

GF

GRASPAN FRANKTON

PAIR FOUND GUILTY
OF USING PLANE TO
SMUGGLE MIGRANTS
TO ESSEX FROM FRANCE

LIVERPOOL MAN JAILED
FOR PREPARING FOR ACTS
OF TERRORISM

MAYOR OF LONDON
ANNOUNCES FUNDING
TO TACKLE HATE
& EXTREMISM



OSINT
INTELLIGENCE UPDATE
APRIL 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.

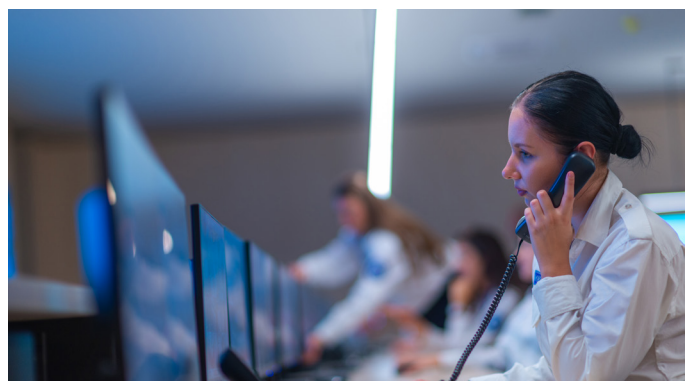
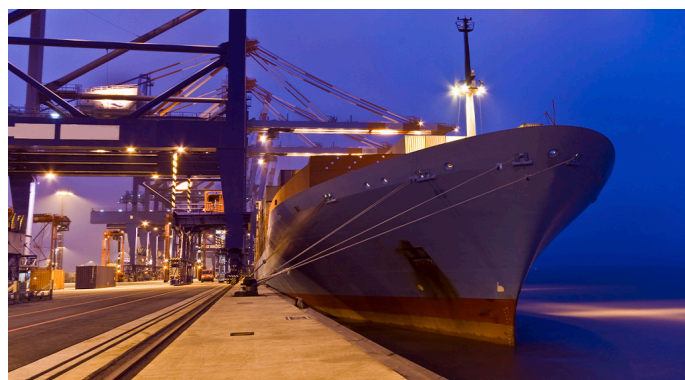
Outside of dealing with major incidents, the GF National Operations Centre based in the North East of England proactively assesses the various security threats that your business, people, assets, and brand might face by monitoring social and conventional media to identify:

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.cpni.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: **SUBSTANTIAL**.

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

OPEN-SOURCE SECURITY NEWS



Chinese medical student blackmailed by security guard

A security guard blackmailed a Chinese medical student by claiming it was against the rules to let his girlfriend stay at university halls. Dean Carder, 33, of Aubyn Square, Wandsworth, invented a £3,500 fine then told the student he could pay a £2,400 back-hander for him to turn a blind eye at Imperial College accommodation in June 2022, Southwark Crown Court heard.

The first-year student, who cannot be named for legal reasons, secretly recorded their conversation, filmed himself putting the first £700

cash payment in an envelope, then took the evidence to management at the Wilson House halls, near Paddington, on the same night. Carder was immediately suspended by Diligence Security Solutions and later quit his role before he was arrested.

Under questioning, Carder denied the scheme and claimed it was actually the victim who approached him but he had refused to take the cash. This was a total lie, and around 10 months before a trial, set for November this year, Carder reversed his pleas and admitted a single count of blackmail.

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

Oxford man prosecuted for fraud

Karvan Nawaz was prosecuted at Oxford Magistrates' Court for submitting a fraudulent document to the Security Industry Authority (SIA). Nawaz was prosecuted for fraud by false representation under section 2 of the Fraud Act 2006 and sentenced to a 12-month community order and ordered to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work.

He was also ordered to pay a total of £314 including £114 representing a community order surcharge and £200 in court costs.

He had earlier entered a guilty plea at his first appearance in the court on 26 January 2024 and the case had been adjourned for a pre-sentence report to be compiled.

The case was brought forward by the SIA after Nawaz submitted a fraudulent document to the SIA for his licence application.

As part of the application process, he was required to provide supporting documentation including references.

On 25 APRIL 2022 he submitted a character reference letter purporting to be from a local postmaster who knew him personally. The SIA checked the validity of the reference letter and found it to be a fraudulent document. Nawaz was contacted by the SIA, but he failed to engage with the investigation or be interviewed by SIA investigators.

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

Hundreds of yobs storm shopping centre causing mayhem

Hundreds of schoolchildren stormed a UK shopping centre, causing mayhem as security guards struggled to contain the antisocial chaos.

Around 300 children, some of them still wearing their school uniform, were seen rampaging through a shopping centre in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. Footage of the mayhem posted on Snapchat showed a security guard bodyslam a child to the floor before a crowd of youths surrounded him. In other footage security guards and police officers were seen engaging in a standoff with the crowd before the yobs started pushing and shoving.

Thames Valley Police issued a Section 34 dispersal order following the events. A section 34 order gives police the power to direct a person to leave a specified area and not to return for up to 48 hours.

The force said: "A dispersal order is in place in central Milton Keynes following an incident of antisocial behaviour involving around 300 children.

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



Woman saved from street attack by hero off-duty Met royal protection officer who suffered serious injuries

A Metropolitan Police officer who protects the Royal Family has been praised for stopping a young woman being strangled in an east London street attack.

The chief inspector and a family member were driving past when they intervened to apprehend the 19-year-old alleged attacker on The Drive, Ilford.

Both heroes were injured, with the senior officer - attached to the Met's Royalty and Specialist Protection Command - sustaining serious arm and facial injuries. He is receiving hospital treatment.

His colleagues, responding to a 999 call about the incident, arrived

minutes later and arrested a teenage male at the scene on suspicion of making threats to kill and assault. He was later further arrested for breaching court bail before being charged with causing grievous bodily harm and intentional strangulation.

The suspect is currently remanded in custody awaiting his first Crown Court appearance. The woman did not require any hospital treatment, and she is being supported by officers.

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



Canvey Island shoplifter is banned from stores across Essex

A woman who stole about £2,500 worth of everyday items has been banned from three shopping chains across Essex and jailed for six months. Carleah Day, 43, of Long Road in Canvey Island, was banned from BP garages, B&M and Co-op stores for two years.

Essex Police described her as a “prolific shoplifter” and said she stole meat, cheese, coffee, cleaning products, alcohol and ready meals. She was convicted of various offences at Basildon Magistrates’ Court.

Day also targeted Wilko at Westgate Retail Park in Basildon and Pets at Home in Pitsea High Road. The court was told she had a long list of convictions dating back more than 20 years, and the latest offences spanned a seven-month period between 18 APRIL and 17 October last year. She pleaded guilty to shop theft, assaults on retail and security staff, common assault and assault by beating. Magistrates also imposed a two-year criminal behaviour order which runs for two years.

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

Pair found guilty of using plane to smuggle migrants to Essex from France

Two Albanian nationals who used a plane to illegally transport economic migrants from northern France to an aerodrome in Essex have been found guilty of people smuggling.

Myrteza Hilaj, 50, and Kreshnik Kadena, 37, both of Leyton, east London, were found guilty at Southwark Crown Court of facilitating the commission of a breach of immigration law.

The convictions followed an eight-year investigation by the National Crime Agency (NCA), codenamed Operation Micropus, into an Albanian organised crime group involved in facilitating illegal migration, money laundering, drug trafficking and the supply of counterfeit documents.

The NCA said at least nine journeys of Albanian economic migrants in 2016 and 2017 were “linked back mainly to Hilaj” – three involving light aircraft and others with migrants getting in the back of lorries.

Kadena acted as his assistant and was primarily involved in smuggling migrants using the light aircraft.

The group’s pilot would take off from North Weald Airfield in Epping Forest, Essex, and fly to Le Touquet airport on the coast of northern France to collect three to four migrants to smuggle into the UK on each trip. The pilot would then fly to Stapleford Aerodrome, also in Epping Forest, where the migrants would leave the plane and be collected by Kadena.

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



Chester Races to be surrounded by anti-terrorism bollards

Chester Races is set to be surrounded by anti-terrorism bollards - though no specific threat to the racecourse is predicted. Cheshire West and Chester Council has announced it is working with Chester Racecourse to enable them to install sockets for anti-terrorism bollards on roads around the venue.

On race and other event days the bollards will be placed into the sockets to support the necessary road closures.

The installation of the bollards will result in the reduction of disruption to residents and motorists on event days, as the roads will need to be closed for a much shorter length of time than they are currently.

The bollards replace the hostile vehicle protection system (HVM) already in use by the racecourse. The vehicle security bollards will prevent a hostile vehicle or accidental vehicle from entering the crowded pedestrian areas. The bollards aim to protect the area from a vehicle-as-a-weapon attack.

<https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/>

Police launch probe after suspected ram-raid at Gosforth M&S sees safe stolen

Late-night ram-raiders snatched a safe from a Newcastle M&S store during a smash and grab.

Northumbria Police officers have launched a probe following the dramatic after-dark raid at M&S's Gosforth branch, which took place in the early hours of Monday morning.

The force hasn't disclosed how much cash was stolen but admitted it was a "large quantity". The vehicle police believe was used in the ram-raid was found burnt out less than a mile from the store - in Park Avenue. The force has now issued a witness appeal as the investigation continues.

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

17-month jail term after Waitrose, M&S and Tesco shoplifting

A "prolific shoplifter" will spend 17 months in jail after being ordered to pay thousands in compensation for his spree. Danny Harris admitted

to carrying out 14 thefts and one business burglary in the Three Rivers area between February 2023 and February 2024, which included targeting Waitrose, Tesco, M&S, and BP.

The 27-year-old was jailed at Hatfield Magistrates' Court, where he was given one month for each of the

shoplifting offences to be served concurrently, and six months for a burglary to be served consecutively. He was also handed a 10-month prison sentence for breaching a previous suspended sentence order, taking the total to 17 months.

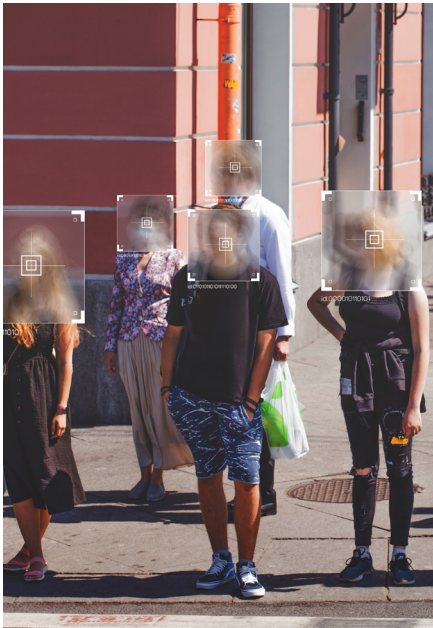
<https://www.watfordobserver.co.uk/>

Man charged with preparing act of terrorism

A man from Small Heath in Birmingham has been arrested and charged with being engaged in conduct in preparation for acts of terrorism under Section 5 of the

Terrorism Act. Jason Savage was arrested on 14 APRIL by counter terrorism officers.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>



Live facial recognition cameras result in 17 arrests in south London

Live facial recognition cameras were used to arrest 17 people in south London. The Metropolitan Police made the arrests in Croydon and Tooting. Those arrested included a 23-year-old man who was found with two rounds of blank ammunition. The force said the technology is used for “precision policing”. Big Brother Watch’s Madeleine Stone called it “Orwellian”. The campaign group’s senior advocacy officer said: “Everyone wants dangerous criminals off the street,

but papering over the cracks of a creaking policing system with intrusive and Orwellian surveillance technology is not the solution.

“Rather than actively pursuing people who pose a risk to the public, police officers are relying on chance and hoping that wanted people happen to walk in front of a police camera.”

The Met Police said the 17 arrests were made during deployments in Croydon on 19 and 21 APRIL and in Tooting on 21 APRIL. In February, 42 arrests were made. BBC News has asked if any of those arrested so far have been charged but no confirmation was provided.

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

Smuggling gangs using TIKTOK to recruit migrants to pilot small boats across the Channel

Smuggling gangs are using TikTok to recruit migrants to pilot small boats across the Channel. Those willing to steer the dinghies get a discounted or free ride to the UK from the Kurdish kingpins.

They are taught only to how to switch on the engine and where to put petrol. Some are given a GPS tracker and a phone so they can make an SOS call to Border Force as soon as they enter our waters. One picture shows a young pilot with the caption: “France UK 100% Good job £3,500.”

Many now hide their faces as they know UK authorities are attempting to identify pilots. Most videos are taken down once they are flagged to TikTok, but not before they have

reached possibly thousands of viewers.

Migrant Choul Phan Maker, 31, of South Sudan, was jailed for 20 months for piloting a 50-person dinghy last August.

A total of 2,051 people have made the dangerous crossing in APRIL, the highest monthly figure so far this year.

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

Co-op stores take £33m hit in just six months as shoplifting cases surge

Executives have warned shop looting perpetuated by prolific offenders and organised criminal gangs “is becoming genuinely one of the most significant issues facing UK communities”.

Matt Hood, the managing director of Co-op Food, said police officers currently attended just two in 10 thefts - meaning thieves have to be let go.

Earlier this year, the retailer said it was experiencing heightened levels of retail crime - up 35% - with almost 1,000 incidents a day recorded in stores during the first six months of 2023. One shop in inner London was “looted” three times in a single day - with physical assaults and verbal abuse against staff on the rise.

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



Three men charged over Leeds Islamic Education centre ‘terror plot’ to face trial in 2025

Three men accused of planning a terror attack on an Islamic education centre in Leeds with a 3D-printed semi-automatic firearm will face a trial next year.

Brogan Stewart, aged 24, from Wakefield, Marco Pitzettu, also 24, from Derby and 33-year-old Christopher Ringrose from Cannock

in Staffordshire, were all arrested after an investigation into suspected extreme right-wing activity.

All three were charged with preparing or assisting another to commit acts of terrorism.

Prosecutors allege the men had identified the Islamic Education Centre in Leeds as a potential target, manufactured an FGC 9 semi-automatic firearm, and acquired instructions on how to assemble a 3D-printed firearm.

They also allegedly obtained extreme right-wing texts, joined extreme right-wing chat forums,

and distributed information on firearms and ammunition.

The trio appeared via video link at the Old Bailey in London to confirm their names and dates of birth on Friday 15 APRIL.

Stewart and Pitzettu watched proceedings from HMP Doncaster, while Ringrose appeared from HMP Leeds. They were not asked to enter pleas. A trial of up to 10 weeks is due to begin at Sheffield Crown Court on APRIL 3, 2025.

<https://www.itv.com>

Details of millions of UK voters accessed by Chinese state

The personal details of millions of voters are believed to have been accessed in an attack by China

on Britain's democratic process, ministers will say.

MPs and peers are thought to be among 43 people who the government looks set to confirm have been targeted by cyber-attacks backed by the Chinese state. The UK could

impose sanctions on individuals believed to be involved in these acts of state-backed interference, one of which was a separate attack on the Electoral Commission in which Beijing accessed the personal details of about 40 million voters.

<https://amp-theguardian-com>

Fights break out in Tesco over 'reduced to clear' section as security increased amid cost of living crisis

A Tesco store in Preston has been forced to implement additional security measures after a series of fights broke out near the 'reduced to clear' section amid the ongoing cost of living crisis.

Shoppers took to social media to post images of the "crazy" scene, with barriers placed around a section

of fridges containing reduced food items.

Members of security can be seen guarding the chillers, with two separate pictures uploaded to social media, shared 10 days apart, showing cordons in place as hopeful shoppers looking on. It comes amid reports the cut-price, yellow stickered food has caused regular scuffles in the supermarket. The Tesco store, located in Deepdale Retail Park on Liverpool Road, was previously a Morrisons until it changed hands last year.

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



Police arrest 14 security staff at south London hospital over CCTV showing 'force' with members of public

Police have arrested 14 security staff working at a major south London hospital over footage which allegedly showed encounters with the public "where force was used".

Officers investigating "the improper use of CCTV" at Croydon University Hospital in Thornton Heath arrested 14 security staff employed by firm ICTS, who were contracted for security at the NHS site.

Police said the probe was launched after CCTV recordings were discovered on a person's phone in a separate police probe.

The Met said all 14 "contracted workers" had been bailed until June.

A spokesperson said: "The footage shows interactions between security and members of the public on hospital grounds where force was used."

A spokesperson for Croydon Health Services NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, said: "On 12 May, we were informed of an ongoing police investigation regarding a number of individuals employed by ICTS, who provide security services to the Trust.

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

Drug dealers jailed for nearly half-a-century over pushing heroin and crack into Telford

Five drug dealers have been jailed for conspiracy to supply and distribute heroin and crack cocaine into Telford from Slough. Their combined sentences totalled nearly half-a-century behind bars.

West Mercia Police said the organised crime group managed 'every level of the conspiracy'. This included the 'organisation and collection of Class-A drugs at wholesale level', right through to 'street level supply'.

Mohammed Ramzan, of Princess Avenue, Telford, was found guilty of conspiracy to supply heroin and

cocaine and being concerned in the supply of heroin and cocaine.

Imran Dean, 31, of Victoria Avenue in Wellington, Telford, was sentenced to nine and a half years after pleading guilty of conspiracy to supply heroin and cocaine and being concerned in the supply of heroin and cocaine.

Joseph Harvey, 31, of Heath Road in Wellington, Telford, was sentenced to three and a half after pleading guilty of being concerned in the supply of heroin and cocaine.

Stewart Clare, 37, of Orchard Road, Shifnal, was sentenced to five years after pleading guilty to conspiracy to supply heroin and cocaine and being concerned in money laundering.

Irslan Wazir, of Cross Roads, High Wycombe, was sentenced to 12 years

after he was found guilty of conspiracy to supply heroin and cocaine, possession of cocaine, heroin and cannabis with intent to supply and two counts of dangerous driving.

A 41-year-old woman, Maryann Hindson, of Park End Road, Gloucester, also connected to the drugs line, was sentenced to two years custodial sentence suspended for two years after she pleaded guilty of being concerned in the supply of heroin and cocaine.

Waseem Arif, 33, of Stafford Street, Telford, received a community order for 18 months. Qasim Janjua, 32 of Manor Road in Arleston, Telford, was given a £1000 fine after both men pleaded guilty of being concerned in the supply of cannabis.

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



Violent assaults on rail staff rise since pandemic

Rail workers say they have been spat at, punched and attacked as figures suggest violent assaults against staff and police officers on the train network are at a four-year high.

A Freedom of Information request by BBC South East shows that 4,088 attacks were recorded at railway stations across England, Scotland and Wales last year.

Of all the train providers, Southeastern had the most reports of violence, with 438 incidents in 2023.

British Transport Police (BTP) said it took assaults towards rail staff "extremely seriously". The number of assaults recorded by police in 2023 was nearly 10% higher than pre-pandemic in 2019, despite a 11% reduction in passenger numbers.

Southeastern has teamed up with Network Rail and BTP to prevent trespassing, antisocial behaviour and assaults on staff. The rail company has also launched an app where staff can report incidents of violence and aggression.

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

Asda self-scanner alert issued after 'fake notes' seized in stores

Police have issued an alert after self-scanning machines at a major supermarket started picking up suspected fake notes. Tills at Asda stores in Birmingham were fed with thousands of pounds worth of suspected counterfeit Scottish notes, Yardley Police said. The counterfeit £20 notes were used specifically in self-scan machines at the supermarket chain, officers said. The force explained that more than £9,000 worth of notes were seized from Asda.

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



Terror accused went to UK immigration lawyer's office with knife, court hears

A man who claimed "Hitler was right" went to an immigration lawyer's office with a knife and handcuffs planning to kill him, a court has heard.

Cavan Medlock, 31, from Harrow, appeared at Kingston crown court charged with preparation of terrorist acts and threats to kill the lawyer, Toufique Hossain. The court heard that Medlock arrived at the offices of Duncan Lewis solicitors in Harrow shortly before 5pm on 7 September 2020. He was wearing black gloves with reinforced knuckle pads and was

carrying a rucksack containing a black combat knife with a six-inch blade, a pair of handcuffs and rolls of packaging gaffer tape.

He also carried two large flags, one a Nazi swastika flag and the other a flag of the former confederate states of America.

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

17-year-old arrested under Terrorism Act in Northern Ireland

Detectives from PSNI's Terrorism Investigation Unit have arrested a 17-year-old under the Terrorism Act. The arrest comes as part of an investigation into a report that

a number of masked and armed men entered licensed premises in Dungiven on Friday 19th January.

The teenager was arrested in the Claudy area and has been taken to the Serious Crime Suite at Musgrave Police Station for questioning.

Two men, aged 58 and 30, have previously been charged

with the offences of professing membership of a proscribed organisation, possession of a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and possession of an offensive weapon in a public place. Both men appeared in court at the end of January.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

Record number of migrants cross English Channel in first three months of 2024

According to provisional Home Office figures, 338 people arrived in seven boats on Tuesday, taking the total for the year to date to 4,644.

This exceeds the previous record high figure of 4,548 for January to APRIL 2022 and had already surpassed the 3,793 arrivals in the first quarter of last year.

The number of crossings recorded so far this year is 23% higher than the total at this point in 2023 (3,770) and 12% higher than the same time

in 2022 (4,162), PA news agency analysis of government data shows.

Last year a total of 29,437 migrants arrived in the UK after crossing the Channel, down 36% on a record 45,774 arrivals in 2022.

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



Primark seals shopping bags with 'sold' stickers to clamp down on shoplifting

Primark has begun sealing up its paper carrier bags in some stores, using blue 'sold' stickers in a bid to deter shoplifting. Shoppers without stickers on their bags could be stopped at the exit by the retailer's store security personnel.

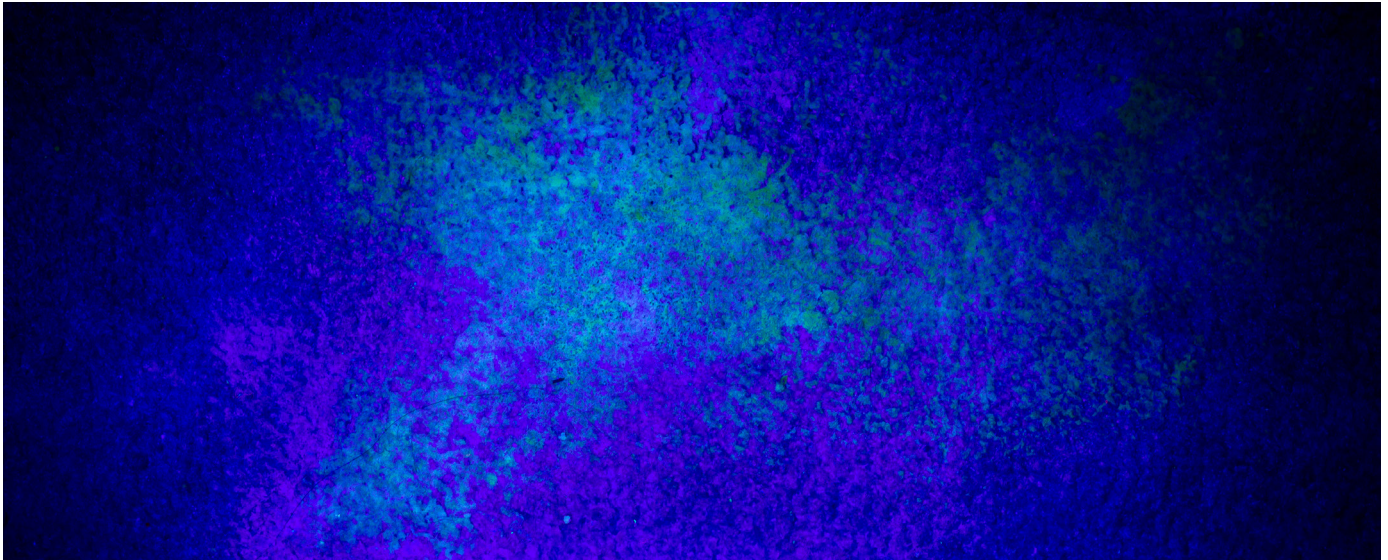
A Primark spokesperson told Sky News: "Antisocial behaviour and retail crime is rising right across the

retail industry and we're working with other retailers and organisations to help tackle this."

It added the value fashion retailer has a range of security measures in place in its stores and is also trialling some new measures to help prevent stock loss, which includes sealing bags with 'sold' stickers.

The retail giant said it will "be keeping an eye on this and monitoring the impact these new measures have", while listening to feedback from both its colleagues and customers.

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



Shop staff given spray that cannot be washed off to combat thieves

A DNA “marking spray” that cannot be washed off is being given to shopkeepers in a bid to stop shoplifting. The sprays, which have a unique code that shows up under UV light, have been issued by Merseyside Police.

Once sprayed, a suspected offender is forensically linked to a crime.

Merseyside Police and Police Crime Commissioner (PCC) Emily Spurrell said she hoped the scheme would work as a “deterrent” to potential thieves.

“It’s about how we can prevent shoplifting from happening and also support our frontline staff and security staff,” she said.

“Unfortunately, we have seen incidents where there has been violence and abuse against staff in retail shops so we wanted to try and prevent that from happening,” she said.

The sprays, which can be used from a distances of 16.4ft (5m), can only be used by specially trained security guards and staff.

Over 100 SelectaDNA spray kits have been given to retail businesses in Liverpool as part a wider group of initiatives to support businesses from crime and are funded by the PCC.

Merseyside Police Sgt Craig Winstanley said the sprays, which have previously been used by the force in a crackdown on anti-social off road motorbikes, were “a great tool”.

“Unique DNA coding can be used along with other investigative lines of enquiry such as CCTV and witness statements to help achieve the evidential threshold to put people before the courts”.

<https://www-bbc-co-uk.cdn.ampproject.org/>

Far-right extremist jailed over posts calling for extermination of Jews

A far-right extremist has been jailed for posting pictures, videos and comments online calling for the extermination of Jews and other non-white people.

Harry Parris, 22, had pleaded guilty to four offences of encouraging terrorism on the basis he was “reckless” in relation to posts and videos posted online between 2019 and 2021.

He also admitted six offences of having documents likely to be useful to a person preparing acts of terrorism.

Sentencing Parris to two years and nine months at Winchester Crown Court, Judge Jane Miller KC said the defendant, who had been diagnosed with ADHD, had become isolated during the COVID-19 pandemic and had become exposed to extremist views online.

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



Bomb disposal unit scrambled to residential road following grenade discovery

Bomb disposal officers were scrambled to a residential road this morning after a ‘grenade’ was discovered. Greater Manchester Police (GMP) officers and a bomb

disposal unit were dispatched to Hogarth Road in Marple.

The force said that they were called to the scene after ‘reports of a grenade’ located at a house on the road. Bomb disposal officers have been at the scene to ‘assess the item’, said GMP, but ‘currently do not believe there to be a risk to the public’.

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

Far right terrorist from Ivybridge jailed for owning bomb and gun-making manuals

A man from Devon who possessed extreme right-wing material has been jailed after admitting numerous terrorism offences. Harry Parris, from Ivybridge, was told he will serve two years and nine months in prison,

after which he will spend the following year on extended licence. Parris, who lived on Wrangaton Road in Bittaford, was sentenced at Winchester Crown Court.

The 22-year-old had previously admitted to publishing statements which could be useful to committing or preparing an act of terrorism, and possessing documents including bomb and gun making manuals, which were of an extreme right-wing ideology.

He pleaded guilty to four counts of encouragement of terrorism under section 1 (2) of the Terrorism Act 2006. This was alongside another guilty plea to six counts of possession of a document or record containing information of a kind likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism contrary to Section 58 (1) (b) of the Terrorism Act 2000.

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

Drug dealers jailed for nearly half-a-century over pushing heroin and crack into Telford

Five drug dealers have been jailed for conspiracy to supply and distribute heroin and crack cocaine into Telford from Slough. Their combined sentences totalled nearly half-a-century behind bars.

West Mercia Police said the organised crime group managed 'every level of the conspiracy'. This included the 'organisation and collection of Class-A drugs at wholesale level', right through to 'street level supply'.

Mohammed Ramzan, of Princess Avenue, Telford, was found guilty of conspiracy to supply heroin and

cocaine and being concerned in the supply of heroin and cocaine.

Imran Dean, 31, of Victoria Avenue in Wellington, Telford, was sentenced to nine and a half years after pleading guilty of conspiracy to supply heroin and cocaine and being concerned in the supply of heroin and cocaine.

Joseph Harvey, 31, of Heath Road in Wellington, Telford, was sentenced to three and a half after pleading guilty of being concerned in the supply of heroin and cocaine.

Stewart Clare, 37, of Orchard Road, Shifnal, was sentenced to five years after pleading guilty to conspiracy to supply heroin and cocaine and being concerned in money laundering.

Irslan Wazir, of Cross Roads, High Wycombe, was sentenced to 12 years

after he was found guilty of conspiracy to supply heroin and cocaine, possession of cocaine, heroin and cannabis with intent to supply and two counts of dangerous driving.

A 41-year-old woman, Maryann Hindson, of Park End Road, Gloucester, also connected to the drugs line, was sentenced to two years custodial sentence suspended for two years after she pleaded guilty of being concerned in the supply of heroin and cocaine.

Waseem Arif, 33, of Stafford Street, Telford, received a community order for 18 months. Qasim Janjua, 32 of Manor Road in Arleston, Telford, was given a £1000 fine after both men pleaded guilty of being concerned in the supply of cannabis.

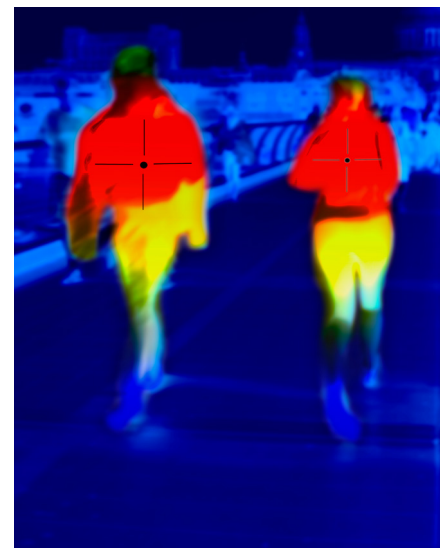
<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/>

'Infrared wave' CCTV could be used to detect knives hidden in clothing in London

Sadiq Khan has said that he wants the Metropolitan Police Service to 'use all opportunities detect crime with new technology' after a crime minister said that the Home Office is investing in new devices that would scan people for hidden knives. The cameras would use 'infrared waves' to look for illegal items as residents walk down high streets.

The topic was raised by Green Party London Assembly Member, Caroline Russell. She asked the Mayor of London, who is also the police and crime commissioner: "The Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire recently said that the Home Office is investing in new technology that will: 'enable people to be scanned for knives as they walk down high streets' using ordinary cameras combined with 'electromagnetic infrared waves and a unique computer algorithm' to detect weapons hidden beneath clothing.

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





Man took bottle with lit handkerchief into Co-op and threw lump hammer at car

A shop worker became “extremely alarmed” after being confronted with a man holding what he thought was a petrol bomb. Kyle Bodman had a bottle with a handkerchief sticking out of it which he lit.

But Bodman said it “wasn’t ready”, vowed to come back another time

and walked away. Mold Crown Court heard the incident happened outside the Co-op store in Denbigh. Police arrested Bodman but the following day he went to a local centre and threw a lump hammer at a vehicle. The court heard the 28-year-old of Bromhill Lane, Denbigh, has mental health issues. He admitted affray over the incident by the Co-op and a judge today jailed him for 16 weeks. He has already been dealt with over the criminal damage to the vehicle.

<https://www.dailypost-co-uk.cdn.ampproject.org/>

Police arrest 14 security staff at south London hospital over CCTV showing ‘force’ with members of public

Police have arrested 14 security staff working at a major south London hospital over footage which allegedly showed encounters with the public “where force was used”.

Officers investigating “the improper use of CCTV” at Croydon University Hospital in Thornton Heath arrested 14 security staff employed by firm ICTS, who were contracted for security at the NHS site.

Police said the probe was launched after CCTV recordings were discovered on a person’s phone in a separate police probe.

The Met said all 14 “contracted workers” had been bailed until June.

A spokesperson said: “The footage shows interactions between security and members of the public on hospital grounds where force was used.”

A spokesperson for Croydon Health Services NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, said: “On 12 May, we were informed of an ongoing police investigation regarding a number of individuals employed by ICTS, who provide security services to the Trust.

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

Liverpool man jailed for preparing for acts of terrorism

A 20-year-old man from Liverpool has been sentenced to 13 years in prison after being found guilty of preparing acts of terrorism.

Jacob Graham was found guilty of preparation of terrorist acts, contrary to section 5(1)(b) of the Terrorism Act 2006; two counts of dissemination of terrorist publications, contrary to Section 2 of the Terrorism Act 2006; and four counts of possession of material likely to be useful to a terrorist,

contrary to Section 58 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

Counter Terrorism Policing North West (CTPNW) became aware of Graham during an investigation into purchases of chemicals that could have been used to make explosives.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

Superdrug broken into as security guard injured

A shop in a South Bristol shopping centre was broken into earlier this week. Superdrug in Broadwalk Shopping Centre was burgled after a male forced entry into the shop. A window was smashed at the shop front, which has since been boarded up. A security guard attempted to stop the man but was unable to and sustained a minor injury in the altercation. Avon and Somerset Police said: "We are investigating a non-dwelling burglary at Broadwalk Shopping Centre in Knowle.

<https://www.bristolpost-co-uk.cdn.ampproject.org/>



Terror threat level in Northern Ireland goes down

The Secretary of State announced at the Northern Ireland Security Update that the Northern Ireland related terrorism threat level has changed from severe to substantial. MI5 has lowered the Northern Ireland-related Terrorism threat level in Northern Ireland (NI) from "SEVERE",

meaning an attack is highly likely to substantial, meaning an attack is likely. The decision to change the threat level is taken by MI5, independently of ministers.

The process is based on the latest intelligence and analysis of factors which drive the threat level.

The Northern Irish government said the fact that the threat level is being lowered is "testament to the tremendous efforts of the Police

Service of Northern Ireland and MI5 to tackle Northern Ireland related terrorism."

They said: "This positive step reflects the commitment of communities from across Northern Ireland to build a safer place to live and work."

The Northern Irish government added that the public should still remain vigilant and report any concerns to the police.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

Mother and daughter jailed after sending money to Daesh member

A mother and daughter have been jailed after an investigation by specialist Counter Terrorism officers at the Met found they sent money to a relative who had joined Daesh in Syria.

Stella Oyella, 53, and Vanessa Atim, 32, arranged for more than £1,800 to be sent to Joseph Ogaba, who had left the UK to join Daesh in 2014.

Oyella is Ogaba's sister.

Ogaba travelled to Syria via Germany and Turkey in September 2014.

Oorts officers detained Atim at Heathrow and Gatwick Airports on 12 APRIL 2018 and again on 21 December 2018 respectively, using powers under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

Her devices were seized, and the contents downloaded. Messaging app conversations were found with references to money transactions.

In 2019, detectives analysed a computer hard drive linked to Ogaba

which had been recovered by Syrian authorities the previous year.

Investigators found the hard drive contained scans of money transfer receipts, and the dates, times and the monetary sums of these transactions aligned with those discussed in the messages.

There were also pictures of Ogaba, including evidence of his activities with Daesh, and extremist content with images of weapons and explosive devices. Oyella was sentenced to three years' imprisonment and Atim to three years and nine months.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>



Convicted money launderer ordered to pay £3 million-plus Confiscation Order

Convicted money launderer Abdulla Mohammad Ali Bin Beyat Alfalasi, who was responsible for transporting illegal money to Dubai, has been ordered to pay £3,496,778 through a Confiscation Order.

Alfalasi, aged 48, arranged the transport of an estimated £93 million-£110 million in illegally obtained cash to Dubai by carrying – and arranging for others to carry – suitcases packed with around £500,000 of illegal cash on business class flights.

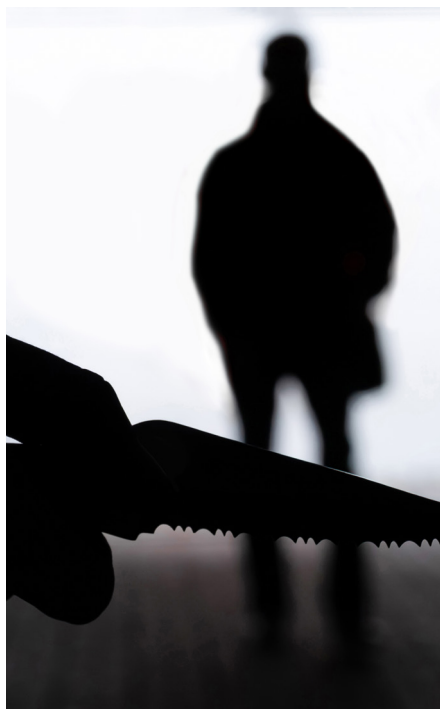
Alfalasi was the ringleader in this sophisticated money laundering operation, which also involved several co-defendants. He was sentenced to nine years and seven months'

imprisonment at Isleworth Crown Court on 28 July 2022 after pleading guilty to removing criminal property from England and Wales.

The Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) Proceeds of Crime Division commenced confiscation proceedings to recover the criminal proceeds, working closely with the National Crime Agency. The assets Alfalasi had available for confiscation were determined by examining his various bank accounts and valuable possessions, including interests in property in Dubai, monies in bank and crypto accounts, his watches and several vehicles.

At Isleworth Crown Court, the presiding Judge issued a Confiscation Order of £3,496,778, which Alfalasi will need to pay within three months. Otherwise, he will receive a default additional prison sentence of ten years.

<https://securitymattersmagazine.com/>



India's business elite feel unsafe in London due to expensive watch muggings

The concern among high-flying Indian businesspeople has emerged after the British shadow foreign secretary attended a meeting of members of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

India's business elite feel they have to "look over their shoulder" while visiting areas such as Mayfair in London due to the risk of being mugged for their expensive watches, a New Delhi entrepreneur has said.

The theft of high-value timepieces to be sold on the black market has become a criminal enterprise in the UK capital in recent years - with one former watch dealer telling Sky News it is "more lucrative than drugs".

The number of stolen watches nearly doubled in England and Wales between 2015 and 2022 - from 6,696 to 11,035, data from Watchfinder & Co showed last year. More than 6,000 of the thefts in 2022 took place in London.

High-profile targets include former world boxing champion Amir Khan, who was forced to hand over his £70,000 Franck Muller watch in a gunpoint robbery in east London in 2022.

<https://news-sky-com.cdn.ampproject.org/>

Drugs gang smuggled cocaine worth £2 million aboard cruise ship to UK waters

A cruise ship worker smuggled £2 million worth of cocaine to UK waters before lowering it from the liner to a waiting boat and two accomplices who have been jailed for their part in the conspiracy.

Milos Bigovic, from Serbia, had hidden the 28kg of cocaine on the Marella Discovery 2 in Cartagena, Colombia, before the liner's Caribbean voyage was abandoned in APRIL 2020 as the Covid-19 pandemic hit.

The passengers disembarked and the ship returned to Europe, where it moored off the Isle of Wight. It was on April 25, 2020, that Bigovic dragged the holdall containing the drugs from his cabin to a port-side deck and attached a rope to it.

He lowered it down to his accomplices, Benn Bath, 36, and Joshua Paige, 31, who were waiting in a rigid-hulled inflatable boat (Rhib) below, according to the National Crime Agency (NCA).

Bigovic, of Pozarevac, near Belgrade, was jailed for 11 years in 2021 having admitted importing cocaine.

Bath from Staplehurst, Kent, was sentenced to 18 years and Paige from High Halstow, Kent, to eight years after being convicted at Winchester Crown Court of the same charge.

NCA investigators then uncovered a second conspiracy involving Bath to import another 90kg of cocaine into the UK onboard a barge from Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

Liam West, 31, of Rochford, Essex, who skippered a tug that towed the barge was jailed for 14 years and accomplices Christopher Mealey, 47, of Liverpool, and Paul Farrell, 44, of Bolton, were jailed for 22 years and 23 years respectively.

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



Drones to be sent to emergency scenes in £230million Budget plan

A £230 million plan to speed up police response times announced in the Budget could see drones used as “first responders” to major incidents.

Chancellor Jeremy Hunt said on Wednesday the technology must be deployed “where appropriate”.

As part of the Treasury reforms, police will use drones to assess incidents such as traffic collisions. Live video and information will be fed back to control rooms to help forces decide the seriousness and resources required to deal with it.

Drone units often assist police divers in operations to find missing people believed to have fallen into the water.

The Metropolitan Police use them to monitor pro-Palestine supporters APRILing in central London calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

The funding may see other changes to emergency services, including allowing victims to report crimes by video call and artificial intelligence to cut admin scan times by a third. AI will be used on the 101 non-emergency service to triage callers.

Mr Hunt told the Commons: “So we will spend £230m rolling out time and money saving technology which speeds up police response time by allowing people to report crimes by video call and where appropriate use drones as first responders.”

He added: “Violence Reduction Units and hot spot policing have prevented an estimated 136,000 knife crimes and other violent offences as well as over 3,000 hospital admissions since funding began in 2019.

“Every crime costs money - so we will provide £75m to roll that model out in England and Wales.

“Police officers waste around eight hours a week on unnecessary admin – with higher productivity, we could free up time equivalent to 20,000 officers over a year.”

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

Man charged with supporting proscribed organisation

A man has been charged with showing support for a proscribed organisation after a Met Police investigation into alleged Hamas-supporting social media posts.

A public referral flagged the posts to the Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU) in late October 2023. Specialist officers assessed the posts and determined that they required further investigation as they could be in breach of terrorism laws. The investigation was passed to detectives in the Counter Terrorism Command and a 38-year-old man

was arrested in west London on 17 November 2023 in connection with the investigation.

Muhammad Abu Jweid was charged on Friday 8 APRIL, with two counts of expressing an opinion or belief in support of a proscribed organisation (Hamas) contrary to section 12 (1A) of the Terrorism Act, 2000.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

Security guards seize machete from teenager inside Liverpool bar

A teenage boy was arrested after security guards seized a machete inside a city centre bar. Merseyside Police confirmed to the ECHO that the force received reports that a teenager

had been detained by security staff after he was found with a machete at a bar on Wood Street in Liverpool city centre. Officers attended the scene and arrested a 16-year-old boy from Liverpool on suspicion of possession of a bladed article, theft and drug offences at the premises.

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

ampproject.org/



Gateshead teenager sentenced for five terrorism offences

A 17-year-old from Gateshead has been sentenced to 28 months imprisonment and one-year extended licence after pleading guilty to seven offences, including five under the Terrorism Act. He will also be subject to a 10-year terrorist notification order, Criminal Behaviour Order and will be placed on the Sex Offenders' Register.

Vincent Charlton pleaded guilty to seven offences at a hearing in September 2023 at North Tyneside Youth Court. Reporting restrictions on Charlton's identity were lifted by the Judge at the hearing on 22 APRIL 2024 at Newcastle Crown Court, following an application by the media.

Charlton was sentenced for one offence under Section 2(1)(d) of the Terrorism Act 2006, providing a service to others that enabled them to obtain, read, listen to, or look at terrorist publications, or to acquire

them by means of a gift, sale or loan. He was also sentenced for four offences under Section 58(1)(b) Terrorism Act 2000, possessing a document containing information of a kind likely to be of use to a person preparing or committing an act of terrorism.

Other offences included making two category A indecent images of children and possessing a Category A indecent photograph of a child.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

SECURITY INDUSTRY NEWS

Strategic Command launches Defence Experimentation and Wargaming Hub

Strategic Command's Deputy Commander, Lieutenant General

Tom Copinger-Symes, has formally opened the Defence Experimentation and Wargaming Hub at Southwick Park. The facility will be the centre for experimentation and wargaming in Defence and has been developed in partnership with the Defence Science Technology Laboratory (Dstl).

The hub is designed to help Defence respond to the evolving global threats. The opening ceremony was attended by the Director Joint Warfare, Rear Admiral Andrew Betton, and guests from across Defence, academia, and industry.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>



Stats show record numbers of young people arrested for terrorism offences

The latest data released by the Home Office has shown that 2023 had the highest number of terrorism arrests of young people since records began (11 September 2001). 19 per cent of the 219 arrests for terrorism-related offences last year were people aged 17 and under.

Following the news, Counter Terrorism Policing are appealing to the public to take action and report any concerns they have about family and friends who are being radicalised by harmful content.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

SIA gets new non-executive director

The minister for safeguarding has appointed Duncan Worsell MBE as a non-executive director to the Board of the Security Industry Authority.

Worsell has previously worked with the Civil Nuclear Constabulary

and his qualifications include a Masters in Business Administration, Fellowship of the Chartered Institute of Management and programme management. Duncan is an Associate Member of the Security Institute.

SIA chair Heather Bailly said: "I am delighted to welcome Duncan Worsell as a new non-executive director

and member of the Authority. His professional background in national infrastructure security complements the skills of existing members and I know he will bring a useful perspective to the Board discussions."

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>



Government announces updated 'extremism' definition

The Government has announced "an updated, more focused" definition of 'extremism' "to tackle the ever-evolving threat of extremism in the UK".

The new definition will be used by government departments and officials alongside a set of engagement principles, "to ensure they are not inadvertently providing a platform, funding or legitimacy to groups or individuals who attempt to advance extremist ideologies that negate our fundamental rights and freedoms and overturn the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy."

The new definition is not statutory and will have no effect on existing criminal law. It only applies to the operations of Government.

The update comes after the Community Security Trust recorded an 147 per cent increase in antisemitic incidents in the UK in 2023 compared to 2022. Tell MAMA recorded a 335 per cent increase in anti-Muslim hate cases in the last four months.

According to the government: "The new definition provides a stricter characterisation that government can use to make sure that extremist organisations and individuals are not being legitimised or given a platform through their interactions with government."

The new definition reads: "Extremism is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to:

1. negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or
2. undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or
3. intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in (1) or (2)."

The new definition is described as "narrower and more precise than the 2011 Prevent definition, which did not provide the detail we now need to assess and identify extremism".

It draws from work by Dame Sara Khan and Sir Mark Rowley's 2021 'Operating with Impunity Report' and addresses key recommendations from the 2023 Independent Review of Prevent.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

Mayor of London announces funding to tackle hate & extremism

The Mayor of London has announced £875,000 of funding intended to empower communities to tackle hate, intolerance and extremism.

This is the fifth year of the grassroots Shared Endeavour Fund which is working to empower Londoners

to challenge racist and hateful views in their communities, better protect those vulnerable to radicalisation and stop the spread of hateful ideologies.

According to the Mayor of London, more than 140,000 Londoners have benefitted from the grassroots scheme since 2020.

The announcement comes as recent figures show a 147 per cent rise of “anti-Jewish hate” across the UK in 2023 compared to the previous year and over 2,000 anti-Muslim cases

since October 2023 - the largest recorded number of cases in four months, since 2011.

The new funding will support 25 projects across London to run workshops and educational activities to empower around 50,000 Londoners to stand up to hate.

Applications for the funding are now open and will close at Midnight on 5 May 2024. Projects will be able to apply for funding of up to £100,000.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

WAVE e-learning

Last month the SIA launched the new Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement (WAVE) e-learning package in partnership with Safer Business Network. Key features of the e-learning course include:

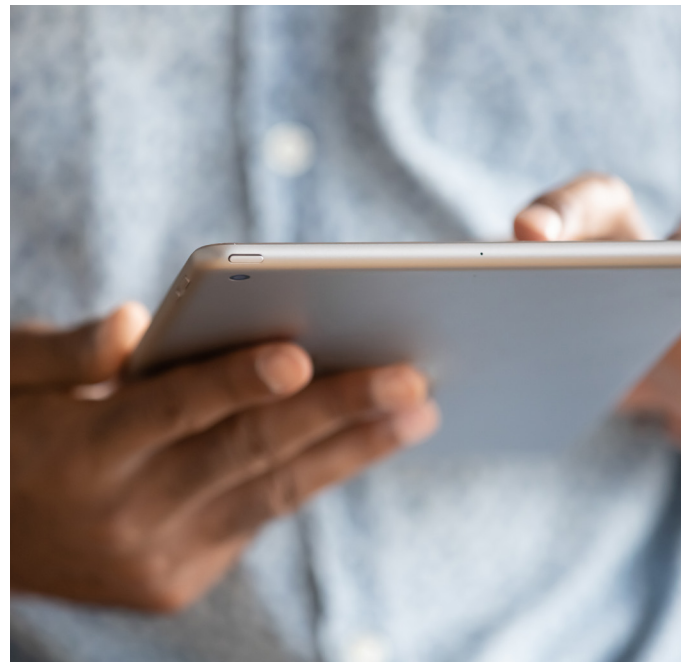
It is voluntary, designed for those who wish to refresh or improve their knowledge of recognising and responding to the signs of vulnerability.

It can be accessed through mobile app, tablet or PC and takes only around 45 minutes to complete.

It is accredited by Highfield and equals to Level 2 qualification in welfare and vulnerability.

A number of free passes are available for SIA licence holders. Visit the link to register for your free access:

<https://sia-wave.highfieldelearning.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.

UK calls out China state-affiliated actors for malicious cyber targeting of UK democratic institutions and parliamentarians

APT31, a China state-affiliated actor, was almost certainly responsible for targeting UK parliamentarians' emails in 2021.

GCHQ's National Cyber Security Centre assesses China state-affiliated actor APT31 was almost certainly responsible for targeting UK parliamentarians' emails in 2021.

The compromise of the UK Electoral Commission's systems has also been attributed to a China state-affiliated actor in a separate instance of malicious activity.

Organisations and individuals involved in democratic processes urged to follow NCSC advice to bolster their security in face of cyber threats.

The UK government has called out China state-affiliated actors for carrying out malicious cyber activity targeting UK institutions and individuals important to our democracy.

The National Cyber Security Centre – a part of GCHQ – assesses that the China state-affiliated cyber actor APT31 was almost certainly responsible for conducting online reconnaissance activity in 2021 against the email accounts of UK parliamentarians, most of whom have been prominent in calling out the malign activity of China.

Separately, the compromise of computer systems at the UK Electoral Commission between 2021 and 2022 has also been attributed to a China state-affiliated actor. The NCSC assesses it is highly likely the threat actors accessed and exfiltrated email data, and data from the Electoral Register during this time.

The data, in combination with other data sources, would highly likely be used by the Chinese intelligence services for a range of purposes, including large-scale espionage and transnational repression of perceived dissidents and critics in the UK.

To help bolster the UK's cyber resilience, the NCSC has today published updated guidance in its Defending Democracy collection for political organisations – such as parties and thinktanks – and organisations coordinating the delivery of elections, with advice on how to reduce the likelihood of cyber attacks.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/defending-democracy/political-organisations>

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

UK PROTEST & DEMONSTRATIONS



Five arrested after red paint sprayed on UK Government building in Gaza protest

Five people have been arrested after red paint was sprayed on a UK Government building in Edinburgh in a pro-Palestinian protest. This Is Rigged campaigners also scaled Queen Elizabeth House and removed the union flag from the roof, replacing it with a Palestinian one.

A fire extinguisher full of red paint was used to spray the front of the building in Sibbald Walk and water balloons containing red paint were thrown at the UK Government crest.

This Is Rigged said it is targeting the UK Government because of its position on the war in Gaza after Israel began its military operation last year, accusing ministers of being “complicit” in the conflict.

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

Man arrested for ‘encouraging support for banned group’ at pro-Palestine protest in London

A man was arrested suspicion of a terrorism-related offence at a ‘Stop the Genocide’ protest in London. The alleged offence was inviting support for a banned organisation, Westminster Police said.

Officers made the arrest on the Strand and the man remains in custody.

Three other people were taken in by police at the APRIL - one person was arrested on suspicion of a racially aggravated public order offence and two others were arrested on suspicion of causing harassment, alarm and distress.

Thousands of people descended on the capital for the 11th national APRIL to call for a ceasefire in Gaza,

where more than 32,000 people have been killed, according to the Hamas-run health ministry which does not differentiate between militant and civilian deaths.

Protesters gathered at Russell Square at midday, before APRILing through the city to Trafalgar Square.

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

Charlotte Church says she's been threatened 'by some pretty scary people' since pro-Palestine protest

Charlotte Church has said the police have had to check on her because her safety and that of her family has been threatened by "some pretty scary people" since she took part in a pro-Palestine event.

The singer subsequently faced accusations of antisemitism.

The 38-year-old said she "is not, has never been, and will never be an antisemite", adding: "I hold the Jewish people in my life very dearly, and have always kept great reverence for Judaism and Jewish culture, since travelling around Israel and Palestine as a teenager.

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



York University accused of censoring student's Hong Kong protest

The University of York has been accused of censoring a Chinese student after it cut its livestream of a graduation ceremony when the student held up a pro-Hong Kong flag.

Kyle Ma, 27, from Shandong in China, graduated from an MA in Social Justice and Education at the University of York in February.

During his graduation ceremony in the University of York's Central Hall, the student held up a flag saying "Liberate Hong Kong, Revolution of Our Times" in traditional Chinese script – a slogan used by pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong.

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

British Museum forced to shut doors as pro-Palestine and environmental protests form blockade to historic landmark

Demonstrators calling themselves Energy Embargo for Palestine - protesting both against climate change and in support of Palestine - called on the general public to boycott the museum over its partnership with BP.

The British Museum initially said the site was evacuated but later stressed that those who arrived in the building

before 3pm were able to continue their visit.

Hundreds of protesters were seen standing across the main entrance holding banners and Palestinian flags. One sign stretching across the gate said: "Sponsored by BP = sponsored by colonial genocide."

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

Man carrying anti-Hamas placard mobbed then arrested

A counter-protestor carrying a placard reading ' Hamas is terrorist ' was mobbed and then arrested at a pro-Palestine APRIL in central London.

Iranian Niyak Ghorbani, 37, waved the sign during the demonstration before APRILers turned on him and he was engaged in a brawl with protesters.

Mr Ghorbani was then mobbed by police after the demonstrators fought with him over the sign - and was then arrested.

Five others were also arrested on a day where thousands of pro-Palestine protesters have APRILed across London in a call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

The brawl came amidst a sizeable counter-demonstration of pro-Israeli APRILers in London.

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

Pro-Palestine protestors chant 'from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free' as they occupy British Ministry

Protesters from the 'London for a Free Palestine' group chanted 'from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free' as they blocked the entrance to the Department for Business and Trade. They managed to enter the building after faking a crash between a cyclist and a pedestrian,

which allowed them to sneak past security.

Zak Suffee, 37, one of the protestors involved, said the building had been targeted as it was "where the arms contracts are agreed for Israel".

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

Vigilante anti-ULEZ campaigners hang bat boxes on cameras to stop engineers fixing them

Anti-ULEZ campaigners are hanging bat boxes on the cameras - to stop engineers repairing them. The £10 animal homes have been spotted attached to ULEZ devices in Chessington, Kingston upon Thames and North Cheam. ULEZ opponents say they are "positively contributing to London's biodiversity and ecosystem". One said: "I'm sure whoever is behind it is extremely grateful to TfL for providing the poles to house this protected species."

TfL say it is a crime to interfere with its network of nearly 4,000 cameras. An anti-ULEZ activist familiar with the strategy told MyLondon: "The purpose of the bat box is to make it difficult for TfL on any installation, be it a new pole before the camera is installed, or a pole where a camera has been damaged, removed or covered et cetera, and the team is returning to attempt to reinstall, repair or clean a camera. It will be interesting to see whether TfL and the subcontractors think that they are above the law regarding bats and will ignore any warnings.

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



Environmental activists Just Stop Oil calling on UN to defend their 'human right to protest'

Environmental activists from Just Stop Oil are calling on the United Nations to back their "human right to protest".

The group's 22-year-old "poster girl", Phoebe Plummer, faces the first trial under the new UK Section 7 law in May. Rules mean convicted protesters can be jailed for up to a year, fined or both for interfering with "the use or operation of key national infrastructure".

But Just Stop Oil claims the legislation is in breach of UN convention and Plummer has urged fellow activists to sign a complaint to Michel Forst, a human rights advisor to the body. She said: "Charged under sec 7 of the public order act? People who have been are putting in a complaint to the UN!

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

Pro Palestine group destroy historic painting of Lord Balfour at Cambridge University

Pro-Palestine protesters have defaced a painting of Lord Balfour at Trinity College Cambridge. Protest group Palestine Action shared images of an activist spraying it with red paint and slashing it.

The Conservative politician Balfour gave his name to the Balfour Declaration - a public statement issued by the British government on the creation of a Jewish homeland in Palestine, leading the way for the founding of Israel in 1948.

The declaration, made in 1917, was contained within a letter from Balfour to Lord Rothschild, a British Jewish leader.

Among the declaration's lasting consequences was increased support for Zionism within the Jewish

community, and it formed part of the founding of Mandatory Palestine.

A statement from the activists said: "Palestine Action ruined a 1914 painting by Philip Alexius de László inside Trinity College, University of Cambridge of Lord Arthur James Balfour – the colonial administrator and signatory of the Balfour Declaration.

"An activist slashed the homage and sprayed the artwork with red paint, symbolising the bloodshed of the Palestinian people since the Balfour Declaration was issued in 1917.

"Arthur Balfour, then UK Foreign secretary, issued a declaration which promised to build "a national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine, where the majority of the indigenous population were not Jewish [2]. He gave away the Palestinians homeland — a land that wasn't his to give away."

No arrests have been reported at this stage.

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





Protesters dragged out of Crufts by security during best in show announcement

A number of protesters have been dragged out of Crufts as judges geared up to announce the best in show.

The annual dog show was interrupted when a small group of PETA protesters made their way inside the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. One person managed to get through security guards into the central area of the show, holding up posters. The group were then forcibly carried out of the venue by security as shocked onlookers watched and recorded the incident.

Footage shows the brawl moved into the seating area as a man tries to force a woman to let go of a barrier

as she resists being moved, with shouts of 'get out' heard in the background.

She and a man were moved by security – with the man being carried by his arms and legs.

It comes as an Australian Shepherd named Viking was crowned best in show – but the event has seen its fair share of controversy after the RSPCA 'attacked' Bulldog breeders following a French Bulldog's best in breed win.

In a statement shared on X, a PETA UK spokesperson said: 'Crufts glorifies the breeding of deformed animals.'

A spokesperson for The Kennel Club said: 'There was a protest incident involving Peta at Crufts and they were swiftly removed to ensure the safety and welfare of the dogs and owners, who are our main priority.'

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

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