

CORPS RELAY

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Date: July 2022

CORPS
— Est. 1859 —
SECURITY

UK Infection Update

It is significant that in addition to COVID-19, which saw rising infection rates in June 2022, both Bird Flu and Monkeypox have also been attracting attention.

Monkeypox originates from central and western Africa and is often initially transmitted through either being bitten by an infected rodent (such as rats, mice and squirrels), or through eating infected meat that has not been properly cooked. Monkeypox can be transmitted from person to person, however, this is only through:

- touching clothing, bedding or towels used by someone with the monkeypox rash
- touching monkeypox skin blisters or scabs (including during sex)
- the coughs or sneezes of a person with the monkeypox rash

The infection rate in the UK remains low, with 1,235 confirmed cases in the UK as at the end of June 2022.

The levels of people infected with COVID-19 in the UK reached 2.3 million in the last week of June 2022, equating to roughly 1:30 people being infected. This is resulting in approximately 309 death certificates per week having COVID-19 recorded as a cause of deaths. Whilst there has been a marked increase in infections, rising 32% in one week, the figures remain significantly lower than their 2021 peaks.

There has been an increase in Avian Flu, also known as Bird Flu, which has been transmitted from chickens (approximately 36 million chickens have died of this to date) to wild birds. This is causing significant fatalities in the wild bird population and spreading geographically as a result. Bird Flu has, on rare occasions, been known to transmit from birds to humans. There have been approximately 455 human deaths caused by bird flu between January 2003 and March 2022. There is no suggestion that the most recent outburst will pose a major public health crisis however, bird flu remains a concern as it is highly transmissible between birds and could cause significant harm if a variant became easily transmissible to people.

The Conflict between Ukraine and Russia

The war in Ukraine continues, with Russia taking the city of Lysychansk in early July. This Russian victory means the Russian objective of occupying the eastern region of Luhansk is drawing closer. Comparisons between the situation in Ukraine and the Second World War have been present throughout the conflict and General Sir Patrick Sanders has stated that whilst Britain is not at war, it must be ready to "...act rapidly so that we aren't drawn into one through a failure to contain territorial expansion.", calling this our "...1937 moment".

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](#).

NaCTSO Security Risk Management Guidance

As part of ProtectUK, the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) have updated the [Security Risk Management Guidance](#). NaCTSO provide guidance to assist with security risk management in 7 key areas, including: Risk Assessment, Physical Measures, Active Measures, Incident, Response Measures, Intervention, and Recovery. A [.PDF of the updated guidance](#) is also available.



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

Oslo Attack

Zanier Matapour has been named by Norwegian media as the man behind a terror attack in Oslo in the early hours of Saturday 25th June. It is reported that Matapour, armed with firearms, attacked three locations in Oslo at approximately 01:00 (23:00 GMT), opening fire, injuring 21 people and killing at least 2. The attack came hours before the Pride March was scheduled to take place in Oslo.

The motives for Matapour's attack have still not been confirmed although this is being treated as a terrorist attack. Corps Consult reported on this story in a [Corps Relay Special Bulletin](#) in June.

Copenhagen Attack

A 22-year-old man is currently being detained for an [attack at a Field's Shopping Centre in Copenhagen](#) that resulted in three deaths on Sunday 3rd July 2022. The man used a rifle to kill two 17-year-olds (who were Danish) and a 47-year old (who was Russian). In addition, a further two Danes and two Swedes were wounded in the attack, one of whom remains in critical condition.

The attacked is believed to be related to the attacker's poor mental health and not an act of terrorism. There is a suggestion that the attacker posted some videos online that suggest they had some political leanings however the age and nationality of the victims do not correlate with the alleged motive from the videos.

Highland Park Shooting

In the USA Police launched a man-hunt after a man shot and killed six people and injured 24 attending a 4th of July parade in Chicago. The assailant, 22-year-old Robert E Crimo III, opened fire on the parade from a rooftop. The attack was described as military style and methodical. Crimo was described as armed and dangerous during the search that ensued. This is the latest mass

shooting in America, with 2 other incidents taking place on the 4th July alone. There have been an average of over 1 mass shooting per day in the U.S. during 2022 to date. For this purpose, a mass shooting is defined as an incident where four or more people, not including the shooter, are injured or killed.

Notable Dates/Events

Key Religious Events, National Celebrations, and Anniversaries

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

- 1st July - Rath Yatra – a Hindu celebration
- 7th July – 17th anniversary of the 7/7 bombings – key event anniversary
- 7th July – Muslims embark on the Pilgrimage – an Islamic celebration
- 8th July – Muslim prayers and fasting – an Islamic celebration
- 10th July – Festival al-Eid-al-Kabir – an Islamic celebration
- 10th July – Devshayani Ekadashi – a Hindu celebration
- 12th July – 8th anniversary of Pavlo Lapshyn's attempt to blow up Mosques in Wolverhampton and Tipton – key event anniversary
- 13th July – Guru Purnima – a Hindu celebration
- 14th July – Shravan month begins – a Hindu celebration
- 16th July – Gajanan Sankashti Ganesh Chaturthi – a Hindu celebration
- 18th July – Festival of the Pool – a Shi'a Muslim celebration
- 19th July – 5th anniversary of the Finsbury Park attack– key event anniversary
- 24th July – Kamika Ekadashi – a Hindu celebration
- 26th July – Sawan Shivratri – a Hindu celebration
- 29th July – Hijri New Year/Islamic New Year – an Islamic celebration
- 31st July – Hariyali Teej – a Hindu celebration

5th Anniversary of the Finsbury Park attack

The Finsbury Park attack took place on 19 June 2017 when Darren Osborne drove a van into pedestrians in Finsbury Park resulting in one death (Makram

Ali) and injuring at least nine people. This was a Far Right attack, targeting Muslims, that took place during the month of Ramadan, a key celebration in the Islamic religion. The attack took place near the Muslim Welfare House and 100 yards from Finsbury Park Mosque. Osborne was then attacked by crowd until the Imam of Finsbury Park Mosque, Mohammed Mahmoud, stepped in and calmed the crowd down.

9th Anniversary of Pavlo Lapshyn's attempt to blow up Mosques in Wolverhampton

12th July 2022 marks the 9th anniversary of the last of four attacks by Pavlo Lapshyn in 2013. Lapshyn is a Ukrainian white supremacist terrorist who is currently serving a minimum of 40 years in prison for the murder of his neighbour, Mohammed Saleem, in Small Heath (Birmingham), followed by the attempted bombing of three Mosques in the West Midlands (Wolverhampton, Walsall, and Tipton). Despite the fact Mr Saleem was murdered on 29th April 2013, Lapshyn was not apprehended until after the attempted bombings of the Walsall and Tipton Mosques in June and the Wolverhampton Mosque in July the same year.

17th Anniversary of the 7/7 Bombings

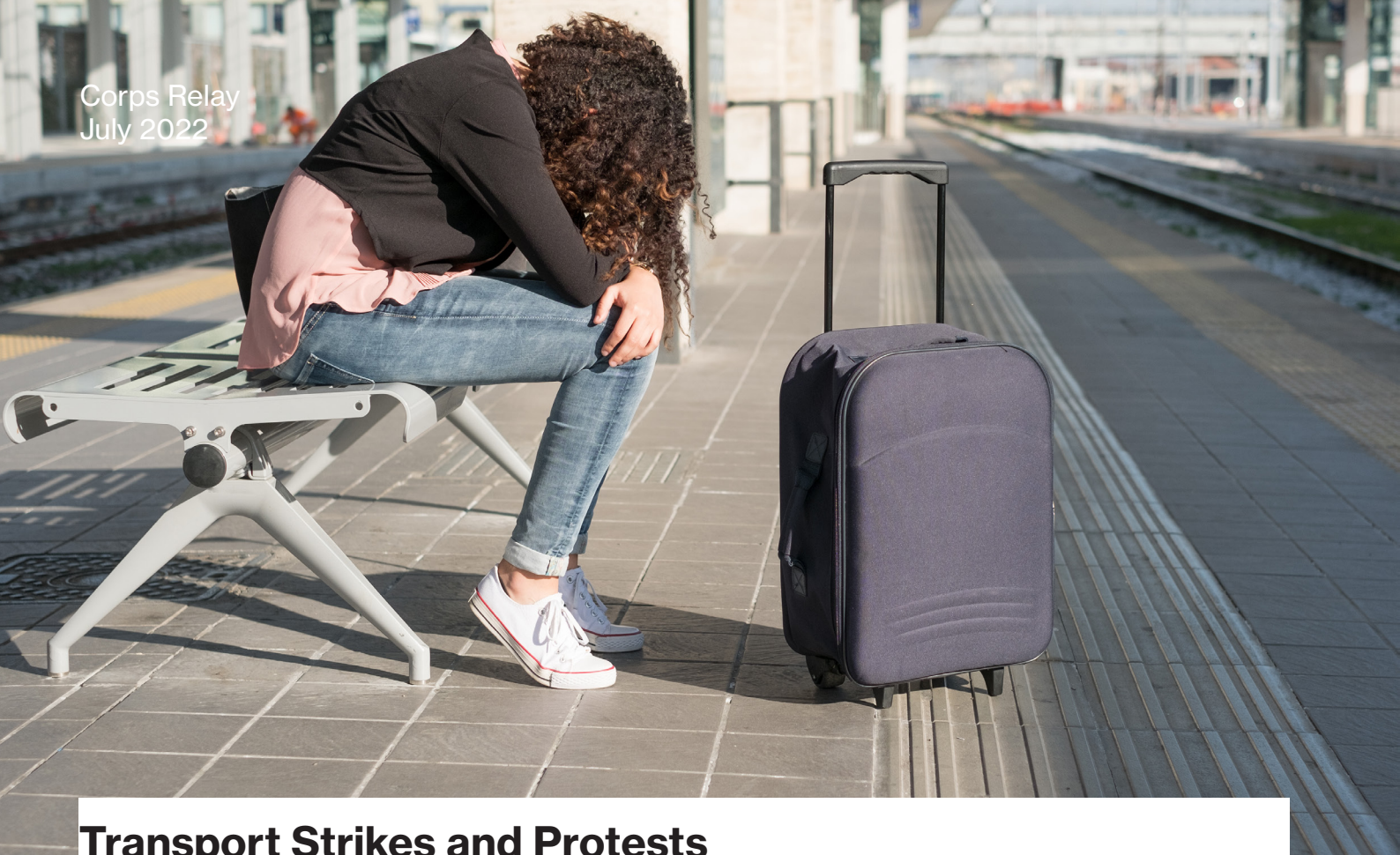
The 7th July 2022 marks the 17th anniversary of the 7/7 Bombings. The incident was a well planned attack that targeted the transport network in London, with three bombs detonating on the London Underground at 08:50 (killing 39 people), followed by another detonation an hour later detonation on a bus at Tavistock Square (killing a further 13 people). The attacks injured over 700 people collectively. The perpetrators of the attack, despite later being linked to Al-Qaeda, were described as "ordinary British citizens" in the report into the attack. The result of this attack was an overhaul to the UK's terrorism preparedness and approach that can still be seen today.

Extinction Rebellion (XR)

Three XR activists attempted to disrupt the Grand Prix at Silverstone on Sunday 3rd July 2022. The three activists, all dressed as Marshals, jumped over the trackside barrier after the red flag had been waved. The individuals were quickly apprehended and removed by the Police.

XR have indicated that they will be having a daily presence outside the Vanguard Offices (The Walbrook Building, 25 Walbrook, London, EC4N 8AF) to protest Vanguard's climate targets. XR state they believe these to be some of the worst of all asset management organisations and have committed to this presence throughout July (1st-31st). The event is believed to be a lower level XR campaign given the time period that it will be sustained for, however, expect banners and noise with XR members being told to be "creative".





Transport Strikes and Protests

Corps Focus: Security Issue of the Month

Strike action and demonstrations impacted on the London transport network in June 2022 and there is further action planned. The approach used by Insulate Britain has been adopted and adjusted by other groups, including XR, as the impact of disrupting commuters has been identified as a powerful political tool. Further actions is expected to not only impact on London, but will be experienced across the UK with a number of major transport links believed to be targeted throughout July.

Targets will include:

- Bus and Coach Drivers strike to include action on the 4th, 15th, 18th, 20th, 22th, 25th, 28th and 29th July (some detail on the strikes can be found [here](#))
- Fuel Strikes – A group called ‘[Fuel Price Stand Against Tax](#)’ have been protesting the price of fuel by targeted major roads (three lanes or more). They have been blocking all but the fast lane with slow moving vehicles. There is no indication as to how often the group will repeat this action, having [already caused major disruption to the A12, A38, A92, M4, M5, M32,](#)

[M62 and M180](#). There is evidence to suggest that these groups are planning to disrupt the traffic in Central London on 22nd July 2022 (12:00-21:00), with plans to also congregate around Parliament Square on this date.

- Rail Strikes – Whilst there are no confirmed dates for further rail strikes, Mick Lynch, General Secretary of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union (RMT), has indicated that there may be [further strike action throughout the summer of 2022](#). There is also a risk the UK could see the [first national rail strike in 25 years](#) this summer. Following on from the action by RMT, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF) have plans to ballot Train Drivers over potential strike action that could affect up to 90% of train services across the UK.



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