

CORPS RELAY

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CORPS
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SECURITY

Security Training Under the Spotlight

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The SIA responded to the programme stating "The behaviours captured in this documentary are both shocking and disappointing. It throws shades on parts of a training industry that's relied upon to play its part in public safety." The industry regulator

continued, "we have launched an investigation into the findings of the undercover operation, and we are working with the qualifications regulator in England (e.g. Ofqual) and the awarding organisations that it regulates to further examine the issues highlighted by File on 4."

This investigation helps emphasise that the SIA is a regulatory standard which is gained through a system that does have vulnerabilities for exploitation by fraudulent individuals and organisations, and is not a guarantee of capability, which should be assessed through supervision, training, testing and exercising. Guidance is available on the SIA's gov.uk website about where concerns can be reported.

Hezbollah Involvement in Israel-Gaza - Travel Advice Updated

The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) has updated its travel advice for Lebanon, advising against non-essential travel to the country and against all travel to the south of the country.

This announcement comes due to Lebanon's proximity to, and involvement with, the conflict in Israel and Gaza following the October 7th attacks by proscribed terrorist group Hamas against Israel, which were launched from Gaza. The FCDO has advised that travel advice is under constant review as the situation within the region is unpredictable and could deteriorate without warning.

It is of note that Hamas is now being supported in its actions by Hezbollah, the Lebanon-based terrorist group (also proscribed by HM Government). Indications at this stage are that the actions of both groups, which are from opposing Islamic sects (Sunni and Shia) are being orchestrated by Iran, in a proxy war against Israel.

United Kingdom-based organisations are advised to remain vigilant of the possibility of terrorist attacks on UK soil, increased levels of protests and activism related to the conflict, and the impact that the conflict may have on business operations within the region. The latest foreign travel advice and updates can be found on the UK government website at <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

Leader of the Opposition Targeted by Activist, Highlights Security Concerns

The Leader of the Opposition, Labour Party leader Sir Keir Starmer, was targeted by an activist during his key note speech at the Labour Party conference. The activist was able to breach the stage and drop glitter over Sir Keir Starmer. The activist, whose t-shirt indicated they were politically motivated, continued the recent series of breaches by activists at high profile events.

Most of these breaches have been attributed to the environmental activist group Just Stop Oil, who have not caused any known physical harm in the course of their actions, but who have over a period of months demonstrated that substantial vulnerabilities exist at high profile events. One vulnerability that has been identified is at the point of entry where bag or personal searches are occurring, but property or clothing indicating activism has not been noticed by security staff due to the type of search operation in place. A further vulnerability is the boundaries between the public, audience or crowd areas, and the restricted areas of arenas, production sets, and stages.

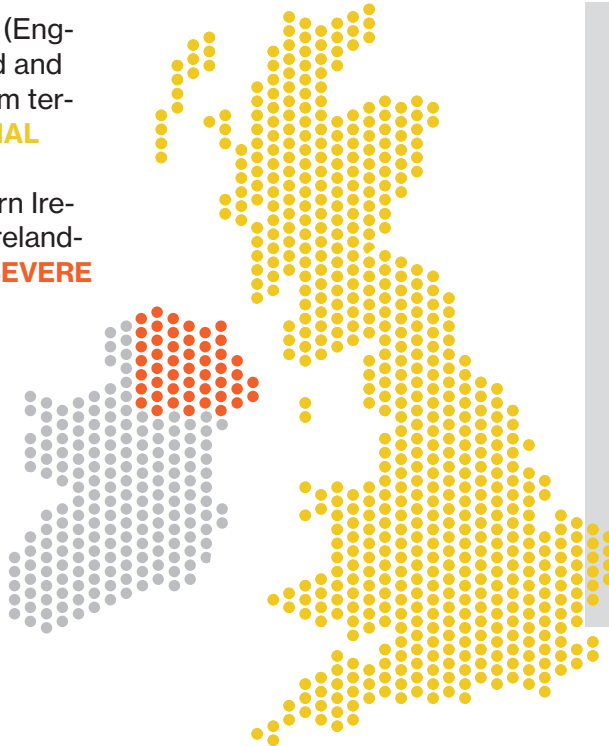
In this instance, the activist was arrested by the police, bailed, and has sent a formal apology to Sir Keir Starmer. However, security concerns remain around the areas identified, as whilst there has to be an appropriate balance between the fluid running of an event, and over restrictive security measures, a lone actor could be inspired to seriously or fatally harm a public figure by exploiting these same vulnerabilities.



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

Police Investigation Finds Liverpool Women's Hospital Bomber had an Asylum Grievance

Counterterrorism policing have stated that the man who detonated his improvised device in a taxi outside the Liverpool Women's Hospital, killing himself, had a grievance combined with mental ill health that likely led to the attack. The police report into the bombing stated that it was most likely that the man had a grievance against the British state for failing to accept his asylum claim. This was assessed as worsening his mental health, which in turn fed that grievance and ultimately led him to undertake the attack. The report states that there is no evidence that anyone else was involved in the attack and that he was acting as a self-initiated terrorist.

The re-emergence of this news story in the context of the article previously in this issue (see Evidence of Continued Terrorism and Fixated Threat Emphasised) reminds us of the threat to all sites from terrorism, and that it is critical to remain vigilant, make use of appropriate security and safety systems, and ensure that staff responsible for safety and security are well-versed in their roles.

Evidence of Continued Terrorism and Fixated Threat Emphasised

Three recent court cases have all highlighted how the threat of terrorism remains high. A 19-year-old male has been charged with preparation of terrorist acts and collecting information likely to be useful for terrorism contrary to the Terrorism Act 2000, and for possession of a firearm and ammunition contrary to the Firearms Act 1968. He was arrested in east London as part of a pre-planned operation and detained in relation to extreme right-wing terrorism. The extreme right-wing guidance that he was in possession of indicates that likely targets could have been non-Christian places of worship, immigration centres, or communities that house a large percentage of ethnic minorities.

A 35-year-old male has been sentenced to prison for more than eight years, for planting a potentially explosive device in the tourist location of Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. The court heard that the male, acting as self-initiated (lone actor) terrorist, planted an improvised pipe bomb containing nails inside a cardboard box within a shelter.

Finally, a 21-year-old male has pled guilty to Treason. He made headlines on Christmas day of 2021 after he was arrested for having scaled the perimeter of Windsor Castle using a rope ladder, armed with a loaded crossbow while wearing a metal Star Wars-inspired mask. Upon being arrested by police, he stated that he was attempting to kill the late Queen Elizabeth II.

It is of note that the male confided his plan to murder the monarch to an artificial intelligence-generated chatbot 'girlfriend' who responded to him with over 6,000 messages on an application called Replika. He pleaded guilty to attempting to "Injure or alarm" the monarch under the Treason Act, as well as possession of an offensive weapon and making threats to kill. He has been sentenced to nine years in custody but will remain in a hospital until he is deemed fit enough to go to prison.

These cases highlight the threat to life and property from certain threat categories against a diverse range of targets: iconic locations, city centres, and potentially non-Christian places of worship, immigration centres, or sub-urban areas with a high proportion of ethnic minority residents. It is imperative that vigilance is maintained across all sectors, which includes security staff remaining up to date with counterterrorism training, and those responsible for sites ensuring that physical security measures are commensurate, and procedures are in place, trained out, exercised, and stress tested.



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UK Knife Crime Focus

Corps Focus: Security Issue of the Month

On the evening of Saturday 30th September 2023, in Leicester City Centre, a 59-year-old was pronounced dead following a stabbing incident. Police arrested a 29-year-old on suspicion of murder close to the scene. A short time after in Glasgow, just after midnight, police attended another stabbing incident. A 30-year-old was stabbed multiple times, and later died in hospital of their injuries. Police again arrested a suspect, who has since been charged. An hour or so later, now in the early hours of the morning of Sunday 1st October, a triple stabbing occurred outside the Victoria Theatre in Halifax, West Yorkshire. At the time of writing two of the three victims have died from their injuries. A 19-year-old and two 18-year-olds have been arrested in connection with the incident. These three incidents came after a week where two connected stabbings took place in Luton which left two unidentified people seriously injured and a 16-year-old on their way home from school fatally wounded, and a college stabbing in Birmingham which saw another 16-year-old hospitalised.

These incidents draw attention to the stark issue of UK knife crime, which has increased 5% in

England and Wales in the 12 months from April 2022 to March 2023, with a total of 50,489 knife or sharp instrument offences during this period (Source: Office of National Statistics).

Although complex socio-economic factors lie behind the continued rise in knife crime, the fact

that knife crime is a current and substantial issue is straightforward, and there is a fundamental need within the security sector and generally within the public realm to remain vigilant at all times of this threat. In addition to the increased likelihood that those involved with criminal activity may be more likely to carry a knife, the knock-on effect of increased knife crime levels is that some members of the public may arm themselves with knives due to a belief that this may help them defend themselves, even though there is evidence that shows those who do so are likely to be attacked with their own knife. There may also be a higher likelihood that a third party seeking to break up a physical altercation is stabbed while doing so. It is for these reasons that security staff and other public facing service staff with safety responsibilities are being afforded greater levels of protection, training, and equipment to deal with the threat of knife crime. This includes additional personal protective equipment, body worn video, trauma specific first aid training and trauma first aid kits, and behavioural detection awareness training, which can be applied across a variety of operational areas including locations where person or bag searches are being conducted.

75%

The increase in knife crime in England and Wales in 2022 compared to March 2013 (Source: Office of National Statistics).

282

murders involving a knife or sharp instrument in England and Wales in the 12 months to March 2022. This is the highest total since 1946 (Source: Office of National Statistics).

99

young people aged under 25 were murdered with a knife or sharp object in the 12 months to March 2022. 13 were aged under 16 (Source: Office of National Statistics).



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