

CORPS RELAY

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CORPS
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SECURITY

Protect Duty Announcement

On 19th December, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, announced that the Government is committing to progressing with the Protect Duty in 2023. The Protect Duty, which is now to be known as Martyn's Law in honour of Martyn Hett, is anticipated to be drafted within the first quarter of 2023. The main elements of the draft bill are:

- Establishing a new requirements framework which requires those in control of certain public locations and venues to consider the threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures
- Delivering an inspection and enforcement regime, which will seek to educate, advise, and ensure compliance with the Duty.

The announcement about the inspectorate and enforcement regime is particularly important and the way this operates will be key to the success of Martyn's Law. Mr Sunak confirmed his commitment to this legislation, saying "I am committed to working with Figen to improve security measures at public venues and spaces and to delivering this vital legislation to honour Martyn's memory and all of those affected by terrorism."

Industrial Action

The month of December 2022 saw 'Industrial Action' across the UK affecting travel, emergency, and public services. This period of industrial action has been labelled the 'Winter of Discontent' and included action by the Home Office Border Force, Public and Commercial Services (PCS) union, with the UK armed forces stepping in to cover their function. The Border Force is the law-enforcement agency responsible for UK immigration and

customs controls and the screening of passengers, freight and port staff at 140 rail, air and sea ports in the UK and western Europe, as well as thousands of smaller airstrips, ports and marinas. PCS have proposed to continue to strike for up to six months if no resolution is achieved.

Uranium detected on flight at Heathrow Airport

Metal contaminated with uranium arrived at Heathrow airport on 29th December 2022. The uranium was found within a package of 1kg bars of scrap metal that originated in Pakistan, although the flight they were on came from Oman. The levels of uranium detected were very low and experts said the level was not sufficient to pose a threat to the public's health. The incident has provided assurance that the protection measures in place are effective as the material was identified as soon as it arrived in the UK. Investigations into how such a material was able to get onto a commercial flight remain ongoing.



Extinction Rebellion (XR) Revised Tactics

On the 1st of January 2023, XR announced that they would be adopting a change to their traditional tactics, moving away from action that is disruptive toward the general public in favour of engaging in more 'targeted' activity. The following are excerpts from the official XR press release:

'As we ring in the new year, we make a controversial resolution to temporarily shift away from public disruption as a primary tactic. We recognise and celebrate the power of disruption to raise the alarm and believe that constantly evolving tactics is a necessary approach'

'We must be radical in our response to this crisis and determined in our efforts to address the climate and ecological emergency, even if it means taking a different approach than before'

'This year, we prioritise attendance over arrest and relationships over roadblocks, as we stand together and become impossible to ignore'

Whether or not XR actually commit to these new tactics or revert to publicly disruptive actions remains to be seen and CORPS Consult will continue to monitor.



Insulate Britain and Just Stop Oil (JSO)

In contrast to XR's announcement regarding changes to their tactics, both Insulate Britain and JSO have confirmed that they are committed to continuing their campaign of disruptive action.

Over the past year, supporters of the JSO campaign have smashed petrol pumps, blockaded oil terminals, used chemical lock on techniques (such as when they have glued themselves to streets and roads), used mechanical lock on techniques (such as when they zip-tied their necks to goalposts at Premier League football matches), and thrown tomato soup over famous and priceless oil paintings.

More than 2,000 arrests were made during JSO actions, and 138 of its activists have been held behind bars either awaiting trial or while serving a sentence this year. According to the group, 12 of their activists are currently in jail.

Similarly, Insulate Britain have said its supporters remained prepared to go to prison, stating '*Insulate Britain supporters remain committed to civil resistance as the only appropriate and effective response to the reality of our situation in 2023*'. Whilst XR appears to have repositioned itself as a more 'moderate' group, JSO and Insulate Britain have renewed their commitment to disruptive actions. James Ozden, the director of Social Change Lab, has advised that this allows for '*A synergistic relationship, likely to benefit the overall climate movement, as people can join groups that appeal most to them*'.

There are currently no significant campaigns or events being publicised from either JSO or Insulate Britain. Corps Consult continue to monitor this area closely and will ensure that any change or developments will be communicated.

Executive Protection/Close Protection

Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex has recently been criticised by the Taliban for his open statement in his book 'Spare' about killing 25 Taliban members while serving in Afghanistan. This breach in security protocols could have ramifications for his and his family's personal safety and this highlights the necessity to maintain strict personal security protocols.

Personal protection or Executive Protection (EP), also known as Close Protection (CP), refers to the security and risk mitigation measures taken to ensure the safety of VIPs or other individuals who may be exposed to elevated personal risk because of their employment, high-profile status, net-worth, affiliations, or geographical location.

Close Protection will introduce a great deal of reassurance through the management of access and overall security of the client's residence, place of work and travel, to include consultation with

Corps Consult on the best use of Alarm Systems, CCTV and Access Control while concurrently considering the client's profile, culture, and image to counter any threats, ideally without overly impinging into the Client's private and family life,

Corps Security employ a range of security experts, including ex-government/military trained close protection and surveillance officers. As a result of this, Corps Security are able to provide bespoke security solutions including, but not limited to, close protection and advising on VIP event security.

Chemical Attack Plot in Germany

In January 2023 German Police arrested and detained an Iranian man and his brother in Germany for allegedly plotting an “Islamist-motivated” attack. According to the North Rhine-Westphalia police, the main individual, a 32-year-old male, is said to have been plotting to use both cyanide and ricin to commit a serious act of violence.

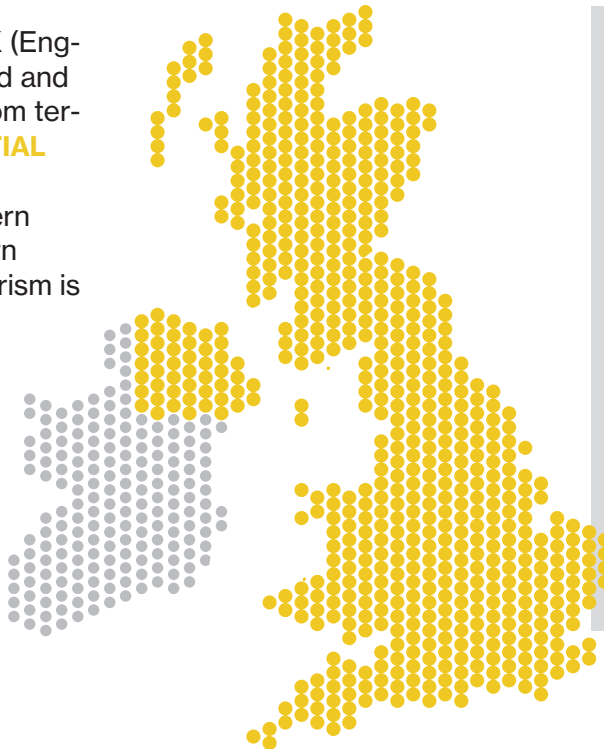
No poisons were found in the raid of the individuals’ Castrop-Rauxel residence, in the Ruhr region,

but electronic devices belonging to the suspect were seized as evidence. Both the suspect and his brother remain in police custody. Whilst not in the UK, this shows a variation of the attack methodology being used by a suspected Islamist-motivated terrorist and could be an early indication of a new attack methodology that will be attempted elsewhere.

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 January. 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 January include:

- 1st January – New Year's Day – an international event
- 6th January – Storming of the Capitol – key event anniversary
- 6th January – Feast of the Epiphany – a Christian celebration
- 7th January – Coptic Orthodox Christmas – an Orthodox Christian celebration
- 7th January – Charlie Hebdo Attacks – key event anniversary
- 8th January – Thornton Heath Stabbing 3rd Anniversary – key event anniversary
- 8th January – The Baptism of Christ – a Christian celebration
- 9th January – Whitemoor Prison Attack 2nd Anniversary – key event anniversary
- 14th January – Orthodox New Year – a Christian celebration
- 15th January – Makar Sankranti – a Hindu celebration
- 20th January – Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday – a commemoration in the Sikh faith
- 25th January – Burns Night – a national event
- 27th January – Holocaust Memorial Day – an international event

Storming of the United States Capitol 06.01.2022 (2021)

Two years on from the storming of the United States Capitol (as reported in the [February 2021 edition of Corps Relay](#)) and the topic remains live in international news as the prospect of legal action being taken against Donald Trump continues. This is particularly poignant as Mr Trump has announced that he intends to run for office again at the next election. This incident, whilst geographically removed from the UK, remains one requiring monitoring due to the influence it continues to have on individuals and groups within the UK. A similar incident to this also took place in Brazil with protestors storming Government Buildings, including the National Congress building, in Brasília on 8th January 2023. The incident in Brazil resulted in over 1500 arrests.

Charlie Hebdo Attacks 07.01.2022 (2015/16)

Friday 7th January 2021 marked the 8th anniversary of the attack on the Charlie Hebdo Offices in Paris, France, in 2015 and the 7th anniversary of the 2016 attack that took place on the first anniversary of the Charlie Hebdo attack. This anniversary remains a key date.

3rd Anniversary of Whitemoor Prison Attack

On Thursday 9th January 2020, two serving [prisoners at HMP Whitemoor \(Cambridgeshire\)](#) stabbed [Prison Officer](#) Neil Trundle. They were using weapons they had made themselves and wore fake suicide vests.

2023

Security trends we may see in 2023

Corps Focus: Security Issue of the Month

There are several trends that have been persistent through 2022 and Corps Consult have taken a look at which of these, and other security threats/trends, are likely to persist into 2023.

- **Industrial Action** – The end of 2022 was marked with a significant increase in industrial action, and this is likely to continue into 2023. There are a range of known actions already planned for the beginning of 2023 and the increasing financial pressures on key groups will likely result in further action.
- **Activism** – 2023 will likely see a continued increase in the level of activism within the UK. The recent announcement by XR shows that these groups may change their approaches, as well as work with other groups to provide a broader range of approaches towards shared goals.
- **Security Staff Shortages** – There are an approximate 62,000 vacancies for frontline security professionals anticipated for 2023. Recruitment and retention of security staff will be impacted by this. This number is influenced by numerous factors including the anticipated loss of approximate 20,000 front line staff, including those that are retiring, leaving the UK, and leaving the security profession for non-security roles.
- **Martyn's Law** – The first draft of Martyn's Law, the first piece of legislation mandating specific security measures be taken by identified businesses, will have a revolutionary impact on the security industry.
- **The Insider Threat** – This area will continue to be a point of major concern for a lot of businesses and should not be underestimated. Security is predominantly designed to keep harmful actors out, and whilst there are still internal safeguards, insiders have access to otherwise restricted information, resources, and areas through the nature of their roles and these can be targeted and/or exploited.
- **Professionalisation of Cyber Criminals** – There

has been a growing 'Ransomware-as-a-Service' as technically proficient Cyber Criminals sell and ad-hoc or bespoke Ransomware service to less able individuals. This also extends to other forms of cyber attack, with generic and bespoke malware also being provided, on demand, for a fee. This will impact on the range of targets/victims of malware as it is no longer limited to only those that have the technical capabilities to orchestrate attacks.

- **New Technologies** – The development of new technologies, or new uses for existing technologies, will likely be a feature of 2023. There is increased enthusiasm for certain areas, including the use of drone technology within standard commercial UK security (e.g. to assist with perimeter patrols), that may result in these being brought into mainstream use. Technology develops at a faster rate than legislation, however, meaning there is likely a gap between something being developed and its acceptable adoption for professional use.
- **Encryption Risks** – Whilst Quantum Computing is anticipated to still be 5-10 years away, the continued increases in processing power will remain a risk to established cybersecurity. It is more important than ever to ensure that software/firmware remain up to date, and that systems are as secure as possible. It is also worth noting that the algorithms used for cybersecurity now will no longer be effective once Quantum Computing is achieved so there will be a cybersecurity renaissance within the next 5-10 years.
- **Russian War in Ukraine** – The impact of the war in Ukraine may yet impact on UK security, either directly, or indirectly (as it has with the impact it had on the cost of living).

As always, Corps Security and Corps Consult are available to assist with any specific security enquiries or needs that business have.



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