

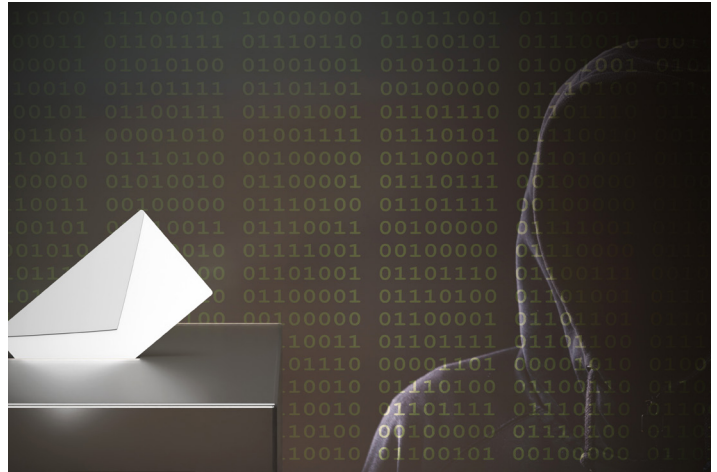
CORPS RELAY

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Date: August 2022

CORPS
— Est. 1859 —
SECURITY

GCHQ warn of the threat from Hackers to the Conservative leadership vote

GCHQ have warned the Prime Minister of the threat [Hackers could pose to the ballot for the next Conservative leader](#), who would also be the next UK Prime Minister. The threats have resulted in a change to the plans to allow those voting electronically to be able to change their votes at a later date should their minds be changed during the campaign. Following the advice of the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), postal ballots, which were originally due to be sent from Monday 1st August, will now be issued as late as 11th August.



The Conflict between Ukraine and Russia

The conflict in Ukraine continues with the global impact increasing the longer it continues. Both Ukraine and Russia have been leaders in exports within key areas, with the impact on international fuel and food security being particularly affected. The impact on international food security will become more prevalent the longer the conflict continues due to the impact on Ukraine's ability to export much needed grain via its southern sea ports. Before the conflict Ukraine and Russia accounted for approximately 29% of global wheat production, and 62% of sunflower oil production.

Corps Consult continues 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](#).

WhatsApp Smishing Scam

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) issued a warning to the public in July 2022 regarding the continued rise in reports of scams over the messaging app WhatsApp. The scams operate by criminals pretending to be someone known to the recipient, often posing as one of their children or another dependent. The usual process of the scam is to contact the individual from an unknown device, beginning the conversation with “Hello Mum” or “Hello Dad”, followed by an explanation of why they are contacting them from an unknown device. They will then claim their phone was lost or damaged before asking for money to be sent to purchase a new one or that they need money urgently to pay a bill.

The criminal then provides bank details for the payment to be made to, sometimes this is followed by further demands for money. Since 3rd February 2022, there have been over 1235 reports made to Action Fraud relating to this scam, with reported losses in excess of £1.5million.



UK Infection Update

The rates of COVID-19 infections in the UK decreased slightly towards the end of July 2022, with the estimated percentage of the population living in private households (those not in care homes or other communal establishments) that had COVID-19 in the week 22nd-29th July being:

- 4.83% in England (1 in 20 people)
- 5.14% in Wales (1 in 19 people)
- 6.18% in Northern Ireland (1 in 16 people)
- 5.17% in Scotland (1 in 19 people)

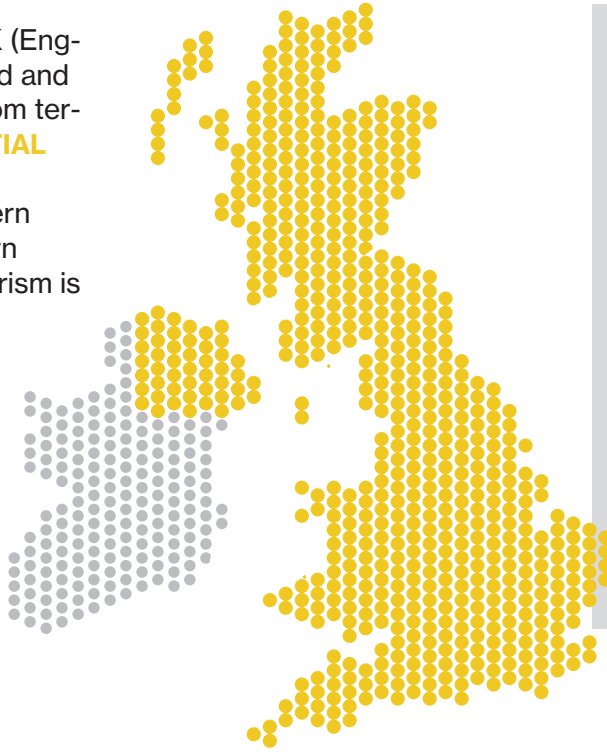
The infection rates dropped across most of the UK, with the North East of England being one of the few areas where the results remained uncertain. The drops in infection rates were seen across all age ranges.

There were, as of 28 July 2022, 2,469 confirmed cases of monkeypox in the UK, with a further 77 highly probable cases (2,546 in total). Of these, 2,436 are in England. The first confirmed case of monkeypox in the UK was on 7th May 2022, with infection reaching over 100 by the 27th May 2022. On 28th June 2022 the total number of confirmed cases of monkeypox in the UK reached over 1000, and the rates broke the 2000 threshold by 19th July. There have been no confirmed fatalities linked to monkeypox in the UK and there is a vaccine available for higher risk contacts, including healthcare workers who are caring for and who are due to start caring for a patient with confirmed monkeypox. The NHS is already contacting those eligible for the vaccine, and people are being urged to take up the offer as soon as they are contacted.

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

European Council renews EU's terrorist list for a further six months

On 18th July 2022 the [Council renewed, with no changes, the "EU terrorist list"](#). The list is designed to combat terrorism by identifying/listing persons, groups and entities that will be subject to restrictive measures. At present there are 13 persons and 21 groups and entities on the list.

The list, which was set up following the 11th September 2001 attacks (and the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1373/2001), is reviewed at regular intervals, and at least every six months. The measures taken against listed persons/groups/entities include the freezing of their funds and other financial assets in the EU, and the prohibition of EU operators in making funds

and economic resources available to them. This sanctions regime is separate from the EU regime implementing UN Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) and targeting Al-Qaida and ISIL/Da'esh. The EU may also apply restrictive measures autonomously to ISIL/Da'esh and Al-Qaida and persons and entities associated with or supporting them.

Met Police provide warning to parents over kids being radicalised over the summer holidays

Letters were sent to parents and guardians across every London borough from the lead officer in the anti-extremist Prevent programme, Detective Jane Corrigan, of the Met's counter-terrorism command. These [letters warned of the risks of children coming into contact with people seeking to radicalise them](#) and included some guidance for

things to look out for when a person is becoming radicalised. Examples included someone becoming more secretive about who they are speaking to or becoming less tolerant of other people's views. Parents/guardians are advised to contact Prevent for support or use the ACT Early website if they identify signs of radicalisation.

Proposed increase to police stop and search powers

The government have published a paper that sets out [increased stop and search powers for police](#) that are proposed to help tackle the threat of terrorism. The draft of the revised code of practice, which will be debated in both Houses of Parliament before being brought into law, covers the exercise of stop and search powers by police officers under the Terrorism Act 2000. The current code of practice was published in 2012.

The draft revision of the code of practice has come in response to recommendations made by Jonathan Hall QC, the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, as part of the review commissioned following the attack at Fishmonger's Hall in November 2019. Mr Hall was tasked with reviewing the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) used to supervise terrorist and terrorism-risk offenders on licence, wherein the creation of new powers of personal search were recommended.



Notable Dates/Events

Key Religious Events, National Celebrations, and Anniversaries

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

- 28th July – 8th August – Commonwealth Games 2022 (Birmingham/West Midlands – an international event)
- 6th August – The Transfiguration – a Christian celebration
- 7th August – Commemoration of the destruction of Jewish Temples in Jerusalem – a Jewish celebration
- 8th August – Ashura – an Islamic celebration
- 11th-12th August – Raksha Bandhan – a Hindu celebration
- 14th August – 4th Anniversary of the Westminster Car Attack – key event anniversary
- 18th-19th August – Krishna Janmashtami – a Hindu celebration
- 30th-31st August – Birth of Ganesh – a Hindu celebration

4th Anniversary of the Westminster Car Attack

On 14 August 2018, three people were injured when Salih Khater, a then 29-year-old male from Birmingham, deliberately drove into them with a silver Ford Fiesta near the Palace of Westminster. Khater went on to crash the car into the barrier of the pavement between St Margaret Street/Abingdon Street and Old Palace Yard. The response to the attack was met by the Metropolitan Police arriving within seconds and arresting Khater without further incident. Fortunately for the victims there was an ambulance immediately behind Khater's car which stopped and whose crew provided assistance to the injured. Khater was convicted of two counts of attempted murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Extinction Rebellion (XR) September Rebellion

XR have announced plans to bring millions of people onto the streets from the 10th of September 2022 in response to the tabled Public Order Bill.

These actions include:

- Pre-9th September – “Audacious and Spicy” action focussing on Citizens Assembly – No further detail available at this time
- 9th September – Mass “Paint the Streets” action in Central London – No further detail available at this time
- 10th-13th September – “Festival of Resistance” in Central London– No further detail available at this time
- Phase Three – “Magic Mystery Bus Tour” of the Country – No further detail available at this time
- Phase Four – “An invitation to work with other movements to send a message to Government” – No further detail available at this time



Hostile Reconnaissance

Corps Focus: Security Issue of the Month

The criminal or terrorist, only needs to be successful once to achieve their goals, however, they can be deterred from their intended target should they feel it will not be successful, often choosing a softer alternative. Whilst your personal and workplace security might be extremely high, you could be caught up in an attack if your neighbour's is not. The police have several operations to combat terrorism and more information can be obtained through these pages:

- [Project Servator](#)
- [Project Pegasus \(air\)](#)
- [Project Kraken \(water\)](#).

[Hostile reconnaissance](#) is frequently the first action carried out before an attack, and is a term given to the information-gathering phase conducted by those individuals or groups with malicious intent. The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) defines hostile reconnaissance as "Purposeful observation with the intention of collecting information to inform the

planning of a hostile act against a specific target." In essence the terrorist, activist, or criminal will conduct some form of covert or overt monitoring of the intended target prior to acting. Generally, this will be conducted through a combination of Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) and physical observations ahead of the actual event. Therefore, it is not only necessary to be aware of your physical footprint, but also to have an awareness of your business and employees' online presence.

The objectives of Hostile Reconnaissance include:

- Identify a target
- Discover weak area (Vulnerabilities)
- Assess the level and type of protection (Security)
- Consider the best "method of successful action/attack"
- Inform the best time to conduct the event
- Assess the likelihood of success



Hostile Reconnaissance

It is important to understand the environment and “normal behaviour” to help identify when hostile reconnaissance is being conducted. Hostile reconnaissance may occur anywhere and may include people in many guises (including pedestrians, vehicles, and cyclists). Examples of suspicious behaviour include:

- Excessive photography - Is the person really taking a selfie or a photograph of something else?
- Do they look like they are supposed to be there (are they loitering in restricted or non-public areas)?
- Are they paying particular attention/interest to entrances, exits, CCTV, staff, and other physical security measures?
- Are they asking unusual or probing questions about the location/event?
- Are they concealing their faces or in disguise?
- Is there an unknown vehicle within the area for a prolonged period of time?

If hostile reconnaissance is suspected, the individual must assess what they should do, including whether to report their concerns (to

security or the police) or whether to make enquiries with the person(s) yourself (it is vital to ensure your personal safety first). Considerations should include:

- If you cannot or do not wish to approach them, [you can immediately report their suspicious behaviour to the police or security](#). How to report suspicious activity and additional information can be found on the following: <https://act.campaign.gov.uk/>
- You cannot spot a hostile from their appearance, age, ethnicity, gender, or clothing.
- Stopping a hostile before they can carry out their plans will save lives.
- The benefits of reporting suspected hostile reconnaissance that is then proven to be false outweigh the negatives of not reporting suspected hostile reconnaissance that results in an incident (such as the Manchester Arena Bombing).
- Listening to the account of why they are acting that way may confirm the suspicions.



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