

CORPS RELAY

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CORPS
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SECURITY

Update on the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill, also known as ‘Martyn’s Law’

The House of Commons Home Affairs Committee has published its review of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill. Within its report the HAC welcomed the Government’s intention behind the Draft Bill, however, expressed serious concerns about the proportionality of the Bill, especially in relation to the impact on smaller businesses and voluntary/community-run

organisations that would qualify as a standard tier premises. Corps Security have published a dedicated Corps Relay Special Bulletin which provides an oversight of the Committee’s review and the potential impact it will have for businesses which can be found [here](#).

Protective Security Funding Scheme for Places of Worship

The Home Office have launched two schemes to provide protective security at places of worship, namely:

- The Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme, and
- The Protective Security for Mosques Scheme

Through the schemes, places of worship can apply for protective security measures to be installed at their locations to provide enhanced security to protect the premises and attendees against hate crimes. Suggested security provision that can be installed includes:

- Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV)
- Secure fencing and gates (pedestrian and vehicular)
- Secure ingress/egress points including, door entry access control, video intercom systems, and improved locks
- Reinforced glazed windows
- Intruder alarms
- Improved Lighting

All measures provided by the scheme will be supplied and installed free of charge. This year, Mosques are also able to apply for the provision of security guarding services. The Protective Security Funding Scheme is available until 15 August 2023. Further enquiries can be directed to SecurityfundingCED@homeoffice.gov.uk



National Security Bill Becomes Law

After being passed by both Houses of Parliament and receiving Royal Assent, the National Security Bill passed into law on 11th July 2023. The government have stated “This new act brings together vital new measures to protect the British public, modernise counter-espionage laws and address the evolving threat to national security.” The new legislation is designed to make the UK harder to target for states seeking to conduct hostile acts against the UK. The legislation focuses on state level threats, including espionage, foreign interference (including threats against the political/electoral system), and sabotage. The Act also includes provision for acts that endanger life including the State sponsored kidnap and

assassination, such as reports from February 2023 that MI5 foiled 15 plots by Iran against British or UK-based ‘enemies’. Additionally, the Act introduces a new Foreign Influence Registration Scheme (FIRS), which criminalises those acting covertly for States which pose a threat to UK national security.

Ken McCallum, director general of MI5, stated, “The National Security Act is a game changing update to our powers. We now have a modern set of laws to tackle today’s threats.”

The Equipment Theft (Prevention) Act 2023 Receives Royal Assent

The Equipment Theft (Prevention) Act 2023 received Royal Assent and will come into power in 6 months’ time. The Act makes provisions to prevent the theft and re-sale of equipment and tools used by tradespeople and agricultural and other businesses. The Act requires manufacturers to ensure that their products are marked, registered, and traceable if stolen, making it harder for thieves to sell stolen tools, and helping re-unite them with their owners if they are stolen.

The Act should aid in prosecution of criminals, as well as impacting on the cost/benefit analysis conducted for some of the higher value thefts. As there will be enhanced security features on all pieces of equipment manufactured after the Act comes into power, it is possible that this will drive an increase on the targeting of older equipment as there is a reduced chance of that being identifiable if the criminal is apprehended. Similarly, it is possible that the difference in the security profile of the equipment may result in insurance companies increasing the risk of high value equipment pre-Act compared to its equivalent post-Act if older equipment proves to be more appealing to criminals.



The Government Updates the Counter-Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST 2023)

The terrorist threat in UK is unrelenting and ever evolving, with no single origin or methodology adopted. The rise of self-initiated terrorism (SITs) within the UK has further increased the challenge faced by the UK Intelligence Services as SITs provide fewer touch points for their harmful intentions to be detected than terrorist groups.

The previous publication of CONTEST, the UKs counter-terrorism strategy, was published in 2018 and this has now been updated for 2023. The strategy has been revised and refreshed in order to remain ahead of current and emerging threats and the government has labelled the latest iteration as 'a fresh approach'.

CONTEST was created to reduce the risk from terrorism to the UK through the four pillars, namely: Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare. The core CONTEST framework empowers government departments, devolved administration, local authorities, frontline emergency services, intelligence agencies and other partners, to work together to counteract and prevent the impact of terrorism. Ultimately, the aim of CONTEST is to provide security for UK citizens and interests at home and overseas, allowing people to go about their lives freely, safely, and with confidence.

CONTEST sets out the UK's bolstered approach to a domestic terrorist risk that's once again rising and becoming increasingly less predictable. The updated strategy addresses the persistent and evolving threat from terrorist groups, both at home and overseas, as well as the evolution of tactics used including the exploitation of technology and social media.

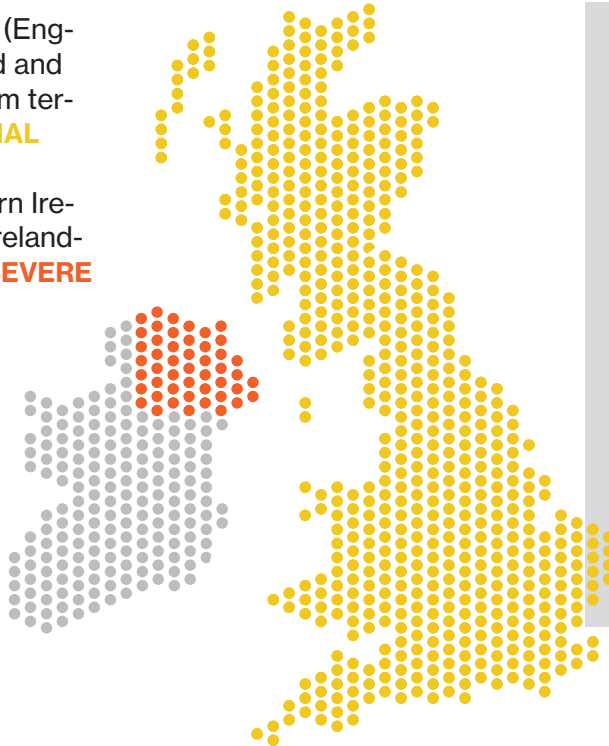
CONTEST will continue to counter the threat at every stage across Prevent, Pursue, Protect, and Prepare, from protecting against and mitigating the impact of terrorist attacks, through to challenging and neutralising the radicalising influences that result in some people choosing to become terrorists.



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 **SEVERE**



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

Hate Preacher Arrested on Suspicion of Terror Offence

Anjem Choudary (56), who is also known as the Hate Preacher, was arrested at his home in Ilford in the early hours of 17th July 2023. A 28-year-old male Canadian National was also arrested by Scotland Yard counter-terrorism officers. Both men were held on suspicion of being members of a proscribed organisation, contrary to section 11 of the Terrorism Act 2000. The investigation, which remains ongoing, has led to the police searching three properties in east London.

ISIS 'Jihadi' John Found Dead in Spanish Prison

Abdel-Majed Abdel Bary (32), a former British rapper believed to be the ISIS Terrorist known as 'Jihadi John', has been found dead in his prison cell in El Puerto de Santa Maria, Cadiz, Spain. Bary was awaiting the verdict of his trial in Madrid where he was accused of suspicion of heading the itinerant jihadist cell he is alleged to have formed after leaving Syria. Unconfirmed reports state that the body presented no obvious signs of any violence, however, an internal investigation will now take place.

A Spanish National Police spokesman said at the time of Bary's detention: "National Police officers have developed a counter-terrorism operation which has culminated in the arrest in Almeria of one of the most wanted Daesh Foreign Terrorist Fighters in Europe. Another two people have been arrested and the authorities are currently working to establish their identity and their relationship with the other man."

The Spanish report suggested that Bary was intending to return to the UK following the lockdown.

Counter Terrorism Police Arrest a 16-Year-Old Boy on Suspicion of Terror Offences

A 16-Year-Old boy from the Isle of White has been arrested on suspicion of terrorism offences. The Counter Terrorism Policing South East (CTPSE) and Hampshire and Isle of White Constabulary have the youth in custody. Investigations are ongoing and involve searches in Newport linked to the operation.

The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was arrested on suspicion of dissemination of terrorist publications under Section 2 of the Terrorism Act 2006 and collection of information under Section 58 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

This links to previous reports within Corps Relays about the rise in adolescent/juvenile terrorism, including; previous editions addressing where the Met Police sent letter to parents/guardians across every London borough warning of the risks of children becoming radicalised online during the summer holidays, the rise in far right terrorism which is targeting teenagers, the general rise in the percentage of those arrested for terror related offences showing a percentage increase for juveniles, and numerous instances of teenagers being arrested on terrorist charges.



Environmental Activism Focus

Corps Focus: Security Issue of the Month

Recent protest and activism activity headlines have been dominated by Just Stop Oil and their continued two-pronged primary approach of either disrupting major sporting and cultural events or disrupting traffic within London. Sporting events which have been targeted, with varying degrees of impact, includes the Ashes cricket tournament, the Open golf tournament, and Wimbledon lawn tennis championships (twice). High profile cultural events disrupted include London Pride, and the BBC Proms. The nature of disruption has been largely consistent, with activists seeking without warning to enter unauthorised areas such as the field of play at sporting events. The common goal of activists is to quickly seek a position of maximal exposure to the public and television cameras.

Activists have often thrown orange confetti or paint powder in the air (the main colour that Just Stop Oil use within their branding), after which they have sat down, and removed outer layers of clothing to reveal white or orange Just Stop Oil t-shirts.

The traffic disruption protests, which sees activists step out in front of London traffic in groups and commence slow marches, bringing vehicles to a near standstill, differs from the sporting/cultural event protests in both tactics, and frequency, with traffic disruption marches occurring almost daily. The culmination of these marches was the period of 17th to 21st July, with Just Stop Oil mobilising a significant number of activists and creating significantly more disruption. Using new Public Order Bill powers of arrest, the police have responded to and dispersed dozens of slow marches, which has also resulted in many arrests. The current policing bill for the last 3 months of Just Stop Oil slow marches stands at £7.7 million.

Whilst the impact of these actions has increased publicity and awareness (two recent YouGov polls

demonstrate this), any increase in support is very minor, and is countered by notable public discontent and frustration. Examples include the disapproval shown by crowds booing as activists have disrupted sporting events, although this has often been short-lived due to swift action by security teams removing activists. Disapproval has been displayed more seriously in multiple instances where motorists have attempted to physically remove activists from the road during slow marches, occasionally resulting in instances where activists have been assaulted by members of the public. Polling again reflects national public frustration which seems to far outstrip any positive support gained for the group.

Two other strategic environmental actions have also occurred in Scotland and Wales respectively, and which were by groups other than Just Stop Oil, summarised as follows:

- INEOS Grangemouth refinery: (Groups: Climate Camp Scotland /This Is Rigged) Multiple incidents mainly revolving around activists blocking key entry and exit roads by using chain and adhesive type methods to secure themselves to the ground.
- Fos Y Fran coal mine (Extinction Rebellion). Blocking the main site entrance with a pink Extinction Rebellion boat on a trailer, with activists on board, followed by a local area march during the following 24hrs.

Environmental activists report that they will continue with these actions until their political goal is achieved. As climate change continues to feature prominently within the news on a daily basis, including reports of new record temperatures and increased natural fires occurring across the globe, it is likely that activists will continue with this level of activity for the foreseeable future.



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