

CORPS RELAY

Prepared by: Mike Bluestone CSyP & Neil Shanks CSyP
Date: May 2022

CORPS
SECURITY

The Conflict between Ukraine and Russia – Brief Update

The conflict in the Ukraine continues and the impact of Russian controlled fossil fuels have already impacted on other countries. [Russia cut off the gas supply to Bulgaria and Poland](#) at the end of April and have threatened similar consequences for other nations. The conflict has had a large impact on international fuel prices, creating opportunities for criminals to also benefit. There have been instances of [thieves targeting lorries and vehicles to steal their fuel](#), as well as utilising the rise in fuel prices within a number of fraudulent scams.

Of great concern is how Russia could potentially harm the UK significantly without launching direct military action lies in the [communication system undersea cables](#) used by the UK to connect to the rest of the world. With around 60 cables that

could [currently be targeted by Russia](#) there is real potential for harm to be caused away from the UK shores. This risk was initially shared publicly in January 2022, when the [rise in incursions of Russian submarines towards vital undersea cables](#) was highlighted.

Corps Consult will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates, as appropriate, through further special bulletins. For more information on previous guidance around the potential impact please see the [February 2022](#) Edition of Corps Relay, the Corps Security Special Bulletin – [Ukraine/Russia Conflict – Cyber Security Briefing](#), and the Corps Security Special Bulletin – [Ukraine/Russia Conflict Summarised Update](#).

Criminals Exploit Centurion Gate Motor Design Flaw

A weakness with the design of the Centurion gate motor case design has been identified and is being exploited by criminals. It has been identified that a gas torch, or equivalent, can be used to melt a hole through the casing, allowing them to access the internal “test” button which releases the gate. Anyone with a motorised gate using a Centurion

gate motor should ensure that the “test” button has been deactivated. This can be achieved by going into the gate’s “General Settings” and turning the “Test Button” to off. Assistance from the Installation/Maintenance company may be required.

Direct Route – Military to Police

Nottinghamshire Police have announced they will be leading a trial scheme next year that will [provide military personnel a direct route to joining the Police](#). Nottinghamshire’s Military Widening Access Course is the first trial of this sort in the UK and seeks to support serving military personnel in their transition into the UK Police Service. This is supported by a Level 4 qualification in Policing through the University of Derby, which was co-designed with Nottinghamshire Police.



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 **SUBSTANTIAL**



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

Notable Dates/Events

Key Religious Events, National Celebrations, and Anniversaries

There are significant days for several religions and nations throughout May. 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 May include:

- 2nd May – Early May Bank Holiday – a national event
- 2nd May – Eid-ul-fitr, 'The Feast Of Fast Breaking' and end of Ramadan– an Islamic celebration
- 5th May – World Mental Health Day – an international event
- 5th May – Local Elections – a national event
- 8th May – World Red Cross / Red Crescent Day – an international event
- 9th-15th May – Mental Health Awareness Week – a national event
- 9th May – Liberation Day for Jersey/Guernsey – a local event
- 12th May – 103rd Anniversary of Combat Stress – a key event anniversary
- 14th May – 12th Anniversary of the attack on MP Stephen Timms - a key event anniversary
- 19th May – The Jewish observance of Counting of the Omer which lasts for 49 days
- 22nd May – Anniversary of the Murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby– a key event anniversary
- 22nd May – Anniversary of the Manchester Arena Attack– a key event anniversary
- 22nd May – Anniversary of the failed Exeter Bombing – a key event anniversary
- 26th May – Ascension Day– a Christian celebration
- 29th May – International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers – an international event
- 30th May – Trinity Sunday – a Christian celebration

12th Anniversary of the 2010 Attack of MP Stephen Timms

During a constituency surgery on 14th May, 2010, MP Stephen Timms was attacked and stabbed by Roshanara Choudhry. Ms Choudhry, a 21 year-old Islamic extremist and former student, attempted to murder Mr Timms as revenge for his vote supporting the Iraq War. Ms Choudhry was

sentenced to 15 years in prison with a release date in 2025. This attack has some sad parallels to the killing of MP Sir David Amess on 15th October 2021.

22nd May Anniversaries

1. 14th Anniversary of the 2008 attempted Exeter Bombing by Nicky Reilly

On 22nd May, 2008, 22 year-old Nicky Reilly failed to detonate an improvised explosive device as part of an attempted suicide attack on the "Giraffe" café and restaurant in Princesshay, Exeter. Mr Reilly, who pleaded guilty, was the only person injured by the malfunctioning explosive device.

2. 9th Anniversary of the 2013 murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

On 22nd May, 2013, an off-duty Fusilier Lee Rigby was attacked and murdered near the Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich, southeast London. His murderers, Michael Adebolajo and Michael Adebowale, initially struck Fusilier Rugby with a car before stabbing him to death. Both attackers were converts to Islam and claimed that they had killed a soldier to avenge the killing of Muslims by British Armed Forces. They were sentenced to life in prison and their actions were condemned by both political and Muslim leaders in the UK.

3. 5th Anniversary of the 2017 Manchester Arena Bombing

On 22nd May, 2017, 22 year-old Islamic extremist suicide bomber Salman Ramadan Abedi detonated an homemade explosive device at an Ariana Grande concert at the Manchester Arena. The attack killed 23 people (including Mr Abedi) and injured over 800. The inquiry into the event highlighted a number of learning points where, had alternative action been taken, the result may have saved lives. This has resulted in the pursuit of the Protect Duty which seeks to embed in law the necessity for sites to demonstrate preparedness for terrorist attacks. Whilst the exact nature and details of the Protect Duty still remain unclear, it has been alluded to in previous Corps Relays and Corps Relay Special Bulletins, including the [Protect Duty – A Summarised Overview](#) from December 2021 and the [Analysis of the Government Response Document to the Protect Duty](#) from January 2022.

Focus on Fraud – Some current trends and what to look out for

Corps Focus: Security Issue of the Month

There is always a certain degree of fraudulent activity being undertaken in every country, however, there is evidence to suggest that fraud has now become one of the most common crimes in the UK. A study into the [financial cost of fraud in 2021](#), conducted by Crowe and the Centre for Counter Fraud Studies (CCCF) at University of Portsmouth, found that fraud increased by 19.8%, and the average losses attributed to fraud also increased by 8.58%. The report states that the total annual losses resulting from fraud in the UK in 2021 equated to £137 billion.

There are various fraudulent activities that focus on activities where the user has little control, such as illegal use of someone's bank details, card cloning, and identity theft. These issues are generally managed by the relevant bank's fraud investigations team and the Police. There are also a number of frauds being perpetrated currently that play on a number of social issues, and which target individuals. Some examples of the types of frauds that may be experienced are detailed below:

Recent Fraud Trends in the UK

- [Fake Ukraine Related Frauds](#) – Hundreds of fake charity sites have been created online purporting to be charities raising money for the crisis in Ukraine. This also included a number of sites that were unlawfully using the branding of legitimate charities, such as Save the Children, in an attempt to add an appearance of legitimacy to their website. Action Fraud have reportedly received at least

196 reports relating to victims having been targeted by fraudulent “fundraisers”.

- [Fake Energy Top Up](#) – There is a current trend where individuals are visiting houses where the owner has a pre-pay electricity or gas meter, and they are offering them “cut-price energy” deals. They are selling top-up cards at a heavily discounted rate, however the cloned keys that are being sold do not credit the electricity company for the energy used, resulting in the victim being charged for both the card and the electricity used. Over 110,000 households have been affected by this to date.
- [Fake E.ON Refund](#) – There is currently a very convincing email being circulated that claims to be from E.ON. This email states that it is offering the recipient a refund and provides a link for them to click on to claim it. This Phishing email has been circulating since March 2022.
- [Remote Access Scams](#) – Whilst generally well known that users should not click on an unknown “pop up” window when online, such as one stating “Your computer has been infected with a virus” and asking to connect to the computer, this did not stop over £50 million being lost to these type of scams in 2021. Remote Access Scams can target individuals and businesses and, due to the increase in remote working, the population has become even more used to people remotely accessing their computers for a number of perfectly legitimate reasons. It is imperative, however, that the legitimacy of the individual remotely accessing the computer is verified prior to granting permission.



Market House
85 Cowcross St
London
EC1M 6PF



07890 590352
Neil Shanks



intel@corpssecurity.co.uk
www.corpssecurity.co.uk