

# CORPS RELAY

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**Date:** February 2023

**CORPS**  
— Est. 1859 —  
**SECURITY**

# A National Strategy for Drones Across Land, Sea and Air

The drone industry in the UK is estimated to grow to over £45 billion by 2030 and there is, as of this moment, no clear and concise UK strategy for the management and supervision of drones (piloted or autonomous). The main piece of UK governance relating to drones at this time is “The Drone and Model Aircraft Code” which belongs to the Civil Aviation Authority. The Drone Delivery Group, which brings together over 400 independent leading industry experts, commentators and stakeholders, have submitted a White Paper to provide a strategy for the safe adoption of autonomous drone technology across

the UK. Entitled ‘A National Strategy for Drones Across Land, Sea and Air’, the White Paper seeks to consolidate and converge the various existing regulations and industry standards for the various forms of drones (air, land, and marine). The White Paper includes a “...national strategy to develop a harmonised and co-ordinated approach to standards and regulations across land, sea and air...” (Robert Garbett, chair of the Senior Advisory Board of the Drone Delivery Group) and includes sections on the use of autonomous vehicles and the ecological benefits of using drones over traditional human transportation vehicles.

# Impending International Cyber Crisis Event Predicted

At the 2023 World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Jeremy Jurgens (WEF Managing Director) highlighted the WEF Global Security Outlook Report 2023. Jurgens stated that “93 percent of cyber leaders, and 86 percent of cyber business leaders, believe that the geopolitical instability makes a catastrophic cyber event likely in the next two years. This far exceeds anything that we’ve seen in previous surveys.”. Evidence for this included the effect of cyber attacks on the Ukrainian military unintentionally shutting the electric grid to other areas of Europe. Delegates stressed the necessity for a united approach from nations in addressing this crisis as all signs indicate that this threat will continue to grow. The Prime Minister of Albania, Edi Rama, spoke of the growth of the cybercrime industry and that it is anticipated to reach a value of \$10.5 trillion in 2025, a significant increase from its \$3 trillion in 2015. In context, the anticipated value in 2025 would make the industry greater than the third largest economy in the world. What is more, Rama also proposed that the impact of a global cyber attack could have a greater impact than the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recently, City of London Police Assistant Commissioner Peter O’Doherty discussed the impact of Cyber Crime in the UK. O’Doherty reflected that the Crime Survey for England and Wales now shows that over 50% of all UK reported crime is classified as fraud and cybercrime. O’Doherty believes that both the reported figures for fraud and cyber crime, and the estimated cost of fraud by Experian (a cost of £193 billion per annum), are under reported and underestimated.

Whilst there is undoubtedly a major role for governments in preventing this eventuality, businesses must also ensure that their systems are protected. Emergency planning for this should include cyber security measures being taken, including policies and procedures for all staff, as well as ensuring there is an effective business continuity plan in place. All emergency plans should be rigorously tested, amended, improved, and retested. It is likely that, as highlighted in previous Corps Relays, the targets for cybercriminals will include utility providers, so planning should also include events such as lack of power from the National Grid, and instances where access to mains water supplies are compromised.

# Rise of Far-Right Extremism

The UK has seen a rise in far-right extremism, including a large number of teenagers joining their ranks, which Counter Terrorism Policing UK have deemed alarming. Intelligence sectors are concerned about the potential fallout of such a rise and the potential that this could lead to retaliation by Jihadist groups. ISIS media groups have already been seen to have launched campaigns of channels, hashtags, and propaganda framing some of these groups as Quran burners who have a war

on their religion. ISIS are attempting to position this as beyond the behaviour of 'individuals' and are calling for revenge against the West. The increase in far-right extremism, with associated anti-Muslim stunts and rhetoric, could potentially lead to an opportunity for ISIS to incite violence from those that wish to act as defenders of Islam, further igniting, and reinforcing its 'holy war' narrative.

# Emergency Planning – Dynamic Lockdown & Invacuation

As part of a business's emergency planning and preparedness they should include practical methods of ensuring their staff, clients, and where possible, the public, are kept safe. Scenario training and tabletop exercises can be an excellent way for testing the suitability and likely effectiveness of their emergency plans, however, the plans themselves should be based on a site-specific security risk assessment.

There are various instances where threats may dictate that it is safer for people to stay within a building rather than evacuating away from the area. This includes, but is not limited to, instances where there may be a public disturbance, civil disobedience, local environmental threat, cordoned areas, terrorist threats, and/or marauding attacker instanced. Regardless of the nature of the site, there will be occasions when it may be safer to move people away from the threat while remaining inside the venue including when precise the location of the threat is unknown or if evacuating would place individuals in closer proximity to the threat.

Invacuation requires pre-planning to help identify safer areas within your building, as well as ensuring that there is access control internally to control movement around the site. Secure locations should

be identified within your emergency response plans so all staff understand where to go in the event of an incident/emergency. Protected spaces should be located in areas surrounded by full-height masonry walls, e.g. internal corridors, toilet areas or conference rooms with doors opening inwards and ideally away from windows and external walls. Advice for protected spaces should be sought from structural engineers of explosive effects.

As it is not always possible for everyone to move to central locations, there should also be plans in place for how people can secure themselves in other areas of the site. As in the ["Run, Hide, Tell"](#) video, staff should be trained in how to secure themselves in other areas, without drawing attention to themselves, when required e.g. in the event of a marauding attacker. This can include internal use of store rooms and meeting rooms, ideally with locking doors, but could involve using furniture or other items to make entrance to the area difficult and allow those in the room to hide from the sight of the attacker. Once again, emergency practices/plans should be trained, tested, amended, improved, and retested.



# Palestine Action

The City of London Police (CoLP) have advised business partners that the Palestine Action protest group have targeted premises in the city, vandalising & smashing windows of businesses associated with arms manufacturer, Elbit Systems UK.

Security teams are reminded to remain vigilant and be mindful of the following tactics / MO typically used by the group:

- The group are believed to work in pairs, during late night / early hours.
- It's believed the group conduct reconnaissance pre and post action during office and out of hours also.
- The group record activity on cameras / phones, documenting any damage caused post-event during daylight hours.
- Group activists are encouraged to wear plain black, unbranded, and non-distinguishable clothing and shoes.

- Group activists are also encouraged to cover their faces with masks, coverings, caps and hoodies.
- Equipment typically used by the group include hammers, crowbars, paint / spray paint, fire extinguishers and stencils.



## 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

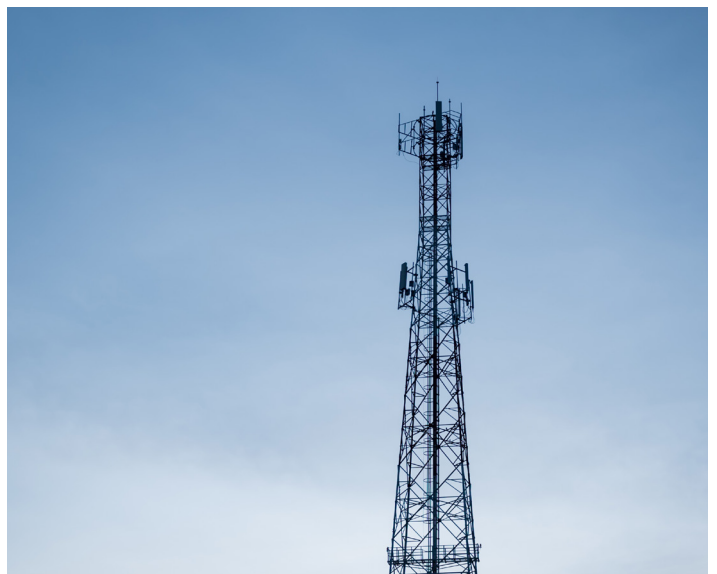
# Serving member of the British Army charged with terror and explosives offences

Daniel Abed Khalifea, a 21-year-old soldier serving in the British Army, has been charged in relation to two incidents in Staffordshire. The first incident was in August 2021 and the second in January 2023. He is accused of “eliciting or attempting to elicit information of a kind likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism” in August 2021. His second charge relates to an allegation he placed an article “with the intention of inducing in another a belief that the said article was likely to explode or ignite and thereby cause personal injury or damage to property” in the same area on or before 2nd January 2023. Both offences occurred at RAF Stafford. Khalifea was charged at Westminster Magistrates Court on 27th January 2023.



# Man jailed for terror attack plot on communications masts

Oliver Lewin, a 38-year-old telecoms engineer from Coalville, has been jailed for 6.5 years for plotting terrorist attacks on communications masts. Lewin planned to use his knowledge as a telecoms engineer to “topple the government” by attacking phone, TV, and radio masts. Lewin, who had completed hostile reconnaissance of the target areas and tried to recruit others to his cause, was later tried at Birmingham Crown Court and found guilty of preparing terrorist acts.



# Notable Dates/Events

## **Key Religious Events, National Celebrations, and Anniversaries**

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

- 2nd February – Candlemas – A holiday in the Christian church that blesses the candle supply for that year
- 2nd February – 3rd Anniversary of the Streatham Stabbing – key event anniversary
- 5th February – Tu Bishvat – The “New Year of Trees” in the Jewish faith.
- 14th February – St Valentine’s Day – a Christian celebration
- 15th February – Parinirvana/Nirvana Day in Mahāyāna Buddhism – this date marks Buddha’s death and attainment of final nirvana
- 18th February – Lailat al Miraj – A Muslim holiday commemorating Muhammad’s journey from Mecca to Jerusalem where he ascended into heaven
- 22nd February – Ash Wednesday – The day in the Christian Church that marks the start of Lent, the 40-day period of prayer and fasting before Easter
- 24th February – Festival of Ayyam-i-Ha – A multiple-day festival in the Baha’i faith that prioritizes gift-giving, hospitality, charity, and preparation for fasting ahead of the New Year
- 26th February – Anniversary of the World Trade Centre Bombing – key event anniversary

## **3rd Anniversary of Streatham Stabbing**

At approximately 14:00 on Tuesday 2nd February 2020 Sudesh Amman attacked a man and a woman on Streatham High Road. The attack involved Amman stabbing the man and woman with a knife he had just stolen from a nearby store, before being shot dead by Police responders. A second woman was injured at the scene of the shooting, however, the only fatality in this incident was the attacker, Amman. In addition to the stolen knife, Amman also had a fake suicide vest on.

## **30th Anniversary of the World Trade Centre Bombing**

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the World Trade Centre bombing. Attackers detonated a urea nitrate–hydrogen gas enhanced device concealed within a truck at the base of the North Tower. The attack failed to topple the building as intended but did result in 6 fatalities and injured 1042. Six people were arrested and charged for their involvement in the attack.





## Martyn's Law Update

# Corps Focus: Security Issue of the Month

On 19 December 2022, the Government announced further details about Martyn's Law. The new law, formerly known as the Protect Duty, will be called 'Martyn's Law' in tribute of Martyn Hett, who was one of 22 people killed in the 2017 Manchester Arena terrorist attack.

Martyn's Law is intended to keep people safer through enhancing our national security. It will place a requirement on those responsible for certain locations to consider the threat from terrorism and implement mitigation measures that are "appropriate and proportionate". The legislation will ensure those responsible for publicly accessible locations are prepared, ready to respond, and know what to do in the event of an attack. Better protection will be delivered through enhanced security systems, staff training, and clear processes.

Premises where "qualifying activities" take place will fall within the scope of the Duty. This will include locations for purposes such as entertainment and leisure, retail, food and drink, museums and galleries, sports grounds, public areas of local and central Government buildings (e.g. town halls), visitor attractions, temporary events, Places of Worship, health, and education.

It is proposed that the legislation will apply to eligible locations which are either, a building (including collections of buildings used for the same purposes, e.g. a campus); or location/event (including a temporary event) that has a defined boundary, allowing capacity to be known. Eligible locations whose maximum occupancy meets the above specified thresholds will be then drawn into the relevant tier.

Premises will be drawn into the scope of the Duty if they meet the following three tests:

- That the premises is an eligible one – e.g. building or event with a defined boundary
- That a qualifying activity takes place at the location; and
- That the maximum occupancy of the premises meets a specified threshold – either 100+ or 800+

Martyn's Law will impose a duty on the owners and operators of certain locations to increase both their preparedness for, and protection from, a terrorist attack by requiring them to take proportionate steps. What are deemed to be appropriate steps will be dependent on the size and nature of the activities that take place at that location. Proportionality is a fundamental consideration for this legislation, therefore, it will establish a tiered model linked to both the types of activity that take place at a location and the location's capacity.

A standard tier will drive good preparedness outcomes. Duty holders will be required to undertake simple yet effective activities to improve protective security and preparedness. This will apply to qualifying locations with a maximum capacity of over 100. This could include larger retail stores, bars, or restaurants.

An enhanced tier will see additional requirements placed on high-capacity locations in recognition of the potential catastrophic consequences of a successful attack. This will apply to locations with a capacity of over 800 people at any time. This could include live music venues, theatres, and department stores.

An inspection capability will be established to educate, advise, and ensure compliance with the legislation. Where necessary, the inspectorate will also use a range of sanctions to ensure that breaches are effectively dealt with.

The legislation will apply across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, with the Government introducing the legislation as soon as parliamentary time allows. Therefore, it is not possible to give the implementation date at this time, however, there will be an announcement as soon as the parliamentary timetable is known.

If you require any assistance with risk assessments for your sites, or advice on training and preparedness, please contact Corps Consult on 020 7566 0516 or via [CorpsConsult@corpssecurity.co.uk](mailto:CorpsConsult@corpssecurity.co.uk)



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