

# CORPS RELAY

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**CORPS**  
**SECURITY**

# COVID-19: UK COVID response

The UK continues to operate at different levels of COVID response. England, as of February 24th 2022, removed all COVID-19 restrictions including the requirement for individuals to self-isolate if they test positive for COVID-19. England have also removed free COVID-19 testing. Wales are due to follow suit, with the legal requirements to wear face coverings and to self-isolate if tested positive due to end on March 28th. This is also the date that free PCR tests and lateral flow tests (LFTs) are due to end in Wales.

Northern Ireland decided to remove the COVID-19 restrictions in February 2022 however have retained the necessity for individuals to self-isolate for 10 days from the date their symptoms start or the date they took a test, whichever is sooner. They can leave isolation from day six if they don't have a high temperature, and if they have two consecutive lateral flow tests taken 24 hours apart. The first test can be taken no earlier than day five. The testing and contact-tracing system in Northern Ireland will also remain in place.

Scotland removed the necessity for COVID-Passports for venues on 28th February, although left business the option of whether they still wish to use them. Similarly, the mandatory wearing of face coverings in indoor venues in Scotland is scheduled to end on 21st March, whilst remaining in place as guidance, for indoor places such as shops, hospitality, and public transport.

Local regulations/rules are still being applied by some businesses and organisations, such as Transport for London, although these are not necessarily supported by legislation or government directives.

Details of the current COVID restrictions for each area are available from the associated .GOV website.

# The War between Ukraine and Russia

Corps Consult raised concerns about this conflict, choosing this as the focus of the "Issue of the Month" in the [February 2022 Edition](#) of Corps Relay. In addition to this Corps Consult produced two Special Bulletins in February 2022 on the conflict:

- [Corps Security Special Bulletin – Ukraine/Russia Conflict – Cyber Security Briefing](#)
- [Corps Security Special Bulletin – Ukraine/Russia Conflict Summarised Update](#)

Corps Consult will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates, as appropriate, through further special bulletins.





# UK Energy Sector Cyber Attacks

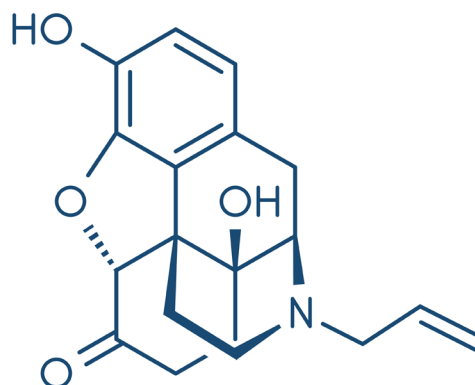
IBM Security's X-Force published the "[X-Force Threat Intelligence Index 2022](#)" in February 2022, with a closer look at the overall findings of this report in this month's Issue of the Month. It is, however, worth singling out that Europe was the second most targeted region, accounting for nearly 1 in every 4 attacks. Furthermore, the UK was in the top three most attacked countries in Europe, alongside Italy and Germany.

The Energy Sector was the fourth most attacked sector globally in 2021, accounting for 8.2% of all attacks, dropping from third place in 2020. This is possibly linked to the response to the DarkSide ransomware attack referenced in the February [Corps Security Special Bulletin](#) – Ukraine/Russia Conflict – Cyber Security Briefing. There are, however, suggestions that the [Energy Sector accounted for 24% of all cybersecurity incidents in the UK](#), making this the most targeted sector in the country for 2021.



# Naloxone issued to all Police Officers in Scotland

Naloxone is an anti-overdose spray that counters the effects of some drugs, including heroin. The spray can save the lives of people who are overdosing, with Chief Constable Iain Livingstone quoted as saying this new initiative is "... [the] right thing to do" following the success that was shown during an initial trial. The spray, which is issued via the recipient's nose, was initially used 51 times during the trial (March 2021-October 2021) and has remained in use since. Since seeing the life saving qualities of the spray, [Police Scotland became the first force to issue the spray to all Officers](#).

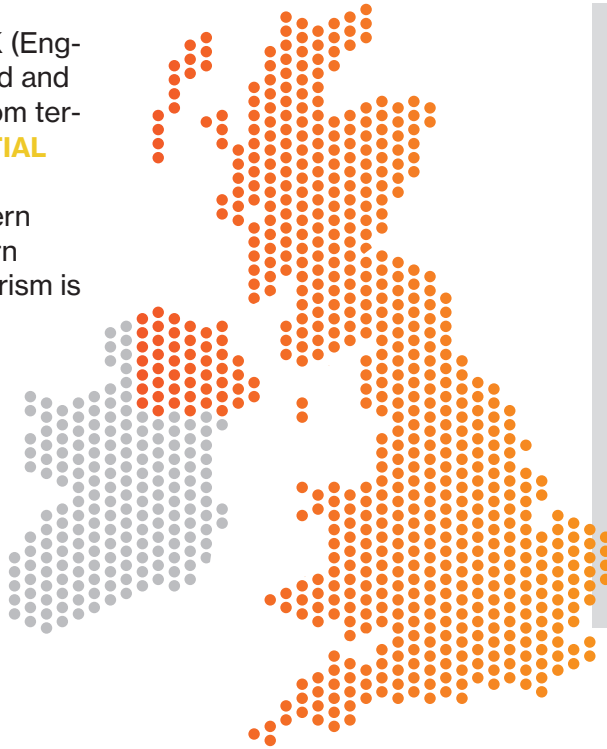


naloxone

# Current National Threat Level

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

The threat to Northern Ireland from Northern Ireland-related terrorism is **SEVERE**



## NOTE:

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

**LOW** means an attack is highly 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

## UK Terror Arrest – Teenager Arrested in North London

On Thursday 3rd March 2022 a [19-year-old was arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000](#). The individual was arrested in North London and is suspected of engaging in Islamist-related terror activities. The arrest took place as part of an investigation by counter-terrorism officers and the Metropolitan Police have stated there is not believed to be any immediate threat to the public related to this arrest.



# Manchester Arena Bombing Conspirator guilty of a “vicious attack” on a prison officer

Hashem Abedi, brother of Salman Abedi (the Manchester Arena Bomber), who was already serving a minimum of 55 years for his role in assisting with the Manchester Arena Bombing, has been [found guilty of assaulting a Prison Officer at Belmarsh Category-A Prison](#). Abedi was convicted of this assault alongside two other inmates also convicted under terrorism charges, [Ahmed Hassan \(the Parsons Green Tube Bomber\)](#) who is serving

a minimum of 34 years), and [Muhammed Saeed](#) (serving 5 years). The three men, all in their 20's, are reported to have “stormed” the office and assaulted 57-year-old Paul Edwards who sustained a number of injuries including lasting damage to his hearing. Abedi was sentenced to an additional 3 years and 10 months, while Hassan and Saeed were sentenced to an additional 3 years.

## Notable Dates/Events

### Key Religious or National Celebrations

There are significant days for several religions and nations throughout March. It is not only important to be mindful of these dates to celebrate our diverse society, but also because several terrorist groups have been known to select these days to carry out their actions.

Notable dates in March include:

- 1st March – Great Shiva Nigh – a Hindu celebration
- 1st March – St David's Day/ Feast of Saint David – A Christian celebration and Welsh patron saints' day
- 3rd March – 1st Anniversary of the murder of Sarah Everard – key event anniversary
- 6th – 11th March – “NO MORE” Week – an international event
- 8th March – International Women's Day – an international event
- 16th March – Purim – a Jewish celebration
- 17th March – St Patrick's Day/ Feast of Saint Patrick – A Christian celebration and Irish patron saint's day
- 18th March – Holi – a Hindu celebration
- 19th March – World Sleep Day – an international event
- 30th March – 166th Anniversary of the End of the Crimean War – key event anniversary





### **Sarah Everard – One Year On**

March 2022 marks the first anniversary of the murder of Sarah Everard. Sadly the homicide rate in the UK is higher than many realise, with [at least 125 women having been killed](#) since Sarah Everard, and a total of [387 homicides in the UK in the six-months between April 2021 to September 2021](#). This marked an increase in homicides of 23% compared to the same six-month period in 2020. The [February 2022 Edition of Corps Relay](#) explored some of the ways people are using technology to increase their safety when commuting and the guidance provided is still very relevant.

### **9th Annual “NO MORE” Week**

First launched in 2013, the NO MORE Foundation is dedicated to ending domestic violence and sexual assault by increasing awareness, inspiring action, and fuelling culture change. This is a global initiative comprised of the largest coalition of non-profits, corporations, government agencies, media, schools and individuals addressing domestic violence and sexual assault.

## **Demonstrations**

- Every Saturday 14:00-16:00 – Solidarity with Ukraine demonstration – Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester
- 13th March – “Rise & Rebel March” protest by the group “Just Stop Oil” – Initially meeting at Lincoln’s Inn Fields, Holborn
- 18th-20th March – Demonstrating at the Conservative Spring Conference by environmental activists and possibly some other groups – Blackpool winter Gardens (FY1 1HL)
- 23rd March – Potential launch of a direct action campaign by “Just Stop Oil” – UK wide

### **Just Stop Oil (JSO)**

[Just Stop Oil](#) (JSO) are believed to be a splinter group of Insulate Britain. JSO have only one demand reported on their website, namely that “... the UK government makes a statement that it will immediately halt all future licensing and consents for the exploration, development and production of fossil fuels in the UK.”. They are stating that they will mobilise over 1000 people across the UK in 2022 to oppose plans for new UK Oil Fields, and state that they are currently holding 20-30 meetings each week. They state that they will use non-violent civil resistance which they advertise as including “...strikes, boycotts, mass protests and disruption”.

### **The Tyre Extinguishers – Activists target SUV’s**

A new group of environmental activists, who are believed to be a splinter group of Extinction Rebellion and call themselves “[The Tyre Extinguishers](#)”, have been targeting vehicles at

multiple UK locations, including: Chelsea, Chiswick, Harley Street, Hampstead Heath, Notting Hill, Belgravia, Clapham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Sheffield, Liverpool and Edinburgh. They have been targeting vehicles and deflating the tyres as a form of disruptive protest. Their aim is to make owning a SUV in an urban area “impossible”. The groups claim to have deflated hundreds of tyres around the country and have placed leaflets on the cars informing the owner of the vehicle of what has happened.

### **A look ahead – some planned activism/events in April 2022**

- 2nd April – “Cost of Living Crisis” National Day of Action by the “People’s Assembly Against Austerity” – UK wide
- 2nd-3rd April – “Rave on the M25” is linked to an Insulate Britain event that was planned for 19th February but was cancelled. The event aims to highlight the rising prices of energy in the UK. The event information alludes to four “main stage” locations around the M25, including the Dartford Crossing and Watford Junction.
- 9th April (10:00) – Extinction Rebellion hold their 2022 Rebellion – Hyde Park, London
- 20th-26th April – World Week for Animals in Laboratories in which it is likely that multiple protests may be held targeting animal research facilities (including laboratories and universities)
- 24th April – World Day for Animals in Laboratories – international event

## The Rise of Ransomware – A look at the Cybercrime Trends of 2021

# Corps Focus: Security Issue of the Month

On 23rd February 2022 IBM Security published the [“X-Force Threat Intelligence Index 2022”](#). IBM Security X-Force are a team of cyberthreat experts including ethical hackers, responders, researchers and analysts. They are experts in the field of cyberthreat and published their findings detailing the trends in cyber security throughout 2021.

Within the 59-page report, which looked at various areas of cyber-attacks, they revealed detail on the top threat actors, attack types, and malware development, all of which allow for individuals/companies to better mitigate against the current and emerging threats/trends.

Some key findings from the report include:

- Phishing was the most common method of initiating a cyberthreat in 2021
- Ransomware was the top attack method of 2021 and signs suggest this will persist (the average lifespan of a Ransomware Group was listed as 17-months). Charles Henderson, Head of IBM X-Force said “Cybercriminals usually chase the money. Now with ransomware they are chasing leverage”
- 44% of ransomware attacks exploited vulnerabilities through unpatched software (a 33% increase on the 2020 figures)
- 47% of ransomware attacks on manufacturing targeted vulnerabilities that businesses could not/had not patched at that time
- With 23% of all attacks targeting Global Supply Chains, this industry beat Financial Services and Insurance to become the most attacked industry of 2021 (Financial Services and Insurance have held the top spot for a long time)

- Cybercriminals appear to be focusing on attacking cloud environments – the report highlights a 146% increase in new Linux ransomware code. They also identify a move towards focussing on the Docker which could make this form of attack more accessible for greater numbers of cybercriminals. The Docker is an open-source software platform used on common operating systems to create, deploy and manage virtualized application containers, with versions of Dockers being used for Microsoft Windows, Apple OS X, Amazon Web Services, and Microsoft Azure, as well as many others.
- Asia received the greatest number of attacks with 25% of all attacks targeting regions in Asia. 60% of these attacks targeted either Financial Services or Manufacturing.
- Europe had the second highest number of attacks in the world with 24% of all attacks, only 1% behind China. 26% of attacks in Europe were Ransomware, making this the highest method used in the region in 2021.
- Manufacturing was the most attacked industry in Europe, accounting for 25% of all attacks, with Finance and Insurance second with 18%, and Professional and Business Services third with 15%.
- The United Kingdom, Italy, and Germany were the most attacked countries in Europe

The [Corps Security Special Bulletin – Ukraine/Russia Conflict – Cyber Security Briefing](#) published in February 2022 highlighted some of the current cyberthreats and includes some general guidance on how to avoid falling for a phishing scam.



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