

# GF

# GRASPAN FRANKTON

SHOT MAN THROWING  
KNIVES AT POLICE  
SENTENCED

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GOVERNMENT INVESTS  
£4 MILLION TO TACKLE  
SOURCE OF KNIFE CRIME

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RAPID BLEED  
KITS ROLLED OUT  
ACROSS PLYMOUTH

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OSINT  
INTELLIGENCE UPDATE  
JUNE 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**

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**Specific industry threats**

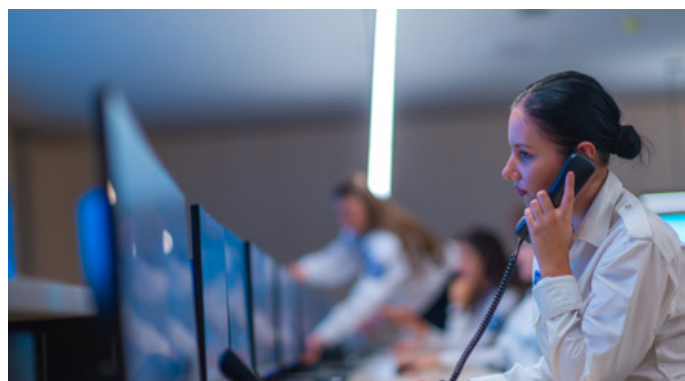
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**Future trends**

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**Best practice**

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## 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 republican 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](http://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](http://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



## UK police using Chinese-made body-cameras to surveil the British public

Body cameras worn by UK police are being manufactured in China, despite increasing concerns over Beijing's spying activities.

London-based Reveal Media supplies at least 12 UK police forces with body cams, including at least three forces with live facial recognition (LFR)

technology – which can be used to scan the faces of members of the public in real-time as officers conduct patrols.

Reveal Media has a subsidiary company it calls Reveal Technology (Shenzhen) Company, while Reveal Media also supplies a camera that is manufactured by Shenzhen Eeyelog Technology Ltd – a Chinese firm which provides body cams to the Chinese government, according to the company's website.

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

## Mother convicted for not telling police about terror plot

A 49-year-old female from Leeds was found guilty of terrorism offences at Leeds Crown Court yesterday (15 May).

Nabeela Anjum was charged with two offences of Failing to Disclose Information about Acts of Terrorism to the police contrary to S38B of the Terrorism Act 2000.

She has been bailed pending sentencing. A date has yet to be confirmed.

Anjum was charged by Counter Terrorism Policing North East in October 2023 after police produced a chronological timeline of WhatsApp messages and calls evidencing that she had failed to disclose information relating to a terror attack.

She became aware that her teenage son, Sameer, had become radicalised, held extremist Islamist beliefs and was viewing terrorist propaganda.

He was also in contact with a London based individual, who had obtained chemicals which he intended to use to construct a bomb. His mother was aware of this information and failed to disclose this to the police.

The London based nominal, Al Arfat Hassan, appeared at The Old Bailey on 10 November last year and, after an investigation by the Met Police, pleaded guilty to having 500ml of Acetone and 750 ml Hydrogen Peroxide articles in his possession for a purpose connected with an act of terrorism (contrary to S57 of the Terrorism Act 2000).

Sameer Anjum was also prosecuted, and given a custodial sentence, for not disclosing to the police Al Arfat HASSAN's terrorist intentions relating to the chemicals.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

## Hackney shooting CCTV shows gunman on motorbike as girl, 9, fights for her life

A nine-year-old girl is fighting for her life and three adults are in hospital after a drive-by shooting outside a restaurant in east London.

Eyewitnesses saw a gunman on a motorcycle, which police believe was stolen, spray bullets in the direction of the diners, before speeding away down the road.

The girl had been eating inside the restaurant with her family when gunfire erupted, Detective Chief Superintendent James Conway told a press conference.

Customers inside dived for cover under the tables or hit the floor in scenes of chaos at Evin Turkish restaurant on Kingsland High Street, Dalston.

The child and three men aged 26, 37 and 42, suffered gunshot injuries. The three men, who were sitting outside the restaurant, were taken to hospital for treatment where their conditions are stable, although one potentially faces life-changing injuries.

The youngster, described by police as an “innocent victim”, remains in a critical condition and the other victims are not as seriously hurt, the Metropolitan Police said.

At this stage, no arrests have been made. The stolen bike was later found dumped at Colvestone Crescent.

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

## Man, 54, arrested after police officer shot in leg with crossbow while responding to stabbing

Police were called to School Lane, Downley, after a man in his sixties suffered a stab wound. While attending, one officer was shot with a crossbow, with him being rushed to hospital. He has since been discharged. A 54-year-old man, from High Wycombe, was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder.

He was taken to hospital under police supervision with potentially life-changing injuries after an armed officer stepped in and shot him following the incident.

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



## Man convicted for funding terrorist fighter

A man has been convicted of terrorism offences after sending money to his nephew in Syria, knowing it was to be used to fund his terrorist activity.

Officers from the Met's Counter Terrorism Command found that 45-year-old Farhad Mohammad arranged for \$350.00 over two payments to be sent to his nephew, Idris Usman.

The investigation was carried out by specialist investigators within the National Terrorist Financial Investigation

Unit, which is based within the Met's Counter Terrorism Command.

The investigation also found that Usman was fighting for the terrorist group Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham in Syria at the time. The group is a proscribed organisation in the UK.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>



## Gatwick Airport terminal evacuated

Travellers at Gatwick Airport have reported missing their flights after the South Terminal was evacuated following a fire alarm. People were evacuated from the departure lounge after the alarm was activated, including some passengers heading to Eurovision 2024's semifinal at Sweden's Malmo Arena.

The airport said in a statement: "Our dedicated Airport Fire Service swiftly attended and confirmed there was no fire. Passengers are being allowed back into the Departure Lounge."

<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).

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/>



## Footballers who ran £260m 'industrial' drugs gang jailed for 104 years

A group of semi-professional footballers behind an 'industrial scale' £260million cocaine empire have been jailed for a total of 104 years.

The gang of six's criminal network fell like a "house of cards", police said, after officers stopped one of the men while he was driving a small van filled with 8kg of Class A drugs.

Footage showed one of the drug gang members, Luke Skeete, handing over a holdall of drugs before a police investigation uncovered a further 123kg of cocaine and 224kg of ketamine from storage units in west London.

Officers also seized Skeete's phone and found messages on a secure messaging platform which they used to identify the other members.

CCTV also showed countless hours of the men coming and going from the storage unit with drugs concealed in holdalls and boxes.

It was found that, between 10 April 2022 and 20 October 2022, the men all conspired to supply in excess of 2.7tonnes of high grade cocaine with an estimated street value of £208,160,000 to £260,200,000.

On 28 September 2023, Specialist Crime officers carried out arrest warrants at addresses linked to the group in London and Birmingham.

All of the individuals in question were located arrested, charged and remanded in custody.

The group have now all been sentenced to over 104 years in jail at Isleworth Crown Court on Friday, May 17, after all six pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply both cocaine and ketamine.

The men pleaded guilty in an earlier hearing to conspiracy to supply controlled class A drugs (cocaine) and conspiracy to supply controlled class B drugs (ketamine).

Adam Pepara, 35, from Solihull, was jailed for 29 years reduced to 24 years; Shaquille Hippolyte-Patrick, 29, of North Kensington, was jailed for 26 years and six months reduced to 18 years and nine months; and Jamarl Joseph, 28, from Wembley, was jailed for 26 years and six months reduced to 17 years and six months.

Andrew Harewood, 34, from North Acton, meanwhile, was jailed for 24 years and six months reduced to 16 years and one month; Melchi Emanuel-Williamson, 29, of North Acton, was jailed for 21 years and six months reduced to 14 years; and Luke Skeete, 36, of West Drayton, was jailed for 22 years and six months reduced to 13 years and one month.

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

## Three people charged under National Security Act

Three men have been charged with offences under the National Security Act.

The arrests come as part of an investigation led by officers from the Met's Counter Terrorism Command with support from colleagues from the North East and South East Counter Terrorism Policing Units. Chi Leung (Peter) Wai, Matthew Trickett and Chung Biu Yuen have

been charged with assisting a foreign intelligence service, contrary to section 3(1) and (9) of the National Security Act 2023 and also with foreign interference, contrary to section 13(2) and (7) of the National Security Act 2023.

In this case, the foreign intelligence service is that of Hong Kong.

The Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) has summoned the Chinese Ambassador Zheng Zeguang following allegations of foreign interference on UK soil, contrary to the National Security Act 2023.

A FCDO spokesperson said: "Today, on instruction from the Foreign Secretary, the Chinese Ambassador was summoned to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

"The FCDO was unequivocal in setting out that the recent pattern of behaviour directed by China against the UK including cyberattacks, reports of espionage links and the issuing of bounties is not acceptable.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

## Man sentenced for racist Facebook posts

A man from Castleford has been sentenced to 15 months in prison for posting antisemitic racist comments on Facebook.

On 19 April, Neil Lloyd pleaded guilty at Leeds Crown Court to publishing

written material, namely Facebook posts, which were threatening, abusive or insulting, and in so doing intended to stir up racial hatred, or having regard to all the circumstances racial hatred is likely to be stirred up (contrary to section 19 of the Public Order Act 1968).

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>



## Man charged with terrorism offence after travel to Syria

A man has been charged with terrorism offences linked to his travel to Syria,

following an investigation by the Met's Counter Terrorism Command. Isa Giga was charged with the intention of committing acts of terrorism, engaged in conduct in preparation for giving effect to his intention, namely travelled to Syria

to fight for the 'Jaysh Al Fath' groups, contrary to section 5 of the Terrorism Act, 2006.

The 31-year-old was arrested as he arrived into London on a flight from Turkey.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>



## Chainsaw-wielding attacker runs at police down Paisley street as two officers are injured

Two police officers have been injured after a man chased officers down a quiet residential street with a chainsaw.

A 30-year-old man has now been arrested as police confirmed there was “no wider risk to the public” following the chainsaw rampage

down Glasgow Road in Paisley, Renfrewshire. The injured officers were treated by paramedics for their injuries.

Footage on social media showed a man in a grey t-shirt and black trousers running down the middle of the quiet road with a chainsaw in hand.

He appeared to be shouting as he approached officers with the large weapon. Police later confirmed they had arrested a man following the “disturbance involving a weapon”.

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

## Bogus lawyer jailed for selling fraudulent immigration advice

A bogus immigration lawyer with no licence to practise has been jailed for seven-and-a-half years for exploiting at least 19 victims for huge financial gain. Flora Mendes, who had already been banned from practising law after a previous conviction, has had assets totalling more than £700,000 seized by the Home Office following her conviction at St Albans Crown Court.

The Indian national, aged 45, duped her victims into thinking they were using the services of a legitimate immigration lawyer and promised to help secure them leave to remain in the UK. Instead, the defendant submitted fraudulent applications that had no chance of succeeding in exchange for payment.

The fraudulent applications were identified by the Home Office and an investigation launched, which ultimately traced 19 bogus applications back to the defendant.

When handing down the heavy sentence, the Judge noted the defendant’s repeat offending. Mendes had previously been struck off as a solicitor in 2015 after she was convicted of providing immigration advice while suspended from practising law.

Despite having no licence to practise and a criminal record, the defendant still attempted to ‘game’ the immigration system by defrauding victims.

<https://securitymattersmagazine.com/>

## Man charged with racially aggravated criminal damage incidents

Detectives investigating a linked series of anti-Muslim incidents at the

Palestinian Mission in Hammersmith, as well as mosques and businesses across west London, have charged a man.

Sixty-one year-old Jonathan Katan from Ealing has been charged with 11 counts of racially aggravated criminal damage.

He has also been charged with one count of a racially aggravated section 5 Public Order Act offence and one count of racially aggravated section 4a Public Order Act offence.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

## M&S burglar with very expensive taste in steaks is jailed in legal first

A serial burglar who broke into an M&S store to steal steak and 20 prosecco bottles has become the first in the country to be privately prosecuted.

David Hanson, 44, who had 105 previous convictions including 33 burglaries, was arrested at the supermarket while also stealing £500 of sirloin and T-bone steak.

The manager of the M&S at Streatham Hill, London, called police after catching Hanson on CCTV. Hanson has been jailed for a year on charges including four burglaries and one assault on an M&S employee.

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



## 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.

Head of CTPSE, Detective Chief Superintendent Olly Wright, said:

"Iftikhar Ali was obliged to report these details, which he failed to do.

"In order to protect the public, many terrorism offenders have strict restrictions placed on them when they are released into the community.

"This case is a prime example of the work that CT Policing undertakes to manage convicted terrorists and other terrorism risk offenders, by proactively identifying and investigating breaches of court orders.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

## Police officer pleads guilty to two terror offences over pro-Hamas WhatsApp messages

A West Yorkshire police officer has pleaded guilty to two terror offences over messages he shared on WhatsApp. PC Mohammed Adil, who is based in Calderdale and is on suspension, admitted two counts of publishing an image in support of banned organisation Hamas at

Westminster Magistrates' Court.

The 26-year-old shared the messages on his WhatsApp stories in October and November last year - weeks after the Hamas attack on Israel that killed 1,200 people and saw another 250 being taken hostage.

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

## 'No indication of malicious activity' as e-gates back working at UK airports after travel chaos

A "nationwide issue" with e-gates at airports has been resolved after causing travel chaos across the country, the Home Office has said.

It said the system was back up and running and there was "no indication of malicious cyber activity".

Social media images and footage showed long queues at the passport scanning gates at several airports overnight.

Passengers also reported being held on planes after they landed, while others said the delays caused them

to miss trains.

Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports were affected, as well as Manchester, Bristol and Southampton, along with Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen.

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

## Four men arrested after £40m cocaine haul found in van in East Yorkshire village pub car park

Four men have been arrested after half a tonne of cocaine worth £40m was found in a van in the car park of a village pub.

The National Crime Agency said the drugs are believed to have been brought to shore in a rigid-hulled inflatable boat (RHIB) after being transferred from a larger vessel off the Hull coast.

Officers found the RHIB abandoned at Easington Beach, around 18 miles from the Stags Head Inn in Lelley, East Yorkshire, where around 500kg of cocaine was discovered in the back of a Vauxhall Vivaro in the pub's car park.

The NCA said the drugs have a potential street value of £40m and would have been sold around the UK.

A 22-year-old from Argyll, a 32-year-old from Oban and a 24-year-old from Campbeltown, all in Scotland, were arrested at 8.30am on Saturday in Lelley, as well as a 39-year-old from Colombia.

Senior investigating officer Alan French said: "This was a significant amount of cocaine and its seizure will be a sizeable blow to the organised crime group which attempted to smuggle it into the UK."

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





## Three men arrested in UK on suspicion of 'commission, preparation and instigation of acts of terrorism'

Three men have been arrested on terrorism offences after the police raided four addresses in

northern England.

Greater Manchester Police executed four warrants in the Bolton, Great Lever, Abram and Hindley areas. The men, aged 35, 36 and 51, were arrested at separate locations and have been taken into custody for questioning.

Scenes remain in place at the four addresses while enquiries are being carried out.

Assistant Chief Constable Rob Potts, who holds responsibility for counter-terrorism policing in the north west, said: "We have executed a number of planned warrants as part of an ongoing counter-terrorism investigation.

"Three men have been taken into custody for questioning and scenes remain in place as we conduct further enquiries.

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



## Bomb squad called and more than 100 homes evacuated after 'suspicious items' found by police as two arrested

South Yorkshire Police established a 100-metre cordon around a property in Grimethorpe, Barnsley, on Wednesday morning after found as police executed a warrant on Brierley Road.

Around 130 homes were evacuated as police warned affected residents they may be out of their properties for at least 48 hours.

Police said there are no schools within the cordon and pupils at schools nearby were picked up as normal.

A 58-year-old man who was arrested on suspicion of offences under the Firearms Act remains in custody, officers added.

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

## UK to expel Russian defence attaché for spying for the Kremlin, Home Secretary announces

James Cleverly told MPs: "We will expel the Russian defence attaché,

who is an undeclared military intelligence officer.

Mr Cleverly also said that the UK would remove the diplomatic premises status afforded to several Russian properties in the UK because the government believed they had been "used for intelligence purposes."

Those are Seacox Heath House, a 19th century Grade II-listed mansion in East Sussex, and a large property in Highgate, an exclusive neighbourhood in north London. It comes after a British man was charged in April on suspicion of conducting hostile state activity for the benefit of Russia.

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

## Security-Minded Communications Webinar

National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) invites the UK security industry for a free webinar on Security-Minded Communications via Microsoft Teams on 10 July 2024.

While the webinar is open to everyone in the UK security industry, it will be particularly beneficial for those responsible for communications in their company or those who can influence communications decisions.

The webinar will be presented by Beth Daniel who is the national lead for Security-Minded Communications.

Security-Minded Communications (SMC) guidance is designed by National Protective Security Authority (NPSA) to disrupt hostiles and to make a hostile believe that if they were to choose an organisation or event as a place to attack, they will almost certainly fail.

This approach has been informed by an extensive research programme and can help to equip organisations, venues and events with the ability to use communications as part of their protective security measures.

<https://mailchi.mp/sia.gov.uk>



## Shot man throwing knives at police sentenced

Przemyslaw Ziema says he has no memory of chasing ambulance workers with knives before threatening to harm officers on March 27 this year outside his home address in Red Poll Close, Banbury.

Armed officers were called to the address after ambulance staff and firefighters were chased from the property after attempting a welfare check on the 33-year-old.

They were forced to shoot Ziema in the leg in order to detain him.

He was sentenced at Oxford Crown Court to five counts of assaulting an emergency worker, two counts of

possessing a bladed article and one count of criminal damage. Sentencing him to eight months imprisonment, suspended for 12 months, Recorder James Hay said: "What happened on March 27 was absolutely appalling.

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

## Ministry of Defence faces possible data breach

Hackers have targeted a payroll system used by the Ministry of Defence, it has been reported.

The BBC said that personal information of an unknown number of serving UK military personnel has been accessed in a significant data breach by China.

The payroll system includes names and bank details of both current and

some past armed forces members and, in a very small number of cases, personal addresses.

It is unknown who is behind the hack or what the data may be used for.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

## Job Centre security guards set to strike as new figures show more than 80% suffer abuse at work.

Over 1,000 job centre employees are poised to engage in strike action following the release of recent statistics indicating that over 80 percent of them endure workplace abuse.

A survey conducted among over 900 workers scheduled to participate in the walkout reveals instances of staff encountering aggressive behaviours such as being bitten in the neck by dogs, punched, assaulted with screwdrivers, and facing customers exhibiting behaviour described as 'like wild animals.'

Worker's report experiencing verbal abuse regularly, including threats targeting their families, instances

of racism and ableism, and even death threats. One worker recounted needing assistance to get home safely due to encountering an angry customer waiting outside the job centre.

Overall, 83 percent of respondents indicated they had experienced verbal abuse in the workplace within the previous 12 months, while 16 percent reported incidents of physical attacks.

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



## Warning predators are spiking vapes as 'more than 100' drugs used in people's drinks

Police investigating the growing spiking epidemic have warned vapes containing cannabis and spice are being given to unknowing users, as more than 100 different types of drug are being put in people's drinks.

LBC spoke to those on the frontline of tackling the terrifying crime, who say spiking is now "more complex than ever" with a "whole range" of substances being detected.

Officers say the 'date rape' drug Rohypnol, which was used in almost all cases in the 90's, has now "left the market" and instead is seemingly replaced with any substance perpetrators can get their hands on, including cocktails of prescription drugs.

And they're now warning of a new phenomenon of e-cigarettes being spiked, with predators posing as friendly partygoers giving them to people without telling them what's really in it.

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

## Hartlepool attacker given life sentence

A man who murdered a 70-year-old and attempted to kill a second person has been sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 44 years and 152 days.

Ahmed Ali Alid was found guilty after a trial in April of the murder of Terence Carney, and the attempted murder of a 32-year-old man on Sunday 15 October 2023. He was also found guilty of two offences of Assaulting an Emergency Worker after attacking two police officers while in custody.

He was sentenced at Teesside Crown Court. At the sentencing hearing, Mrs Justice Cheema-Grubb declared that the attacks were an act of terrorism.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

## Plymouth Jobcentre security staff face death threats and being spat on

Security staff at a Plymouth Jobcentre say they have been spat on and are threatened with violence on a weekly basis and yet are paid only minimum wage. The litany of abuse has been revealed as security guards formed a picket line outside the Jobcentre in the city centre as part of a long-running dispute over pay.

Members of the GMB union have been on strike for the past two days in a dispute with employer G4S and the Government. There are more strike days planned for the rest of this

month with more than 1,000 security staff taking part nationally.

In Plymouth, all seven security guards at the Old Tree Court Jobcentre, in Exeter Street, took industrial action, and said it resulted in the Jobcentre being closed for two days. They said they have had enough of low pay, especially as they face threats from members of the public on a regular basis.

Even while on the picket line, someone threw a vape at the striking workers from a passing car, although most passers-by were supportive, union officials said. But such aggressive behaviour is minor compared to what the security staff are faced with while at work.

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



## Man arrested in Bedfordshire by counter terror officers

A man from Bedfordshire has been arrested on suspicion of a terrorism offence as part of an investigation

being led by officers from the Met's Counter Terrorism Command.

The arrest comes after an investigation was initially launched by Bedfordshire Police on 6 May when items, including a number of suspicious substances, were found at a residential address in Caddington.

A 31-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of causing explosions likely to endanger life and possession of class A drugs. The man was bailed while further enquiries were undertaken.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>



## British man recruited as 'Russian spy' charged with masterminding arson attack on Ukrainian-linked businesses in London

A 20-year-old British man has been charged with masterminding an arson attack on Ukrainian-linked businesses in London after allegedly being recruited as a "Russian spy".

Dylan Earl has been charged under the National Security Act 2023 -

the first case to involve alleged offences under the new legislation. The 20-year-old from Elmsthorpe, Leicestershire, is accused of organising and paying for an arson attack on two units on an industrial estate in east London on 20th March. He is alleged to be connected to the proscribed terrorist group the Wagner Group; court documents show.

Four other men, Paul English, Nii Mensah, Jake Reeves and Dmitrijus Paulauska were also been charged in connection with the case.

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

## Man jailed for far-right terrorism offences

A man from Derbyshire has been jailed after admitting to possession of several terrorist documents.

In August last year, Adrian Monk was charged with 10 offences of

possession of a document containing information of a kind likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism – Contrary to Section 58 Terrorism Act 2000.

The charges came after detectives from Counter Terrorism Policing West Midlands CTU executed a warrant

at his former home in Rugeley, Staffordshire where the documents were seized.

The 33-year-old pleaded guilty at a hearing at Birmingham Crown Court in March and was sentenced to five years and two months.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

# SECURITY INDUSTRY NEWS

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## Treasury publishes terrorism financing reports

The treasury has published its annual reports on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism. The Treasury appoints supervisors to monitor the anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist financing (CTF) compliance of businesses in scope of the Money Laundering Regulations (MLRs).

This report provides information about the performance of anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist financing (CTF) supervisors between 6 April 2022 – 5 April 2023.

The report includes supervisory and enforcement data on both the Public Sector and Professional Body Supervisors, and highlights any notable changes in supervisory activity and any fines that supervisors have issued.

In the introduction to the report, Baroness Vere of Norton said: “Illicit finance in the UK fuels serious organised crime and poses a material threat to our national security and economic prosperity. The fight against money laundering and terrorist financing is also the fight to protect the safety and prosperity of our citizens and communities, and the integrity of the financial system.”

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

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## RAPAID bleed kits rolled out across Plymouth

Ten venues across Plymouth will be equipped with bleed kits from emergency bandages charity, RAPAID. Best Bar None, the safer socialising accreditation for the nighttime economy, has purchased kits for ten of its venues, including the student union building at Plymouth University and Revolution.

The charity recently visited Plymouth to donate RAPAID kits to taxis outside Plymouth train station, following roll outs in London, Manchester, Exeter, Swindon and Oxford, where the charity is based.

The kits include contain military-style bandages in a paramedic grade, anti-microbial bag.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>



## Government invests £4 million to tackle scourge of knife crime

Home secretary James Cleverly has announced that the Government will invest a further £4 million in a bid to tackle the scourge of knife crime. The investment will see £3.5 million ploughed into R&D and evaluation of new technologies, which can detect knives carried from a distance, and hand-held or body-worn systems which can be operated by individual police officers.

The Government has also confirmed £547,863 worth of funding for the

refit and redeployment of four vans into new mobile live facial recognition units for the Metropolitan Police Service in order to bolster efforts to address knife crime, which is rising in the capital. This is part of wider funding aimed at tackling serious violence through 'hotspot' policing.

The investment comes during Sceptre, the national policing intensification week for knife crime led by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and is just one element of a package of measures introduced over the last year to confront the issue of serious violence.

<https://securitymattersmagazine.com/>

## British universities "must increase security to combat hostile state threats"

British universities are cited as some of the best in the world as they continually work on cutting-edge and revolutionary research. However, MI5 has advised vice-chancellors that

their institutions are now being targeted by hostile states as part of the latter's bid to steal sensitive information.

Ken McCallum, director general of MI5, and several senior politicians have warned these institutions are being targeted for their intellectual property by hostile states and spies. This poses a threat to national security.

Intellectual property theft committed by an external threat actor is expected

to increase by 30% in the UK in the next year. That's according to G4S' inaugural World Security Report.

Set against that backdrop, universities must work at speed to increase their physical security measures and keep their research work safe, while balancing the need for open exchange of ideas that's so vital to academic progress.

<https://securitymattersmagazine.com/>

## Heather Baily's term as Chair of the SIA has been extended

We're pleased to announce that Heather Baily QPM is continuing in her role as Chair. Heather was first appointed by the Home Office on 7 June 2021 for a period of three

years. The Home Secretary has re-appointed Heather for a further two years, commencing on 7 June 2024 and ending on 6 June 2026.

<https://mailchi.mp/sia.gov.uk>

## Prevent Duty self-assessment tool for school staff launched

A free self-assessment quiz for teachers on the government's Prevent Duty has been launched by education technology charity LGfL – The National Grid for Learning.

The 'Prevent Quiz for Staff' is a multiple choice assessment that consists of 25 questions based

around the Home Office's recently updated Prevent duty guidance (2023) and the Department for Education's (DfE) Part 1 Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023), designed to ensure that individual staff have understood all the mandatory safeguarding information.

The quick quiz covers all aspects of the guidance including radicalisation, British values, responding to concerns and more.

Designated Safeguarding Leads can follow up staff training with the quiz.

Once completed, the staff receive their results via email, with corrections to any questions answered incorrectly, and feedback on areas to revisit in the guidance. The assessment results also allow DSLs to identify any gaps in training, and areas for further development.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

## ICO urges organisations to boost cyber security

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has urged organisations to boost their cyber security and protect the personal information they hold, as the threat from cyber attacks continues to grow.

Data from the ICO shows that more organisations than ever are experiencing cyber security breaches. Over 3,000 cyber breaches were reported in 2023, with the finance (22 per cent), retail (18 per cent) and education (11 per cent) sectors reporting the most incidents.

In a new report published, the ICO has analysed the data breach reports and shared lessons that can be learned.

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



## Three men appear in court after supply of cocaine worth £1.35m seized

Three men have appeared in court facing drug-supplying charges after

police recovered illicit substances worth around £1.35 million.

Jack Sanderson, 29, or Renfrew, Martin Tracey, also 29, of Glasgow, and Andrew Stirling, 41, of Glasgow, appeared in private at Glasgow Sheriff Court.

The trio were charged under the Misuse of Drugs act 1971. None of the three men made a plea or declaration. They were committed for further examination and released on bail. They are due to appear back in court at a later date.

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





## The town where crimes involving weapons has soared by 416 per cent

New figures show the number of attacks in Blackpool using a weapon has increased massively with the resort suffering the fourth-highest increase in the country since 2015/16.

Home Office figures reveal there were 330 offences committed in Blackpool in 2022/23 involving a weapon compared to just 64 in 2015/16, a rise of 416 per cent. The figure is almost four times the national increase of 110 per cent.

<https://www.lancs.live/>

## Government publishes updated guidance on national security powers

Deputy Prime Minister Oliver Dowden has published updated guidance on the National Security and Investment Act 2021 to provide further clarity for institutions, businesses and their advisors while protecting national security.

The announcement fulfils a commitment made by the Deputy Prime Minister in a speech delivered last month at Chatham House, whereupon he promised to publish updated guidance about national security powers to ensure the National Security and Investment Act remains as supportive of investment as possible by giving stakeholders the information they need to plan ahead.

The updates include a new 'Section 3 statement' that sets out how the

Deputy Prime Minister expects to exercise powers under the Act to call-in certain acquisitions for scrutiny. This is the first time the statement has been updated since the legislation came into force in January 2022.

The new statement builds on the previous version by affording more information to better explain how the Secretary of State has used – and will continue to use – the Act's powers.

<https://securitymattersmagazine.com/>

## Counter Terrorism Policing launches summer campaign digital toolkit

Counter Terrorism Policing has launched its summer campaign digital toolkit. Counter Terrorism Policing is working with event organisers and businesses across the UK to help keep the public safe this summer.

The public are encouraged to trust their instincts and report anything that doesn't feel right to security or the police.

The summer campaign builds on many years of award-winning Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) campaigns. It encourages the public to stay alert while they enjoy a summer full of exciting events with family and friends.

All assets in the toolkit are free to access and download. They are available in English and Welsh. There is general content, as well as specific content for sports, Pride and festivals.

Counter Terrorism Policing are advertising on social media and advertising around key areas and events with high footfall.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

## National security operations centre launches in Wales

The UK's first national security operations centre has launched in Wales.

The scheme is the first of its kind in the UK, and aims to protect Welsh local authorities and all fire and rescue services in Wales from cyber-attacks.

CymruSOC (Security Operations Centre) is led by the Welsh Government, in collaboration with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and will help ensure that key organisations can continue offering critical services without disruption due to cyber-attacks.

The SOC service will be managed by Cardiff-based firm, Socura.

The team will monitor for potential threats such as phishing and ransomware from its 24/7 remote SOC.

In conjunction with the National Cyber Security Centre, CymruSOC will also share threat intelligence information to ensure they are aware of emerging risks.

<https://counterterrorbusiness.com/>

## UK-funded security tech network installed to combat criminal gangs in Albania

A sophisticated network of UK-funded surveillance cameras worth circa £1.6 million has been installed on the Albania-Kosovo border in a bid to tackle illegal migration and the operations of criminal gangs.

The equipment includes a fleet of drones and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras that will allow Albanian systems to recognise

British vehicles, which have been used by criminals seeking to avoid detection by the local police.

The new drones will allow the authorities to track migrants who try to pass through the region via the mountainous areas of Albania, which are otherwise difficult to police. The vehicle cameras will help British and Albanian police work together more closely, searching records on a faster basis and sharing information when a car is suspected of being involved in people smuggling or other criminal behaviour.

<https://securitymattersmagazine.com/>



# NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY CENTRE (NCSC)

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

## **GCHQ and NCSC leaders warn of increasing cyber risk from China**

The Director of GCHQ has warned that the Chinese state poses a “genuine and increasing” cyber risk for the UK. Speaking at the National Cyber Security Centre’s (NCSC) flagship event CYBERUK, held in Birmingham, Anne Keast-Butler stated

that the Chinese Communist Party’s cyber capabilities are “world-class” and that it “intends to use them” to achieve its national goals.

In her first major speech since taking up her post last year, Keast-Butler (GCHQ’s first female leader) went on to observe that responding to the challenge posed by China is GCHQ’s top priority, with more resource devoted to the topic than any other single mission.

“We see the Chinese state acting in an increasingly assertive fashion on the world stage,” said Keast-Butler. “The UK’s intelligence community is working alongside our allies and in partnership with our industry and academic colleagues to combat and deter cyber threats from nation states and hostile actors.”

<https://securitymattersmagazine.com/>

## **NCSC ramps up support for those at high risk of cyber attacks ahead of election**

New Personal Internet Protection service provides an extra layer of security on personal devices for high-risk individuals.

Political candidates, election officials and others at high risk of being targeted online have been given access to unparalleled new support from the UK’s cyber experts to help boost their digital security.

The National Cyber Security Centre – a part of GCHQ – has announced a new cyber defence service which will help prevent individuals falling

foul of spear-phishing, malware attacks and other cyber threats.

The new Personal Internet Protection service provides an extra layer of security on personal devices by warning users if they try to visit a domain which the NCSC knows to be malicious and by blocking outgoing traffic to these domains.

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



## Cyber insurance industry unites to bear down on ransom payments

Joint guidance from the NCSC with the Association of British Insurers (ABI), British Insurance Brokers' Association (BIBA) and International Underwriting Association (IUA) aims to help organisations faced with ransomware demands minimise disruption and the cost of an incident.

Three major UK insurance associations have joined forces with the aim of toughening the sector's approach to ransom payments in new guidance published today (Tuesday). The joint guidance, co-sponsored by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) - a part of GCHQ, aims to thwart cyber criminals' profits by improving market-wide ransom discipline and reducing the number of ransoms being paid by UK ransomware victims.

NCSC CEO Felicity Oswald announced the initiative in a speech delivered on the first day of CYBERUK – the UK's flagship cyber security conference which this year focuses on the theme of "Future tech, future threat, future ready".

The cross-sector coalition comprising the Association of British Insurers (ABI), British Insurance Brokers' Association (BIBA) and International Underwriting Association (IUA) is urging victim organisations to adhere to the steps outlined in Guidance for organisations considering payment in ransomware incidents.

Developed from a NCSC-sponsored research paper by the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), the best practice guidance sets out recommendations that aim to empower organisations and associated third parties to make informed decisions when faced with ransomware, and ultimately help minimise the disruption and cost of an incident.

Considerations include the thorough assessment of business impact, reporting protocols, and where to access sources of support.

Ransomware remains the biggest day-to-day cyber security threat to UK organisations with attacks rising and the ransomware model continuing to evolve. The NCSC continues to strongly discourage the payment of ransoms, alongside law enforcement partners.

Paying a ransom does not guarantee the end of an incident nor the removal of malicious software from victims' systems, but it does provide incentives for criminals to continue and expand their activities. Even following payments, cyber-criminal groups will lie about having deleted the data.

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

# UK PROTEST & DEMONSTRATIONS

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## Huge police response at University of Manchester as protesters 'barricade' exam building

There was a huge police response at the University of Manchester last night as more protesters tried to get into an exam building on campus.

A large number of police vehicles were pictured along Oxford Road in the centre of the campus. The response included a specialist Tactical Aid Unit van.

A UoM spokesperson said officers were called to a demonstration on campus.

It involved a 'large group including many who were not students'. Police were on the scene to 'prevent the protesters from gaining unauthorised access to the Whitworth Hall complex'. However, over the weekend, some students already gained entry into the historic building after 'unlawfully barricading' the entrances. The students broke onto a balcony, the University spokesperson said, and have refused to leave.

The building is where exams were due to take place, with bosses 'deeply disappointed' that new plans have had to be put in place for students.

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

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## Smethwick man convicted of wearing ' Hamas headband' to rally

A Smethwick man was convicted of wearing a ' Hamas headband' to a pro-Palestine rally. Khaled Hajsaad, of Westfield Road, Smethwick, was found guilty of arousing suspicion he was supporting a proscribed terrorist group after he wore the headband to a pro-Palestine rally.

Hajsaad, 25, attended a protest in central London on November 25 2023, and wore a green headband that bore close similarities to those worn by Hamas – a proscribed terrorist organisation.

Due to those similarities, he was arrested in Trafalgar Square and the headband was seized. Hajsaad admitted wearing the headband but denied supporting Hamas, claiming the headband was Saudi Arabian as it resembled the flag of that country

and bore a statement of his faith as a Muslim. The CPS said Hasjaad's claim the headband was Saudi Arabian was examined by the prosecution's expert in Arabic and Islamic studies. That expert told the court that within the context of a pro-Palestinian march in support of Gaza, he would not expect to see flags or articles related to Saudi Arabia given the country has not commonly been associated with the Palestinian cause.

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

## Three officers injured and 40 people arrested after police clash with pro-Palestine protesters in Westminster

Three police officers were injured and 40 people have been arrested following a pro-Palestinian protest in London. One officer was left with a serious facial injury after she was hit by a bottle thrown from the crowd, while two other officers suffered minor injuries. Metropolitan Police said the suspect who threw the bottle has not been identified but the force is investigating.

Videos taken at the event show thousands of Palestine supporters taking over the streets around Parliament, with crowds chanting and reportedly blocking roads. The protest was organised by a coalition of groups, including the Palestine Solidarity Group.

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

## Queen's University Belfast students stage sit in for Palestine

Students at the Queen's University Belfast have staged a sit-in protest on campus calling for the removal of Hillary Clinton as chancellor.

In a statement the QUB Palestine Assembly said they want to see a democratic election process for the next chancellor.

The group is also calling for Queen's to end all ties with universities in Israel, to issue a statement "condemning Israel's mass killing of Palestinians and deliberate destruction of Gaza's educational infrastructure" and offer sanctuary status to Palestinian academics and students.

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



## Two women in their 80s charged with criminal damage after Magna Carta glass smashed in Just Stop Oil stunt

Reverend Sue Parfitt, 82, from Bristol, and Judith Bruce, 85, from Swansea, were arrested and have been charged with criminal damage, the Metropolitan Police said.

Officers said two protesters entered the British Library and targeted the protective enclosure around the historic document with a hammer and chisel.

After they smashed the glass, they then glued their hands together, demanding an emergency plan to just stop oil by 2030. They also held up a sign reading "the government is breaking the law".

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



## Just Stop Oil activists found guilty over protest at World Snooker Championships

A Just Stop Oil activist who jumped on a table during the World Snooker Championships and covered it with orange powder has told a judge his actions were “reasonable and proportionate in the light of the greater threat we are facing from the climate crisis”.

Home energy adviser Edred Whittingham, 26, known as Eddie, was found guilty at Sheffield Magistrates’ Court of causing criminal damage after a one-day trial.

His fellow protester, ex-museum worker Margaret Reid, 53, was found guilty of attempting to cause criminal damage.

A district judge was shown TV footage of Whittingham interrupting a match between Robert Milkins and Joe Perry on April 17 2023 at Sheffield’s Crucible Theatre.

Wearing a Just Stop Oil T-shirt, the defendant could be seen releasing the orange substance – which he told the court was dyed corn starch powder – and kneeling amid the balls on the table before being pulled off by security.

The clip shown to the court went on to show Reid trying to do the same thing on the other table, on the other side of the barrier in the theatre, but she is tackled by referee Olivier Marteel before she can get on the table.

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

## UK climate activists convicted in first trial of new anti-protest laws

Three climate activists have been convicted of “interference with key national infrastructure” by marching in the road in west London for 20 minutes, in the new offence’s first test at trial.

Phoebe Plummer, Chiara Sarti and Daniel Hall were the first defendants to face a jury trial on the new section 7 of the Public Order Act 2023, which bans any act preventing harbours,

airports, railways or roads “from being used or operated to any extent”.

Critics have called the law repressive, and claimed that it gives authorities a licence to crack down on virtually any protest at their discretion.

The defendants had sought to persuade the jury that convicting them under the new law could criminalise a swathe of legitimate protest. But after jurors were directed to only take into account whether or not the protest had caused “significant” disruption to the roads, they found the defendants guilty in an 11-1 majority verdict.

Over a five-day trial, Southwark crown court heard that on 15 November last year that Plummer, Sarti and Hall took part in a slow march protest along Earls Court Road as part of the Just Stop Oil campaign, which calls on the government to ban new licences for oil and gas exploitation in the UK.

The court heard the protest had caused long tailbacks, including on the Cromwell Road, part of the A4, and reaching as far away as the Hammersmith flyover, with traffic held up for several hours.

<https://amp-theguardian-com>

## UK reaches for scale of US campus protests

Students across Britain have said they hope pro-Palestine protests will reach the same scale as those seen on US campuses as they call for universities to divest from companies supplying arms to Israel.

Protests have spread across university campuses in Sheffield, Bristol and Leeds, after a crackdown in the US on protests, which led to mass arrests of students and staff.

More than 2,000 people have been arrested on university campuses in the US, garnering attention from international media and people in the

besieged Gaza Strip, including Bisan Owda, a Palestinian journalist and content creator living in Gaza, who encouraged student protesters “to do more” for this “unprecedented moment” in a video posted on Instagram.

Samira Ali, 24, is one of about 100 students who stormed the library at Goldsmiths, University of London this week, occupying the first two floors. Ali, a third-year sociology student and co-organiser for Goldsmiths for Palestine, said 30 students had occupied the building, demanding the university ends “financial complicity” and condemns the war in Gaza.

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



## Police quiz 45 people after Peckham protesters thwart asylum seekers' coach transfer to Bibby Stockholm

Forty-five people including a Home Office contractor are being questioned by police on Friday after protesters

stopped efforts to transport asylum seekers to the Bibby Stockholm barge. Activists blocked a coach that had arrived to take eight migrants living at the Best Western Hotel, Peckham to the accommodation site in Portland, Dorset. Footage shows lines of police officers, some who reported being assaulted, jostling with protesters.

Demonstrators slashed the coach's tyres and jammed Lime rental bikes

under its wheels to stop it moving. Deputy Assistant Commissioner Ade Adelekan said those arrested were taken into police custody for alleged offences including obstruction of the highway, obstructing police and assault on police.

A man, not part of the protest group, was detained for an alleged racially aggravated public order offence.

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



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