

CORPS RELAY

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CORPS
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SECURITY

Manchester Arena Inquiry Update

The third and final volume of the Manchester Arena Inquiry was published at the beginning of March and features as this month's Security Issue of the Month. In addition to the publication of the final volume of the inquiry report, the Security Industry Authority's (SIA) response to two actions regarding licencing requirements for those working in security were also published on 3rd March 2023. Paul Fullwood, Director, Inspections & Enforcement (SIA Strategic lead for the Manchester Arena Inquiry) wrote about it in a [blog post](#) and stated that the SIA have gone further with their recommendations than the inquiry required in proposing that:

1. Individual SIA licensing for in-house security should be extended to both operators of CCTV/public surveillance and in-house security guards; and
2. The licensing of private security contractors and labour providers be introduced.

Mr Fullwood also highlighted that the SIA lacks the authority to implement these changes immediately as their authority is derived from the content of the Private Security Act 2001. Any new or amended powers require the legislation to be amended also, and to this end a formal proposal of both points 1 (MR7 from Volume 1 of the inquiry) and 2 (MR8 from Volume 1 of the inquiry) were submitted to the Home Office in November 2022. The progress of this requires careful monitoring from companies as both recommendations propose extending the licensable roles and would affect people/roles that previously did not require licenses. It is an offence, under the Private Security Act 2001, to conduct a licensable activity without the correct licences on display, therefore there will be a requirement for a grace period for people to become licensed should the legislation be changed.

National Protective Security Authority (NPSA)

The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) changed their name to the National Protective Security Authority (NPSA) as of 13th March 2023. This is due to their role expanding beyond being the UK's leading technical authority for physical and personnel security to include a wider and more diverse range of people and sectors. These will include science and technology, public places, research and academia, in addition to national infrastructure. They will still be developing content and guidance for both security and non-security professionals. Any attempts to go to the former CPNI website will be redirected to the new NPSA website.

The CPNI have been referenced repeatedly in previous Corps Relays, as well as regularly being identified as an avenue to gain incredibly useful resources. The NPSA will continue from the positive work already done by the CPNI and expand on this in the future.



National Protective
Security Authority

National Security Inspectorate appoints a new CEO



The National Security Inspectorate (NSI) has announced the appointment of Richard Fogelman as its new CEO, effective from 1st March 2023, with current CEO Richard Jenkins set to leave the Inspectorate after nine years. Fogelman has over 15 years' senior leadership expertise, including almost a decade as the CEO of Grief Encounter, a leading UK charity supporting bereaved young people. He holds a law degree and has prior experience of London's economic markets, having worked at numerous banks and financial firms, before embarking on a spell in the commercial world of property operations and management. The NSI delivers a robust continuous audit regime of approved companies through the diligent efforts of a dedicated team of in-house experts. They verify compliance with relevant British, European, and International Standards, Codes of Practice, and certification schemes orchestrated by industry bodies and associations. NSI approved businesses can give clients the assurance that their security and fire safety services are being delivered to the highest standards with companies wholly committed to quality and continual improvement.

WH Smith targeted by Cybercriminals

In March 2023, retailer WH Smith announced that they were the victims of a cyberattack that targeted the information of current and former employees. WH Smith engaged experts to investigate and resolve the issue immediately and stressed that their customer and website details were not impacted by the attack as these are on a completely separate system.

WH Smith joined others, including JD Sport and Royal Mail, as being victims of cyberattacks recently, however, it appears they were the least affected of these three. The attack on JD Sport is believed to have potentially compromised the personal data (address, email address, and phone numbers) of 10 million people, and the attack on the Royal Mail resulted in well publicised delays to their international delivery services.

The Rise of AI

The public availability of tools such as OpenAI's ChatGPT are receiving a large amount of public attention, with many heralding this as a new age or that artificial intelligence (AI) is a threat to our future. This is an incredibly large topic, and one that will be reviewed in greater detail by Corps Consult in the future, however, there are a few points that are worth highlighting at this point to better inform anyone concerned about this. A brief overview of this topic requires a basic understanding of two areas, namely AI and machine learning (ML).

The Oxford Dictionary defines AI as:

"the theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and translation between languages."

And defines ML as:

"the use and development of computer systems that are able to learn and adapt without following explicit instructions, by using algorithms and statistical models to analyse and draw inferences from patterns in data."

The terms AI and ML are often used interchangeably, however, as is evident from the definitions, all ML is a form of AI but not all AI has the capacity for ML. The use of AI to automate processes was first used in 1951 and has continued to develop since then. In 1952 the first ML program was written which allowed a computer to play checkers and improve over time. Non-ML AI are far more commonly used as they are significantly less complex programs to write.

The use of AI's in search engines is not new. Google introduced the RankBrain AI to their systems in 2015 to help improve the accuracy of their searches. RankBrain and BERT, both used by Google, have ML capabilities. The significant difference between traditional search engines and tools like ChatGPT are how the algorithm interacts with the user. Traditional search engines provide links to websites based on key words on the sites, often operating on a system where priority will be given to sites that pay to be higher on the list. ChatGPT algorithm is designed to simulate a conversation and provides a written response to

the question, rather than a link to a site. This can take a lot of the work out of the exchange for the user as they do not need to read the website to gain the information, but the information is still gathered from the internet rather than "known".

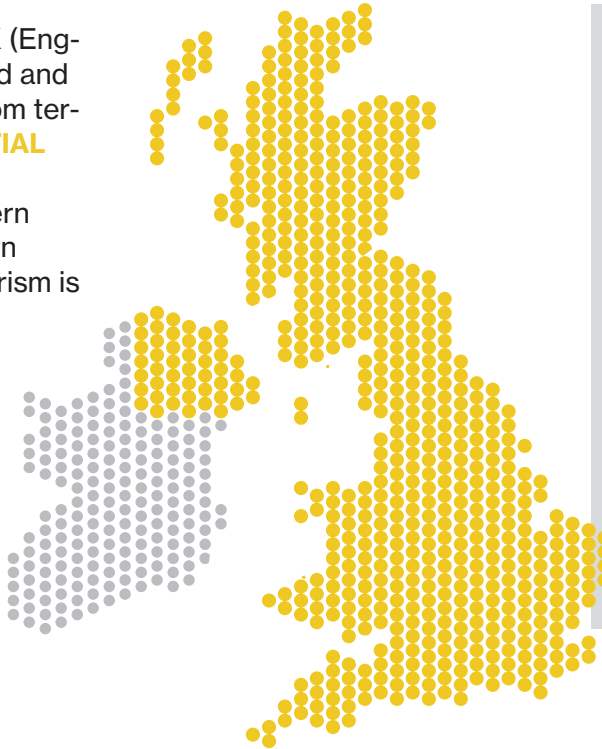
AI chat services are a very useful tool and will grow in use. They have the ability to be abused, including being used by students to cheat academically, but also to help potential malicious actors to gather information on targets or write malicious code (ChatGPT will provide lines of code for specific purposes on request). The potential for AI and ML for cybersecurity have been well publicised but the reverse is also true. This includes not only a potential for anyone to access malicious code/malware to use, but also the threat of a rogue malicious ML turned on a system no longer being a thing of science fiction. ML is an area that would benefit from a greater level of oversight and legislation to help mitigate a serious incident in the future.



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

Terrorist Attack in Gloucestershire

A 29-year-old man was arrested for multiple terrorism offences, including commission, preparation or instigation of terrorism, and suspicion of preparing acts of terrorism, following an attack on a woman on Thursday 9th March 2023. The attack took place at around 21:15 outside a leisure centre on Tommy Taylors Lane, Cheltenham, where a woman sustained serious injuries after being stabbed. The victim remains in a stable condition in hospital, whilst the attacker was arrested for attempted murder shortly after the attack. The attacker was later re-arrested under terrorism charges on Friday 11th March.

Notable Dates/Events

Key Religious Events, National Celebrations, and Anniversaries

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

- 1st March – St David's Day/ Feast of Saint David – A Christian celebration and Welsh patron saints' day
- 3rd March – 2nd Anniversary of the murder of Sarah Everard – key event anniversary
- 6th-7th March – Purim – a Jewish festival celebrates the survival of Jews who were marked for death by Persian rulers
- 8th March – Holi – a Hindu celebration
- 8th March – International Women's Day – an international event
- 8th-10th March – Hola Mohalla – A 3-day festival in which Sikhs enjoy communal meals, religious song and prayer, and martial arts performances
- 17th March – St Patrick's Day/ Feast of Saint Patrick – a Christian celebration and Irish patron saint's day
- 17th March – Red Nose Day – a UK charity event
- 19th March – St Joseph's Day – a Christian celebration
- 19th March – Mother's Day – an international celebration
- 22nd March – International Day of Action for the Seals – an international event
- 22nd-31st March – Navaratri – a Hindu festival that celebrates the Goddess Durga.
- 22nd March – 21st April – Ramadan – a holy month of fasting observed by Muslims
- 25th March – The Annunciation – a Christians celebration of the day the Angel Gabriel announced that Mary would give birth to Jesus.
- 30th March – 167th Anniversary of the End of the Crimean War – key event anniversary





Manchester Arena Inquiry Update

Corps Focus: Security Issue of the Month

The third volume of the [Manchester Arena Inquiry](#), titled [Manchester Arena Inquiry Volume 3: Radicalisation and Preventability](#), was published on 2nd March 2023. The final volume focuses on how the attacker became radicalised and whether the Security Service (MI5) and Counter Terrorism Police could have prevented the attack.

Volume 3 of the inquiry has two reports, a closed format that is shared to those with clearance to read, and an open format that is publicly available but has had key areas redacted. The closed report includes information that is not available to the public due to it being potentially damaging to National Security.

Further clarification on Publicly Accessible Locations (PALs) and the Tier System was provided recently, and a summary of these is below.

Proposed premises that will fall within the scope of PALs require “qualifying activities” to take place. 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 (universities).

Premises affected will need to 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+

A Standard Tier will drive good preparedness outcomes. Venues 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 and less than 799. 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 800 and over people at any time. This could include live music venues, theatres, and department stores.



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