in a manner that is safe, human-centric, trustworthy, and responsible for the benefit of all. The NCSC continues to work with international partners and industry to provide guidance on the secure development and use of AI, so that we can realise the benefits that AI offers to society, publishing Guidelines for Secure AI System Development in November 2023.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/guidelines-secure-ai-system-development>

Global ransomware threat expected to rise with AI, NCSC warns

New assessment focuses on how AI will impact the efficacy of cyber operations and the implications for the cyber threat over the next two years.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is expected to increase the global ransomware threat over the next two years cyber chiefs have warned in a new report published.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/impact-of-ai-on-cyber-threat>

UK PROTEST & DEMONSTRATIONS



Junior doctors striking for six days

Thousands of junior doctors have walked out again for a six-day strike on as part of a long-running pay dispute with the government.

The latest strikes - the longest the NHS has ever suffered - will cause misery for tens of thousands of people across the nation, as patients who have waited a long time for treatment

are forced to have operations and appointments postponed. These walkouts come after three days of strikes in late December, as well as more industrial action earlier in the year.

Health leaders have urged people who are sick to seek treatment despite the strikes, with GPs and pharmacies unaffected, and hospitals focusing on urgent care.

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

Hundreds of thousands gather for Gaza protest after Yemen strikes

A huge Met operation with more than 1,700 officers were on the streets of London as hundreds of thousands

gather to protest against the ongoing war in Gaza. Protesters who “intentionally push the limit” by writing offensive messages on placards and chanting inappropriate slogans have been warned they face arrest.

Hundreds of thousands of protestors are expected to meet at Bank Junction in central London as part of a global

day of action for Palestine involving 30 countries, the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) said.

The Metropolitan Police has said there will be a “significant policing presence” due to the march, with forces drafted in from outside London.

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

Climate activist Greta Thunberg leads a protest against the Farnborough Airport expansion

Farnborough Airport has submitted plans to move from a cap of 50,000 to 70,000 flights per year. The climate activist has been protesting against the expansion and private jets altogether.

<https://news.sky.com>



Hundreds of pro-Palestinian protesters block Westminster Bridge

Hundreds of pro-Palestinian protesters blocked Westminster Bridge while calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

The Free Palestine Coalition (FPC), made up of grassroots organisations including Sisters Uncut, Black Lives Matter UK and the Palestinian Youth Movement, staged a sit-in after a march in their first major demonstration of the new year.

The location of the demonstration had been kept secret before a meeting point – a drinking fountain in St James's Park was announced.

The Metropolitan Police issued a statement on X saying: "Officers have attempted to speak with the organisers; however they have not shared any information with us about their proposed route.

"This has an impact on how we plan our policing response and means more officers have to be deployed to central London to ensure we can respond quickly."

Police officers attempted to break up the gathering at the drinking fountain in St James's Park.

After several arrests were made there, protesters marched through Westminster before being stopped by officers next to Big Ben.

A large unit of officers appeared to remove the protest leaders as they announced the demonstration would be marching to its next location, which the coalition had not yet announced.

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



Anti-Semitic Activists Arrested Over Plot To Shut Down London Stock Exchange

Six members of a notorious anti-Semitic activist group were arrested in the United Kingdom after plotting to inflict "significant disruption to Israel's weapons trade" by shutting down the London Stock Exchange.

U.K. police announced the arrests, noting in a statement that all six perpetrators are members of Palestine Action, an anti-Semitic activist group that endorsed Hamas's Oct. 7 terrorist attack on the Jewish state.

The group's members intended to cause "huge economic damage" by chaining their necks to London Stock Exchange entrances, ensuring that those who wished to enter the exchange could not do so without hurting the agitators, according to the Daily Express.

"These are significant arrests," Metropolitan Police detective superintendent Sian Thomas said in a statement. "We believe this group was ready to carry out a disruptive and damaging stunt which could have had serious implications had it been carried out successfully."

<https://freebeacon.com>

London police spend 600,000 hours away from their local beat to patrol 'disruptive' national protests

Local police in London were called away from their main jobs for more than 600,000 hours in the last 12 months, figures shared exclusively with LBC show.

They were "abstracted" - which is when officers are diverted away from their beat to help with public order operations across the capital, such as demonstrations or policing large events.

The rate of abstraction this year was three times higher than in 2018.

Analysis from LBC and the Liberal Democrats in London suggests that the figures are equivalent to a local police officer being away from their job for "one day a week" this year - with key events in the capital such as pro-Palestinian demonstrations as well as the King's Coronation taking up a considerable amount of police time.

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



Pro-Palestine campaigners bring Newcastle Council meeting to a halt

Pro-Palestine campaigners were removed by police after bringing a North East council meeting to a halt.

Activists loudly chanted "ceasefire now" and waved Palestinian flags

from the public gallery of the Newcastle City Council chamber on Wednesday night. Councillors were evacuated from the room during the protest, which had been preceded by a gathering of dozens of people outside the civic centre, and the meeting was suspended while police officers escorted the demonstrators away.

Footage from inside the meeting shows the protesters chanting as lord mayor Coun Veronica Dunn bangs her gavel in vain, before then shouting directly at councillors leaving the room. It comes days after the Palestinian death toll from the war between Israel and Hamas passed 25,000, according to the Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza.

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

Four people arrested for terrorism offences after weekend protest

Four people have been arrested on suspicion of terrorism offences at a pro-Palestine protest in Westminster. Met police officers arrested a 34-year-old man from south-east Kent,

a 58-year-old man from west London and a 36-year-old woman from South Yorkshire on suspicion of inviting support for a proscribed organisation, contrary to section 12 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

A fourth person was arrested when he was spotted amongst those taking part in a protest against the arrests outside a west-London

police station. They were arrested on suspicion of inviting support for a proscribed organisation. All four people have been bailed to return to a west London police station in late March.

Addresses in south-east Kent, South Yorkshire, west London and south London were searched.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com>



New laws to let cops ban face coverings on protests

Laws to let police ban face masks on protests should be brought in, the government's official adviser on political violence has recommended.

It comes after masked thugs chanted anti-Jewish chants, waved pro Hamas material and clashed with police at recent pro Palestine demos in Britain.

There is growing alarm at marchers wearing ski masks and scarves to hide their identities while causing disruption on demos John Woodcock

- whose formal name is Lord Walney - advises Rishi Suank on countering political violence.

The Sun on Sunday understands his official review calls for the law change as one of its key recommendations.

A Whitehall source said: "US-style 'black bloc' tactics where extreme protesters mask up and create mayhem aren't welcome here in the UK.

"The police should have clearer powers to insist marches can only go ahead if protesters don't try to hide their identity to get away with violence or hate crimes."

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

Woman, 70, charged after car collides with pro-Palestine protesters

A 70-year-old woman has been charged with a driving offence after a car collided with pro-Palestinian protesters in Edinburgh.

Police Scotland said the crash involved a small number of people and, while there had been reports of minor injuries, no one needed medical attention.

Pictures posted on social media show a black Seat Leon surrounded by protesters and police officers on The Mound in the city centre.

The demonstration was one of many taking place across the UK and Ireland, including in London and Dublin, as part of a "global day of action" in dozens of countries across the world. The Metropolitan Police said nine people were arrested as thousands of people marched through central London.

<https://news.sky.com>

150,000 public sector workers walk out in Northern Ireland's biggest strike

An estimated 150,000 public sector workers have taken part in the biggest strike in Northern Ireland's recent history, with trade unions warning action will escalate if their pay demands are not met.

Pay parity with the rest of the UK is the core issue for workers angry at a widening wage gap and political

paralysis.

Northern Ireland Secretary Chris Heaton-Harris has been urged to release funding to make delayed pay awards in the absence of the devolved government at Stormont, but he has refused, saying the matter is a devolved one.

From early morning, striking workers braved sub-zero temperatures to gather at picket lines across Northern Ireland. Schools were shut and a greatly reduced health service was operational as teachers, nurses and support staff joined the protest.

Public transport was cancelled, and many roads were not gritted.

Striking workers gathered at Stormont and the Northern Ireland Office headquarters in Belfast city centre.

Speaking at Stormont, Carmel Gates, general secretary of the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA) trade union, said workers were being used as a "political pawn" by the Northern Ireland secretary.

<https://news.sky.com>

Protesters who climb on war memorials to face three months in prison under new plans

Protesters who climb on war memorials could face three months in prison and a £1,000 fine under plans being proposed by the home secretary.

Announcing the plans, James Cleverly said ascending memorials was "an insult" and "cannot continue".

The cabinet minister vowed last year to look into giving police new powers to protect remembrance sites after pro-Palestinian protesters climbed on the Royal Artillery Memorial

at Hyde Park Corner in London following a demonstration outside parliament on 15 November.

Downing Street at the time described the behaviour as an "affront", but Metropolitan Police Sir Mark Rowley said arresting protesters for scaling the memorial would have been unlawful.

The Home Office said that, under the new plans, climbing on war memorials will become a specific public order offence.

It said the measure would "stop protesters disrespecting those who have given their lives for our country".

<https://news-sky-com>



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