

GF

GRASPAN FRANKTON

MAN PLEADS GUILTY
TO HOSTING
TERRORIST WEBSITE

HORSHAM TEENAGER
APPEARS IN COURT OVER
TERRORISM OFFENCES

SECURITY GUARD
'STABBED BY THIEF
WITH NEEDLE'

OSINT
INTELLIGENCE UPDATE
MAY 2024



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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.

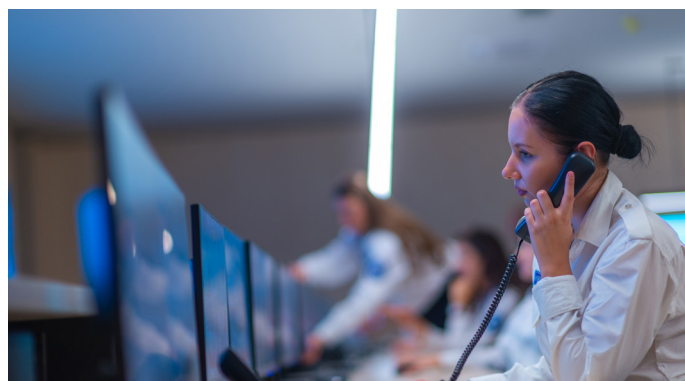
Outside of dealing with major incidents, the GF National Operations Centre based in the North East of England proactively assesses the various security threats that your business, people, assets, and brand might face by monitoring social and conventional media to identify:

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 MAY 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 MAY 1998 the Good Friday Agreement was signed, paving the way for a devolved Northern Ireland Executive based on power sharing between unionist and nationalist political parties. Although the Executive was suspended in 2002, it was successfully restored in May 2007 and has been in operation ever since.

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

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

Terrorist Methods

Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)

Shootings and close quarter attacks

Kidnappings

Chemical, biological and radiological (CBR) devices

Cyber

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

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

Espionage

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

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



Serious and Organised Crime

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

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

Child sexual abuse

Modern slavery and human trafficking

Organised immigration crime

Illegal drugs

Illegal firearms

Organised acquisitive crime

Cybercrime

Fraud

Money laundering, bribery, corruption, and sanctions evasion.

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

UNITED KINGDOM CURRENT THREAT LEVELS

Introduction

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

What the threat levels mean

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

LOW – Means an attack is unlikely

MODERATE – Means an attack is possible, but not likely

SUBSTANTIAL – Means an attack is likely

SEVERE – Means an attack is highly likely

CRITICAL – Means an attack is highly likely in the near future

Current national terrorism threat levels

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

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

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OPEN-SOURCE SECURITY NEWS

Manchester Arena survivors to sue MI5

More than 250 survivors of the 2017 Manchester Arena attack are to sue MI5, according to their lawyers.

The group's lawyers said they have submitted a group claim to the Investigatory Powers Tribunal (IPT). Huggell Solicitors, Slater & Gordon and Broudie Jackson Canter are the three lead firms involved in the action. The legal action claims that MI5 failed to take action that could have stopped the attack. An inquiry into the attack previously concluded that MI5 missed a significant opportunity to prevent the bombing.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>



Man jailed after sending envelopes of white powder to DVLA headquarters and Stanstead airport

A man who sent suspicious packages to schools, shopping centres, and buildings like the DVLA headquarters and Stanstead airport has been jailed. Gary Preston, of Haverhill, Suffolk, sent written threats to different educational and business establishments in 2013. In some cases,

he suggested that the white powder was deadly - it was later found to be talcum powder. However, several of the packages he sent contained notes telling the reader to run or hold their breath.

Among these establishments were the DVLA headquarters in Swansea, Westfield Shopping Centre in London, Freeport Shopping Centre in Braintree, Essex, Transport for London, and a Premier Inn near Stansted Airport.

Preston, 63, also sent notes to St Michaels Primary School, Lyons Hall Primary School, and Notley High

School in Braintree, Anglia Ruskin University, Essex County Council, and other businesses in Braintree such as Vision Express, Coral, Specsavers, Barclays and Costa Coffee. He had no links to any of the establishments and there was no apparent motive for sending the packages.

Preston was jailed at Woolwich Crown Court on Thursday, 18 April, for a total of nine years and six months and placed on the Sex Offenders' Register for life.

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



Tesco starts checking shoppers on CCTV before letting them in

A branch of Tesco has started checking people on CCTV before letting them in, to tackle a shoplifting epidemic. The store in Southville in Bristol leaves the automatic doors shut until customers are viewed on camera - to see if they are suspected or well-known thieves.

It has apparently also removed baskets from the entrance to stop shoplifters filling them up - then running off.

Staff say the “nightclub-style door policy” is in operation between 6am - 9am and in the late evenings - when no security guards are on duty.

A spokesperson for Tesco said all Tesco Express stores have a remote-control door access system available to staff which can be used at times when assaults or thefts are likely to occur. A spokesman for Avon and Somerset Police said: “We take thefts from shops seriously and encourage store workers to report incidents, especially when threats or violence is used.

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

Assault of shop workers to be made specific criminal offence

Assaulting a shop worker will be made a separate criminal offence in England and Wales as part of a government response to a wave of retail crime.

Earlier this year a report found violent and abusive incidents against shop workers rose by 50% in 2022-23. Rishi Sunak said shops must be free from the threat of crime or abuse.

The government previously told campaigners for a new law it was not needed and would not be effective.

But the government says it is concerned about an increase in attacks. The prime minister said the new law was about “sending a message” to criminals stealing from local businesses or abusing shop workers that “enough is enough”.

The new offence will carry a maximum sentence of six months.

Perpetrators could also receive an unlimited fine and be banned from the shop where they committed the offence.

Serial offenders could be forced to wear tags so their movements can be tracked and £50m will be spent on facial recognition technology.

Dedicated facial recognition units will be used in high streets to catch perpetrators and prevent shoplifting. Police have been told to check more CCTV images against police databases. In more serious cases, offenders found guilty of grievous bodily harm will face jail sentences.

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

Three men arrested after deaths of five people, including a child, who attempted to cross Channel

Three men have been arrested after the deaths of five people - including a seven-year-old girl - who were

attempting to cross the English Channel. The National Crime Agency (NCA) has said it is supporting the French investigation into the deaths.

The men arrested were two Sudanese nationals aged 19 and 22 and one South Sudanese national aged 19, Craig Turner, the deputy director of the NCA, said. The suspects have been accused of facilitating illegal

immigration and entering the UK illegally. It comes as a seven-year-old girl, a woman and three men died during the attempt to cross the English Channel. A further 55 people believed to have been on board the boat have also been identified and will continue to be questioned by police in the next few days.

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



Man beaten and kidnapped at golf course

A wealthy businessman was attacked and kidnapped while playing a championship golf course and kept in a cage by a gang who demanded 15 million US dollars in cryptocurrency, a trial heard.

Five men rushed towards Dylan Huang while he was playing with his PA and two other women at Brocket Hall in Hertfordshire in October, prosecutors said. A gun was pointed at him, he was forced into a car and taken to a property in Surrey where he was held for 30 hours.

Tianfu Guo, 35, of no fixed address, is on trial at St Albans Crown Court and denies being involved in any plot. The jury was told another six suspects were believed to be in China.

<https://www-bbc-com>

Man charged with encouraging terrorism

A man from Humberside has been charged with encouraging terrorism and disseminating terrorist publications. Mohammed Mahfuz

Ahmad was arrested on Friday 19 April as part of an investigation by Counter Terrorism Policing North East.

The 25-year-old appeared at Westminster Magistrates Court on Saturday, charged with two counts of Disseminating a Terrorist Publication,

contrary to Section 2 of the Terrorism Act 2006 and one count of Encouraging Terrorism, contrary to Section 1 of the Terrorism ACT 2006. Two residential properties were searched in connection with the arrest.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

Men first to be charged under National Security Act

As part of a Counter Terrorism Policing investigation, several people have been charged with an investigation into alleged offences under the National Security Act. The charges are the first to be brought about under the new legislation that came into effect in December 2023.

Dylan James Earl from Leicestershire has been charged with aggravated arson, contrary to section 1(2) and (3) Criminal Damage Act 1971; preparatory conduct, contrary to section 18 of the National Security Act 2023; and assisting a foreign intelligence service, contrary to section 3(1) and (9) of the National Security Act 2023.

Jake Reeves from Croydon has been charged with aggravated arson, contrary to section 1 of the Criminal Damage Act, 1971 and agreeing to accept a material benefit from a foreign intelligence service, contrary to section 17(2) and (11) of the National Security Act 2023.

Dmitrijus Paulauska, also from Croydon, has been charged with failing to disclose information to police about terrorist acts, contrary to section 38B of the Terrorism Act, 2000.

The foreign intelligence service these charges relate to is that of Russia.

The investigation is being led by officers from the Met's Counter Terrorism Command and has been supported by officers from CTP East Midlands, Leicestershire Police, CTP South East and Kent Police.

Earl appeared at Westminster Magistrates' Court on Saturday, 20 April and was remanded in custody to appear at the Old Bailey on Friday, 10 May. Reeves and Paulauska are due to appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on Friday, 26 April.

Two other men, Paul English from Roehampton and Nii Kojo Mensah from Thornton Heath, were charged with aggravated arson in London in March. They appeared at Westminster Magistrates' Court on Monday 22 April and were remanded in custody to appear at the Old Bailey on Friday 10 May.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

Bulgarian fraud gang stole £54 million

A Bulgarian gang stole £54 million in the biggest ever benefits scam seen in England and Wales. Galina Nikolova, 38, Stoyan Stoyanov, 27, Tsvetka Todorova, 52, Gyunesh Ali, 33, and Patrissia Paneva, 26, took the money using three "benefits factories" in London.

They made around 6,000 false benefits claims using forged GP letters and fake payslips between 2016 and 2021, when they were arrested.

Police raided them and found the false documents, as well as wads of cash stuffed into shopping bags and suitcases, and a luxury car.

They also found an array of other expensive items, including watches, jackets, and glasses. All five have pleaded guilty to fraud and money laundering-related offences and will be sentenced on May 28.

Specialist CPS prosecutor Ben Reid said: "This case is the largest benefit fraud prosecution ever brought to the courts in England and Wales.

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





Birmingham Airport suspends operations after suspicious item reported

Birmingham Airport was forced to suspend operations, after a suspicious item was reported on a Belfast-bound plane. The Aer Lingus flight had to return to the airport, where bomb squad vehicles were reportedly

waiting for it. But the item was declared “not suspicious” by the West Midlands Police. The force said: “All passengers and crew have been evacuated safely and specialist officers including the dog unit have now searched the plane. “The incident is now being dealt as a false call with very good intent and the item is not suspicious.”

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

Man pleads guilty to hosting terrorist website

A man from Leeds has pleaded guilty to four terrorism offences at Sheffield Crown Court. According to Counter Terrorism Policing, Colin McNeil provided a service, in the form of an online website, that facilitated others to obtain terrorist publications and by doing so committed four

dissemination offences contrary to Section 2(2)(d) Terrorism Act 2006. The 46-year-old will be sentenced at Sheffield Crown Court on Friday 5 July.

The website was unmoderated and McNeil admitting in a police interview that he knew the site had been ‘swamped’ by material supporting extreme right-wing ideologies. He also continued to play an active role in its administration after he

became aware that terrorist publications were being distributed on the website.

Investigators found out that he had shown admiration for terrorist publications shared on his website and also used the platform to express his own racist and extreme right-wing views. It was also found that convicted international terrorists also used the website to further their ideologies.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

Two men who stabbed footballer Cody Fisher in unprovoked nightclub attack jailed for life

Two men who murdered a footballer on the dancefloor of a Birmingham nightclub on Boxing Day have been jailed for life.

Cody Fisher, 23, was attacked in Crane nightclub in Digbeth after his killers smuggled a weapon through security and stabbed him in the chest. The former Birmingham City academy player was attacked in a “planned act of retribution” for a minor incident two days previously, which had seen Mr Fisher brush up against Remy Gordon’s back on Christmas Eve.

Jurors at Birmingham Crown Court were told Gordon, of Cofton Park Drive, Birmingham, orchestrated the “awful revenge” alongside Kami Carpenter, 22, after Mr Fisher made brief “unavoidable” contact while leaving a Popworld club in Solihull.

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

CCTV shows moment robber points gun at terrified Chilwell shopkeeper as gang try to rip out till

An elderly Nottinghamshire shop owner was terrorised by a gun and knife-wielding gang which stole thousands of pounds of goods from his store. CCTV images show Joshua Woods, Callum Groves and Jack Weston trying unsuccessfully to prise the till from the counter while threatening their 76-year-old victim at Deepak Food store, in Barn Croft, Chilwell, on September 23 last year.

The frustrated trio then trashed the corner shop before ransacking its cigarette counter and fleeing in a getaway car. The elderly shopkeeper suffered minor injuries after being restrained by one of the group and feared he could be shot and killed - not knowing the gun was a fake.

Woods, 29, of Chilcombe Walk, Leicester, was jailed for four years and three months, Groves, a 25-year-old of Hartshorn Close, Thurmaston, Leicester, was sent to prison for four years, Weston, 23, of Cuffling Drive, Leicester, was also handed a four-year and three-month prison term.

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



Detectives urgently investigating what led to man's fatal sword rampage

Detectives are urgently investigating why a man armed with a sword went on a 22-minute rampage in east London, killing a 14-year-old boy and wounding four other people in an apparently random attack.

The teenager was fatally injured when the suspect swung at him with the weapon. Police were first called to reports of a vehicle being driven into a house in the Thurlow Gardens area of Hainault. The 36-year-old suspect was arrested.

Two police officers sustained "significant" but not life-threatening injuries, while injuries sustained by two members of the public are also not deemed to be life-threatening.

Ch Supt Stuart Bell of the Met appealed for time to find answers. "I know the families of those involved, the local and wider community and many across London will want to know why this terrible incident occurred," he said. Police said the suspect had been arrested on suspicion of murder, but was not yet fit to be interviewed because of injuries he sustained when his van collided with a building.

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

Horsham teenager appears in court over terrorism offences

A teenager from Horsham has appeared at Westminster Magistrates Court charged with terrorism offences.

Cameron Finnigan was arrested at his home on 26 March.

The 18-year-old has been charged with one count of preparation of terrorist acts, one count of possessing information likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism, and one count of

possessing indecent images of a child. The court heard how he was alleged to be planning an attack against a single homeless individual who was living in a tent. The prosecution also alleged that he was involved in online extremist groups.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

Gloucestershire Royal Hospital staff to wear body cameras after increase in violence

Staff at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital's Emergency Department have begun wearing body-worn cameras after an increase in abusive and aggressive behaviour. The 12-week trial started in a bid to increase security and safety for patients, staff and the public.

A spokesperson from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said: "We are taking this step to support the de-escalation of incidents and support action that is taken following safety incidents in terms of identifying and prosecuting any offenders.

"The cameras will be worn by key staff in the Emergency Department and also by the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital security response team who may respond to other departments in the hospital but will only be activated during an incident of abuse, violence, aggression or security risk."

Individuals who are being aggressive or violent will be informed that the camera is recording, and the body cameras will not be switched on during normal clinical activities.

Notices will also be displayed in the Emergency Department to confirm body-worn cameras are present and may be in use. An evaluation will take place at the end of the trial.

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



Device 'posted through letterbox' in Eccles was 'viable' as homes are evacuated

Bomb disposal experts, specialist fire service teams and paramedics were called to Cassidy Way, near Monton

in Eccles, where a device that sparked a bomb alert and led to evacuations on a Salford housing estate. The Manchester Evening News understands the device was deemed to be 'viable' at the scene and as such, a controlled explosion was carried out as a precaution.

The alarm was raised after the item was posted through a letterbox inside a package at a house on the street. There have been no reports of any injuries.

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

Security stepped up at Emirates Stadium following threats

The Metropolitan Police increased security levels for the Arsenal vs Bayern Munich match at the Emirates Stadium. A pro-IS media channel has published multiple posters calling for attacks at stadiums hosting quarter-final ties. The Champions League quarter-final ties went ahead as scheduled despite the alleged terror threat. The matches passed without incident.

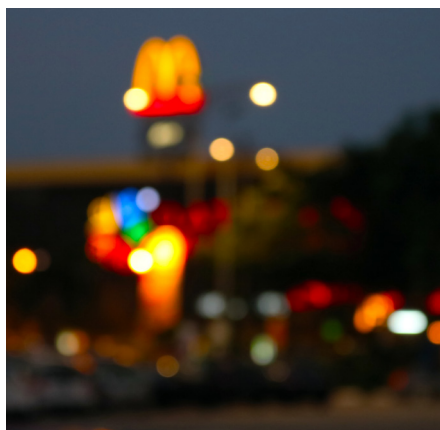
Ahead of the game, Met deputy assistant commissioner, Ade Adelekan said: "The UK terrorism threat level remains at 'substantial' meaning an attack is likely, and we work closely with colleagues from across Counter Terrorism Policing in planning for events here in London, to take into account any relevant information that could help us to keep those attending safe.

"We're aware of online and media reports in relation to calls to target matches across Europe and here in London.

"However, I want to reassure the public that we have a robust policing plan in place for tonight's match and we continue to work closely alongside the club's security team to ensure that the match passes peacefully."

Reuters reported that France and Spain would also step up security ahead of the Champions League quarter-finals being held in Madrid and Paris. All games took place without incident.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>



McDonald's forced to close as '30-teen brawl' breaks out

A McDonald's was forced to close temporarily after a brawl reportedly involving up to 30 teenagers broke out. Eyewitnesses say eight police cars descended on McDonald's in Chesterton as trouble flared.

Workers reportedly tried to break up the fight before officers

arrived on the scene in Dimsdale Parade West. One eyewitness told StokeonTrentLive: "There were around eight police cars surrounding Chesterton McDonald's all with blue lights after a group of 20 to 30 teenagers were fighting each other. "Staff tried to split the fight up with some teenagers being taken into the toilet corridor to be separated from the brawl.

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

Two teachers and pupil stabbed at school in Ammanford

A teenage girl has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after two teachers and a school pupil were stabbed in Carmarthenshire,

police have confirmed. A major incident was declared at Ysgol Dyffryn Aman in Ammanford with the school - also known locally as Amman Valley School - going into lockdown. One teacher, Darrel Campbell, is said to have intervened and disarmed a girl before emergency services arrived, according to reports.

He is said to have not been harmed during the incident. Police did not give the age of the arrested person, or those injured, but said those injured have not suffered life-threatening injuries.

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

Jewellers in Chelsea targeted as hammer-wielding robbers steal loot worth thousands

Two men stole thousands of pounds worth of jewellery and injured three people when they burst into a shop in Chelsea brandishing hammers.

The two damaged property inside the jewellery shop in Sydney Street when they struck. The Metropolitan Police was called out shortly after and said they identified three victims at the scene who were taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

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



Man convicted of 11 terror offences in Brighton

A 19-year-old man in Brighton has been convicted of 11 terrorism offences following an investigation carried out by Counter Terrorism Policing South East (CTPSE).

On 26 April, following a trial at Winchester Crown Court, Mason Reynolds, of Moulsecomb Way, Brighton, was found guilty of one count of possessing an article for the purpose of terrorism, contrary to Section 57 of the Terrorism Act 2000. He previously pleaded guilty to five counts of collecting information

which could be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism, contrary to Section 58 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and five counts of dissemination of terrorist publications, contrary to Section 2 of the Terrorism Act 2006.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

Terrorist sentenced for breaching notification order

A convicted terrorist has been sentenced to 44 months in custody for failing to comply with a notification order, drugs offences, and possessing indecent images. Ian Davison, (AKA Ian Delaney) from Longhirst, Middlesbrough, pleaded guilty in 2023

to five counts of failing to comply with requirements under his 10-year Part 4 Notification order, contrary to the Counter Terrorism Act 2008. He also pleaded guilty to producing a Class B drug (Cannabis), contrary to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and possessing with intent to supply a Class B drug (Cannabis), contrary to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

In May 2010, the 55-year-old was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for producing a chemical weapon, preparing acts of terrorism, three counts of possessing material useful to commit acts of terror and one count of possessing a prohibited weapon. He was arrested in 2009 and searches at his home found he had manufactured Ricin, which was found in a jar in his kitchen.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

Plumber who converted blank firing guns into lethal weapons jailed for seven years

A plumber who converted blank firing guns into lethal weapons has been jailed for seven years and two months following a National Crime Agency investigation.

Evan Girdlestone, age 48, was arrested by officers from the NCA's Armed

Operations Unit (AOU) on 18 May last year as he approached his parked car in Croydon, south London.

Hidden under the passenger seat of the car was a converted gun with two magazines of ammunition.

Girdlestone, of Colliers Wood, south London, had an industrial unit in Wimbledon which he used as a production line for the conversion of top-venting blank firers into lethal weapons.

NCA officers performed a toothcomb search of the unit and found converted weapons, imitation firearms, 174 rounds of live ammunition, a quantity of spent ammunition and multiple tools used to convert blank firers.

In total Girdlestone was in possession of four converted guns and four unconverted blank firers.

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



Security guard 'stabbed by thief with needle'

A security guard was stabbed by a needle after a thief tried to steal alcohol from a shop. It happened as police lifted the lid on a shoplifting epidemic.

West Midlands Police said seven people were being held in custody over shoplifting offences in the Black Country. The rate of shoplifting has hit its highest level for two decades nationally, with thefts from shops and stalls increasing by 32 per cent in the year to September 2023, the force said.

It said a 38-year-old man was arrested yesterday after a security guard was stabbed with a needle at a superstore in Tipton by someone trying to steal alcohol. In a separate incident a man, 42, and a 28-year-old woman were in custody after staff at a shoe shop in Walsall town centre were threatened with a knife over the non-payment of a pair of trainers.

Police said a man attacked shop staff in a convenience store in West Bromwich when challenged for taking meat without payment. He ran from the shop. A suspect was arrested by officers at his home.

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

Asda security guard attacked with knife while tackling shoplifter

A knife-wielding shoplifter attacked a security guard at a city supermarket. The would-be thief brandished a blade when he was challenged by the worker as he attempted to steal a bag of items from Asda, on Adelaide Terrace,

in Benwell, Newcastle. One witness said a customer stepped in to help take the weapon off the attacker during the terrifying incident.

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



Police bust global cyber gang accused of industrial-scale fraud

Police have taken down a gang accused of using a technology service that helped criminals use fraudulent text messages to steal from victims. They have arrested 37 people worldwide and are contacting victims.

Officers say younger people who grew up with the internet were the most likely to fall for the “phishing” scam.

The technology allowed scammers without technical skills to bombard victims with messages designed to trick them into making payments online.

Police targeted the gang’s site, LabHost, which helped criminals send the messages and direct victims to fake websites appearing to be legitimate online payment or shopping services.

It had enabled the criminals to steal identity information, including 480,000 card numbers and 64,000 Pin codes, known in criminal slang as “fullz data”, the police said.

Detectives do not know how much money was stolen but estimate the LabHost site made nearly £1m (\$1.25m) in profits.

The arrests were the result of a two-year operation involving the Metropolitan Police, National Crime Agency, City of London Police and law-enforcement bodies in 17 countries. In the UK, 24 suspects were taken into custody, with arrests at Luton and Manchester airports.

Worldwide, 70 properties were searched, and one British man charged.

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

Police officer seriously injured after being stabbed while arresting knifeman in Enfield

A man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after a Met police officer was stabbed in a north London Street. The officer sustained “serious injuries to his shoulder” as he tried to apprehend a man armed with a knife, in Enfield on Tuesday afternoon.

Officers used first aid including a tourniquet to stem the bleeding following the incident in Mandeville Road before he was taken to hospital. The suspect was injured during the arrest but has since been discharged from hospital.

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

Leeds man sentenced for supporting proscribed organisation

A 23-year-old man from Leeds has been sentenced for demonstrating support for the proscribed organisation Hamas.

Ozain Ibn Yousef was given a 16-week custodial sentence, suspended for two years. He will also be subject to

a rehabilitation requirement for 35 days and 100 hours of community service. Ibn Yousef admitted publishing pro-Hamas content on his X account in October and November including images of armed soldiers wearing Hamas headbands. He also shared Hamas-led videos.

He was arrested on 24 November as part of an investigation by Counter Terrorism Policing North East.

On February 27, 2024, he was charged with Publishing a series of images in such a way, or in such circumstances, as to arouse reasonable suspicion that he is a supporter of a proscribed organisation, namely Hamas, contrary to section 13(1A) and (3) of the Terrorism Act 2000.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>



Police secure former Marco Pierre White restaurant being used by squatters

Police have secured the site of a former restaurant owned by chef Marco Pierre White in central London after it was being used by squatters.

Westminster City Council said the Met “responded and dealt with the incident” at the premises in Leicester Square, despite the issue normally being a civil matter. The venue was cleared of people and secured, and one man was arrested on suspicion of carrying Class A and B drugs with intent to supply.

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

Teenager sentenced for planning terror attack

A 16-year-old has been sentenced for planning a terrorist attack. The teenager has been sentenced to seven years in prison after being found guilty by a jury at Kingston Crown Court. After a trial, the boy from the Isle of Wight was found guilty of one count of preparation

of terrorist acts under Section 5 of the Terrorism Act 2000, three counts of dissemination of terrorist publications under Section 2 of the Terrorism Act 2006 and one count of having an article with a blade or point in a public place, contrary to Section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1998. He cannot be named or identified for legal reasons.

The teenager was arrested in July 2022 following an investigation by Counter Terrorism Policing South East

(CTPSE) after he was found to be planning to attack people he believed had insulted Islam.

When he was arrested, the boy was found with a knife and notes that contained information relating to his plan. He had also shared terrorist publications with others online. He was first charged in July 2022 then charged with additional crimes in November 2022.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

Woman charged with terrorism offence following public referral

A woman has been charged with a terrorism offence as part of an investigation into online support of proscribed terrorist group Hamas. The investigation followed a public referral to the Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU), which highlighted posts linked to a social media account that were allegedly

showing support towards Hamas. Specialist officers assessed the posts and found they could be in breach of terrorism legislation. Further enquiries identified the user, and a 22-year-old woman from north-west London on 2 November. Sara El-Houssein was charged on Thursday, 21 March with publishing an image of an article in such a way or in such circumstances as to arouse a reasonable suspicion that she is a supporter of a proscribed organisation, namely Hamas, contrary to section 13(1A) of the

Terrorism Act 2000.

Commander Dominic Murphy, Head of the Met's Counter Terrorism Command, said: "This investigation came as a result of members of the public referring social media content into our Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit. Any content referred gets carefully assessed and I hope this example shows that we take this extremely seriously and that we will take action if and where we identify potential terrorist or criminal activity."

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

21 arrested after lorry found to be carrying immigrants

Police descended on the A322 as motorists saw officers stop and search a lorry heading toward Bracknell. 21 people have been arrested at the scene for immigration offences. Thames Valley Police are working with Surrey Police and Home Office Immigration on the incident.

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



UK to become first country to ban extreme right-wing group Terrorgram

Extreme right-wing online terrorist group Terrorgram, which incites violence across the world, is set to

be banned in the UK. Britain will be the first country to ban the group if the plan is approved and it will be the first time that an online terror network has been proscribed in the UK.

The move would mean that support for the group would be illegal with punishments of up to 14 years in prison or an unlimited fine.

Terrorgram has published propaganda designed to incite followers to commit violence and was credited by an attacker who killed two people in an LGBTQ+ nightclub shooting in Slovakia in 2022, the Home Office said.

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

Two men who stabbed footballer Cody Fisher in unprovoked nightclub attack jailed for life

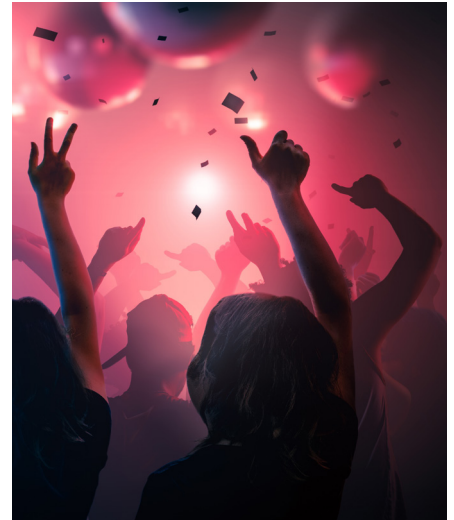
Two men who murdered a footballer on the dancefloor of a Birmingham nightclub on Boxing Day have been jailed for life.

Cody Fisher, 23, was attacked in Crane nightclub in Digbeth after his killers smuggled a weapon through security and stabbed him in the chest.

The former Birmingham City academy player was attacked in a “planned act of retribution” for a minor incident two days previously, which had seen Mr Fisher brush up against Remy Gordon’s back on Christmas Eve.

Jurors at Birmingham Crown Court were told Gordon, of Cofton Park Drive, Birmingham, orchestrated the “awful revenge” alongside Kami Carpenter, 22, after Mr Fisher made brief “unavoidable” contact while leaving a Popworld club in Solihull.

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



Man ‘off his head on drugs’ splatters Sainsbury’s security guard with whisky then threatens him with broken bottle

A security guard at Sainsbury’s in Grimsby was splattered with whisky

and threatened with a broken bottle by a notorious shoplifter.

Two bottles of whisky with a total value of £80 had been taken by David Barton-Nichols without paying. When he was confronted by the security guard, he became violent. At Grimsby Crown Court Barton-Nichols, 44, of no fixed address admitted an offence of affray and

two offences of shoplifting on November 14 and 15, last year. His defence barrister, Richard Butters told the court his client’s time in custody had “done him the world of good” and he would not be asking the court to suspend the sentence of prison. Barton-Nichols was jailed for a total of 10 months.

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

Two men sentenced following investigation into east Belfast UVF activities

Two men have been sentenced in Belfast following an investigation by the Paramilitary Crime Task Force into the activities of the east Belfast UVF.

James McGrogan and Christopher Cullen were both convicted on Thursday 18th April, for a number of drug-related offences.

Both had previously entered guilty pleas to the offences of possession of a Class A controlled drug, possession of a Class A controlled drug with intent to supply, possession of a Class C controlled drug, and possession of

a Class C controlled drug with intent to supply.

James McGrogan was sentenced to four years in prison and was ordered to serve half of his sentence in custody and half on licence. Christopher Cullen was sentenced to three years in prison and will also serve half of his sentence in custody and the remainder on Licence.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

Corrupt Border Force officer convicted for assisting organised crime group

Kevin Smith, a corrupt Border Force officer who was arrested by the National Crime Agency (NCA), has been convicted of misconduct in public office for assisting a London-based crime group. Details can only now be revealed as the final member of that group was recently found guilty on charges referencing drug importation in the wake of a five-week trial.

Aged 38, Smith was detained by officers from the NCA's Anti-Corruption Unit while at work in Portsmouth on 26 August last year as part of a joint operation with the Metropolitan Police Service and Border Force.

Earlier that day, Smith had allowed Caprice Thompson, aged 46, from Brixton to pass through his Border Force booth at Portsmouth port having arrived on a ferry from France. As Thompson drove back towards London, her rental car was stopped by Metropolitan Police Service officers who recovered 15 kilos of MDMA (with a street value of circa £400,000) from the boot of the vehicle.

Two other members of the crime group were also arrested: ringleader David Johnson, 51, and Sinan Baki, aged 49, both from Clapham. Further drugs were recovered from their properties.

The arrests followed on from an investigation into the crime group conducted by the Metropolitan Police Service, who brought in the NCA once it became clear a corrupt insider was in contact with Johnson.

<https://securitymattersmagazine.com/>

Man sentenced for breaching notification order

The 26-year-old was found guilty of four breaches of a Part 4 Terrorist Notification Order, under Section 54 of the Counter Terrorism Act 2008 in March this year following an investigation by Counter Terrorism Policing South East (CTPSE).

He had been arrested on 21 June 2022 and was subsequently charged on 26 September 2022.

On 26 April, Iftikhar Ali from High Wycombe was sentenced to two years and nine months' imprisonment. Ali failed to notify police of financial information, namely a cryptocurrency account and two email addresses which were the conditions of his notification order.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

SECURITY INDUSTRY NEWS

Government to increase protection of universities

The government will launch a new consultation to protect UK universities from security threats.

Deputy prime minister, Oliver Dowden, announced his intention last week to launch a consultation on measures to protect UK universities from national security threats posed by foreign states.

Measures will also be focused on a small proportion of academic work, with a particular focus on research with potential dual uses in civilian and military life.

Dowden said the announcement is “not about erecting fences [but] about balancing evolving threats and protecting the integrity and security” of British universities.

The announcement was delivered during a security briefing with Vice

Chancellors from 24 of the UK’s universities, including the University of Oxford, University of Cambridge and Imperial College London, and co-hosted by the Science and Technology Secretary Michelle Donelan.

It follows an internal government review of the national security threats facing the higher education sector, which concluded foreign states are targeting sensitive research.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>



Security measures increased in general aviation space

Fines of up to £10,000 for international general aviation flights that do not submit advance passenger information online up to two hours before departure have been introduced.

Pilots, owners and operators of private aircraft will now be liable for the fines if they do not provide Border Force with advance passenger information online before they depart to or from the UK, under new regulations with the aim to strengthen border security.

The new regulations – which were laid in Parliament in November last year and came into force on 6 April - will mean that Border Force and the police will attempt to better identify potential security threats, prevent and detect crime. Previously, advance passenger information could be submitted by email, fax or other manual methods.

Minister for legal migration and the Border, Tom Pursglove MP said: “Keeping our borders safe and secure is one of my top priorities.”

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>



Fraudscape 2024: Criminals ramp up social engineering and AI tactics

CIFAS, The UK's leading fraud prevention service, has released its 2024 Fraudscape report, which details the latest fraud data and intelligence recorded by its members during 2023. Upwards of 374,000 cases were reported to the Cifas

National Fraud Database, with members recording an incident of fraud every two minutes, preventing more than £1.8 billion in fraud losses.

In addition, over the last 12 months, Cifas members reported being increasingly concerned about the potential growth in Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated fraud, enabling sophisticated phishing scams and synthetic identities. View the 2024 Fraudscape report in full online.

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

New laws to clamp down on disruptive protesters come into force

New public order powers to prevent individuals from causing repeated serious disruption are now in force as the Government continues with its plan to protect the public from criminality at protests.

Serious Disruption Prevention Orders empower the police service to intervene before individuals cause serious disruption, for those who have previously committed protest-related offences or ignored court-imposed restrictions.

The new Serious Disruption Prevention Orders can impose a range of restraints on an individual, including preventing them from being in a particular place or area, participating in disruptive activities and being with protest groups at given times.

They can also stop individuals from using the Internet to encourage protest-related offences.

These Serious Disruption Prevention Orders can be imposed on those who have, on at least two occasions, committed protest-related offences or breached the conditions of an injunction.

The specific restrictions contained within each Serious Disruption Prevention Order will be decided by the court and can last for up to two years. They can also be renewed if the individual remains a threat.

Serious Disruption Prevention Orders were introduced as part of the Public Order Act 2023, which was passed last year, and are court orders. Breaching such an order will be deemed a criminal offence and carry a maximum penalty of six months in prison and/or an unlimited fine.

<https://securitymattersmagazine.com/>

Guide to safe and ethical use of facial recognition technology published

New guidance designed to ensure that facial recognition technology acts as a force for good in society has been published by the British Standards Institution (BSI) in a bid to help organisations navigate the ethical challenges associated with the use of this technology and build trust in that use.

The use of Artificial intelligence (AI)-powered facial recognition tools is increasingly common, including for security purposes such as at King Charles' Coronation or major sporting events and to curb shoplifting.

In essence, facial recognition technology maps an individual's physical features in an image to form a face template, which can be compared against other images stored within a database to either verify a high level of likeness or identify an individual's presence at a specific location at a given time.

The BSI's recent research showed that 40% of individuals globally expect to be using biometric identification in airports by 2030. Its proliferation has prompted concerns about safe and ethical use, including around error rates linked to racial or gender differences, as well as high-profile legal cases, among them one involving software used by Uber.

An audit conducted in 2022 assessed the police service's use of facial recognition, finding that deployment regularly failed to meet minimum ethical and legal standards.

BS 9347:2024

BS 9347:2024 Facial Recognition Technology – Ethical Use and Deployment in Video Surveillance-Based Systems – Code of Practice has been developed by the BSI in its role as the UK's national standards body to assuage concerns by helping organisations navigate the tools and build public trust. Its publication follows on from the BSI's Trust in AI poll, which showed that 77% of those individuals surveyed believe trust in AI is key for its use in surveillance.

Designed for both public and private sector organisations using and/or monitoring video surveillance systems and biometric facial recognition technologies, the Code of Practice is applicable to the whole supply chain, beginning with an assessment to determine the need to use facial recognition technology right through to its procurement, installation and appropriate usage.

BS 9347:2024 sets out six key overarching principles of 'trustworthiness'.

These are backed up with a summary of policies that are required and to be maintained by those across the supply chain. The guide covers facial recognition technology's applicability across governance and accountability, human agency and oversight, privacy and data governance, technical robustness and safety, transparency and explainability, diversity, non-discrimination and fairness.

With the industry expected to be worth \$13.4 billion globally by 2028, the standard sets out the importance of regularly reviewing the ethics of AI and its application in facial recognition technology.

It embeds Best Practice and gives guidance on the appropriate guardrails for safe and unbiased use of facial recognition technology through the definition of two scenarios: identification and verification. For the former, such as identifying individuals in crowds at events, the standard requires that facial recognition technology is used in conjunction with human intervention or 'human-in-the-loop' measures to ensure accurate identification before action is taken.

In verification scenarios where the technology can operate autonomously, such as in the case of building access control, authenticating a payment transaction or opening a smart phone, the British Standard puts guardrails in place for the technology's learning by ensuring training data includes sets from diverse demographic pools and across a variety of lighting levels and camera angles to eliminate inaccuracies and mitigate the risk for bias by way of false positives.

<https://securitymattersmagazine.com/>





Government to increase protection of universities

The government will launch a new consultation to protect UK universities from security threats.

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Measures will also be focused on a small proportion of academic work, with a particular focus on research with potential dual uses in civilian and military life.

Dowden said the announcement is “not about erecting fences [but] about balancing evolving threats and protecting the integrity and security” of British universities.

The announcement was delivered during a security briefing with Vice Chancellors from 24 of the UK’s universities, including the University of Oxford, University of Cambridge and Imperial College London, and co-hosted by the Science and Technology Secretary Michelle Donelan.

It follows an internal government review of the national security threats facing the higher education sector, which concluded foreign states are targeting sensitive research.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

DASA launches competition to protect physical assets from UAS attacks

The Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) has launched a new themed competition entitled “Protecting Physical Assets from UAS Attack”. The competition is jointly funded by the National Protective Security

Authority (NPSA), the UK Home Office and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl).

The competition will look for proposals that can provide a defensive solution for physical assets as a countermeasure to an Uncrewed Aerial System (UAS) kinetic attack and aims to move away from conventional C-UAS methods and instead explores the most effective ways to provide physical protection to various assets from hostile UAS.

It will include options for hardening the asset, providing blanket last-ditch defence, and deploying automated alerts for incoming hostile UAS.

The competition has two challenge areas - protecting a static asset and protecting an asset on the move. £750,000 is available to successful bids. The competition is open now and closes on 13 June 2024.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

Hate Crime laws come into force in Scotland

The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act has come into force, intended to tackle the harm caused by hatred and prejudice.

The Act is designed to provide greater protection for victims and

communities. It introduces new offences for threatening or abusive behaviour which is intended to stir up hatred based on prejudice towards characteristics including age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity and variations in sex characteristics.

The new laws were developed following Lord Bracadale's Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation. The review found that new specific offences relating to stirring up hatred were needed.

The legislation was passed in the Scottish Parliament in 2021, by a majority of MSPs.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

Airports given extension to install security tech

Airports have been granted an extension to install the newest security technology.

New scanners detect prohibited items with greater accuracy, which will make air travel safer and easier for UK passengers.

Initially, the government's deadline for airports was 1 June 2024 but the changes could be pushed back to a year later.

Some UK airports are being given more time to install new security technology with serious financial penalties planned for those who fail to meet the new deadlines.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>



Met using counter-terror tactics to arrest men who attack women and girls

The Metropolitan Police has revealed it is using the 'V100' initiative to focus on perpetrators of violence against women and girls.

The initiative uses data analytics to identify and target the top men and women who pose the most risk using existing police data from victim reports of crime alongside the Cambridge Crime Harm Index, a tool which helps police measure the seriousness of harm to victims.

In this way, the force is able to prioritise police interventions to have the biggest impact, reducing the threat perpetrators pose and the harm they cause. The V100 initiative is already used in counter terrorism operations. Since August 2023, officers have arrested 60 of the most harmful suspects, with 24 convicted so far.

<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.

NCSC enters new partnership for PDNS delivery

The National Cyber Security Centre announces new partnership to deliver the Protective Domain Name System (PDNS) service.

Following a fair and competitive tender process, the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) is announcing a change of partnership in the delivery of its Protective Domain Name System (PDNS) service.

A three-year contract has been awarded to Cloudflare Inc. (NYSE: NET), the connectivity cloud company which will implement the NCSC's PDNS service from September 2024 in collaboration with the services provider Accenture.

Bids were rigorously assessed by the NCSC to ensure that the partnership met the required technical standards as well as offering the best value for the British taxpayer.

NCSC's PDNS service – one of its widely deployed Active Cyber Defence

capabilities (ACD) – was launched in 2017 to hamper the use of DNS for malware distribution and operation within UK public services.

Since it was stood up seven years ago, PDNS has resolved over 2.5 trillion DNS queries and prevented access to 1.5m malicious domains. Today, PDNS effectively protects over 1,400 UK organisations in central government, local government, healthcare, emergency services and beyond, preventing average annual losses of at least £59M.

www.ncsc.gov.uk

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NCSC announces Richard Horne as new CEO

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has today announced that Richard Horne will become its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in the autumn this year.

Richard will lead the UK's national technical authority for cyber security as it continues in its mission to make the UK the safest place to live and work online.

He will join the NCSC from PwC UK, where he currently chairs the Cyber Security Practice.

Ensuring the NCSC delivers its vital contribution to the UK's National

Cyber Strategy will be central to Richard's role. This will include increasing the UK's cyber resilience, keeping cyber security at the heart of the UK's approach to future technology challenges like AI and quantum computing, and making sure the NCSC continues to be able to manage the most critical cyber incidents affecting the UK.

www.ncsc.gov.uk

Exploitation of vulnerability affecting Palo Alto GlobalProtect Gateway

The NCSC is encouraging organisations to take immediate action to mitigate a vulnerability affecting Palo Alto GlobalProtect Gateway and to follow the latest vendor advice.

Palo Alto has published a security advisory detailing a vulnerability affecting the GlobalProtect feature of Palo Alto Networks PAN-OS software (CVE-2024-3400).

CVE-2024-3400 is a command injection vulnerability in the GlobalProtect feature of Palo Alto Networks PAN-OS software for specific PAN-OS versions.

Distinct feature configurations may enable an unauthenticated attacker to execute arbitrary code with root privileges on the firewall.

The NCSC will continue to monitor for any impact of this vulnerability on UK organisations.

www.ncsc.gov.uk

NCSC and partners issue advice to help network defenders mitigate targeting of CISCO firewall platforms

The National Cyber Security Centre – a part of GCHQ – has shared new advice today (Wednesday) to help network defenders mitigate malicious activity targeting certain Cisco devices used globally.

Cisco has published a blog post detailing how a threat actor has been using

sophisticated techniques to target devices running Adaptive Security Appliance and Firepower Threat Defense software.

The NCSC recommends following vendor best practice in the mitigation of this activity, which includes applying security updates to address vulnerabilities. More advice about addressing the vulnerabilities can be found in a separate alert.

To assist with detection of the activity and mitigation, the NCSC has also issued a joint advisory with international partners and published two reports

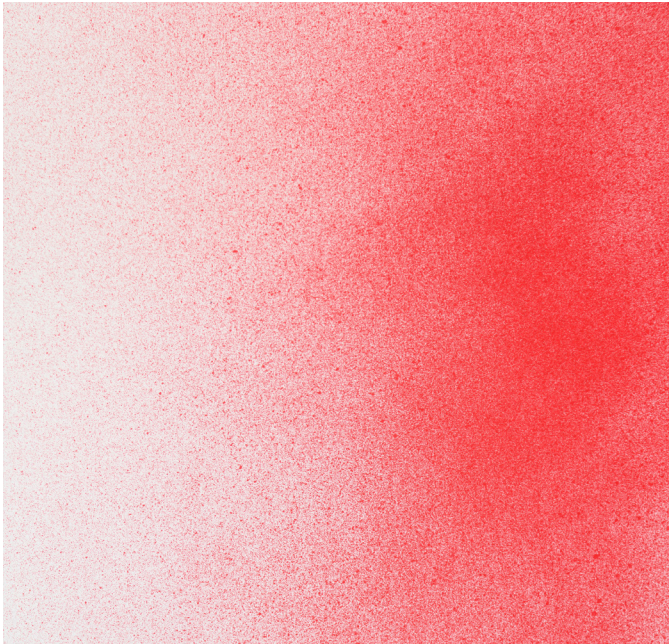
which share detailed analysis of malware, dubbed Line Dancer and Line Runner, related to the malicious activity.

Network defenders are strongly encouraged to act upon the technical information and recommendations in these products to harden their defences.

The joint advisory, issued by the NCSC, the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) and the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security (CCCS), can be read on the CCCS website.

<https://www.cyber.gc.ca/en/news-events/cyber-activity-impacting-cisco-asa-vpns>

UK PROTEST & DEMONSTRATIONS



Pro-Palestine protesters scale Ministry of Defence railings to cover building in red paint

Pro-Palestine protesters have sprayed red paint over the Ministry of Defence headquarters in London.

The groups Youth Demand and Palestine Action jointly carried out the action demanding that both the Conservative and Labour parties commit to imposing a two-way arms embargo on Israel.

In a video posted to X, formerly Twitter, several demonstrators can be seen jumping the railings before spraying the red paint over the walls of the building. They later displayed a banner reading “Youth demand an end to genocide”. A post on the Metropolitan Police’s official X account said five people had been arrested on suspicion of criminal damage and are in custody.

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

Police condemn Derry disorder

The Police Service of Northern Ireland have condemned disorder in Derry on Easter Monday.

An un-notified parade took place from Central Drive to the City Cemetery in Creggan. Police issued warnings from a drone to make participants aware they would be taking part in an un-notified parade. However, participants continued to take part in the parade.

Police also reported that petrol bombs were being prepared by young people prior to the parade. It is alleged that petrol bombs were thrown at journalists. Images online show men marching in paramilitary-style uniforms, with their faces covered.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

Tens of thousands gather in London to call for Gaza ceasefire

Tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters gathered in London on Saturday to call for a ceasefire and urge the Government to stop all arms sales to Israel.

Protesters marched from Russell Square to Parliament Square where speakers led chants of “free Palestine” and addressed crowds of people waving Palestinian flags and holding signs calling for a “ceasefire now” and an end to arms sales.

One man was arrested for making cut-throat gestures towards protesters at a significantly smaller pro-Israel counterdemonstration at Aldwych, the Metropolitan Police said.

A further eight people were arrested for public order offences during the protest and the counter-protest, Scotland yard said. The counter-protesters exchanged chants with the larger pro-Palestinian march as it passed by, calling for a release of hostages held by Hamas.

The Palestine Solidarity Campaign, which organised the Pro-Palestinian protest, said some 80,000 people attended the march.

The Met said they deployed nearly 1,000 officers to police the events, which also included a demonstration held at the Cenotaph by right-wing group Turning Point UK.

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



Protesters demanding arms embargo on Israel spray Labour HQ with red paint

Activists calling for an arms embargo on Israel have sprayed Labour’s headquarters with red paint.

Demonstrators from the Youth Demand group insisted both the Government and Opposition should commit to preventing the supply of weapons to the country as they targeted the party’s offices in central London.

Labour has said arms exports to Israel should be suspended if ministers have received legal advice that it has breached international law, but has resisted backing an embargo without seeing the guidance.

The Government has come under increased pressure in recent days to publish the advice it has been given following an attack which killed seven aid workers in Gaza, including three Britons.

Youth Demand, which is calling for an arms embargo as well as an end to oil and gas drilling in the North Sea, said three of its supporters had sprayed the outside of Labour’s head office while another painted the lobby. Youth Demand later claimed 11 people had been arrested in connection with the incident.

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

Sunak condemns protest outside Starmer's house

Rishi Sunak has condemned pro-Palestine protesters who have staged a demonstration outside Keir Starmer's house.

The demonstrators called on the Labour leader to support an arms embargo on Israel. The group, called Youth Demand, hung a banner outside Starmer's home that read "Starmer stop the killing" surrounded by red handprints, and laid rows of children's shoes at his front door.

The protesters said in a video on X that weapons being manufactured in the UK were being "used to cause genocide". The Metropolitan police said three people were arrested on Tuesday under section 42 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, a power designed to "stop the harassment of a person at their home address".

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



Violent clash breaks out as 'far-right' groups descend on London for St George's Day march

The Met Police said they had deployed extra officers as "far right groups and groups linked to football clubs" travelled from around the UK to mark St George's Day near Whitehall.

Scotland Yard said a group, some wearing masks and others draped in the St George's flag, gathered at Richmond Terrace - the designated area for the St George's Day celebration.

But more people turned up who tried to make their way up Whitehall towards Trafalgar Square. They tried to force their way through police who pushed back, using horses to control the crowd.

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

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