

CORPS RELAY

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CORPS
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SECURITY

Tony Eastaugh appointed Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner

The Home Secretary has appointed Mr Tony Eastaugh as the new Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner replacing Professor Fraser Sampson in the role. Mr Eastaugh was previously the Director General for Immigration Enforcement and a Commander in the Metropolitan Police for 12 years.

The Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner role was established by the

Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, which set out the rules on police use and retention of DNA and fingerprints, and to promote appropriate overt use of surveillance camera systems by relevant authorities in England and Wales. The Data Protection and Digital Information Bill currently before Parliament, will simplify oversight by abolishing the role and transferring the biometrics casework functions to the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office.

ULEZ Camera Blown Up in Sidcup

Counter Terrorism Police are investigating an explosion in Sidcup on Wednesday 6th December. The cause of the explosion is believed to have been a low sophistication Improvised Explosive Device (IED). The investigation follows the destruction of an Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) camera, which blew up in Willersley Avenue, Sidcup, at around

18:45. The explosion also resulted in a van and bus being damaged, and one individual requiring treatment for injuries at the scene. Officers from the Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism Command have urged anyone with information to contact them.

Home Office Announce Additions to the Class A Drug List

A new initiative announced by the Home Office has listed a further 20 dangerous opioids and drugs that are to be banned. These drugs include 15 new dangerous synthetic opioids and a further five other drugs being added to the highest level of ban under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Currently possession of Class A drugs carries a sentence of up to seven years imprisonment, while offenders caught supplying can face lifetime prison sentences.

The Home Office say many of these substances are incredibly dangerous and have similar effects to heroin and fentanyl, posing a higher risk of accidental overdose. Many of these drugs slow heart function and effect breathing, which can be life-threatening. Crime and Policing Minister

Chris Philp said: "These new highly dangerous substances have the potential to devastate lives, ruin families and damage local communities. Our strategy is to tackle both the illicit supply of drugs, relentlessly pursuing criminal networks, and to build a world-class treatment system to turn people's lives around and stop the cycle of crime."

A list of drugs included in the ban under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 can be found [here](#).

Winter and Festive Period Vigilance Campaign

Police forces across the country are reminding people to remain vigilant this winter. The festive season brings large crowds to town and city centres, as people attend markets and celebrations. Any time there is an increase in activity in this way, there are a small minority of people that will seek to use it to target unexpected individuals for their own gains. This includes a wide range of criminals, from fraudsters to pick pockets, as well as potential terror related incidents.

European Home Affairs Commission Ylva Johansson, amongst others, warned that there is an increased risk of hate and terror related incidents over the festive period. The recent attack in Paris, alongside the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, have resulted in several EU countries issuing similar warnings. UK Police are asking communities to stay alert and report anything that doesn't seem right.

Recent figures have shown that public reports made to Counter Terrorism Policing about possible terrorist activity have surged since the conflict between Israel and Hamas escalated in October. Between the 7th and the 25th of October, the total number of reports made across the country by the public using the anti-terror hotline and national online reporting channels reached 1,350, more than double those of the same period last year. Furthermore, the number of national reports with information useful to investigators across the country increased by nearly four times to 200.

A Police spokesperson said, "Whether you're attending an event, heading out shopping, or just going about your day-to-day life, it's really important that you are aware of your surroundings and report anything that doesn't look or feel right."



UK workers want their employers to play an active role during terror attacks

New research from the National Emergencies Trust and Business in the Community (BITC) has found that 76% of employees want the company they work for to play an active role during UK disasters such as terror attacks, floods, or another pandemic. The research also found that:

- 32% of UK workers want their employer to provide wellbeing support to any colleagues who may be affected by a national crisis
- 32% want their employer to step up for other people affected by donating items, and
- 31% want their employer to raise funds or make a donation

The Opinion survey also revealed that workers want to play their part during national emergencies, with 29% wanting support from their employer so that they and their colleagues can volunteer their time. Furthermore, 26% would like their employer to help them and colleagues to fundraise for those affected.

The research is being released as the National Emergencies Trust launches its Appeal Partners Programme, which invites networked organisations and UK companies to raise vital awareness and funds during future emergencies to provide as much support as possible to survivors and their loved ones.

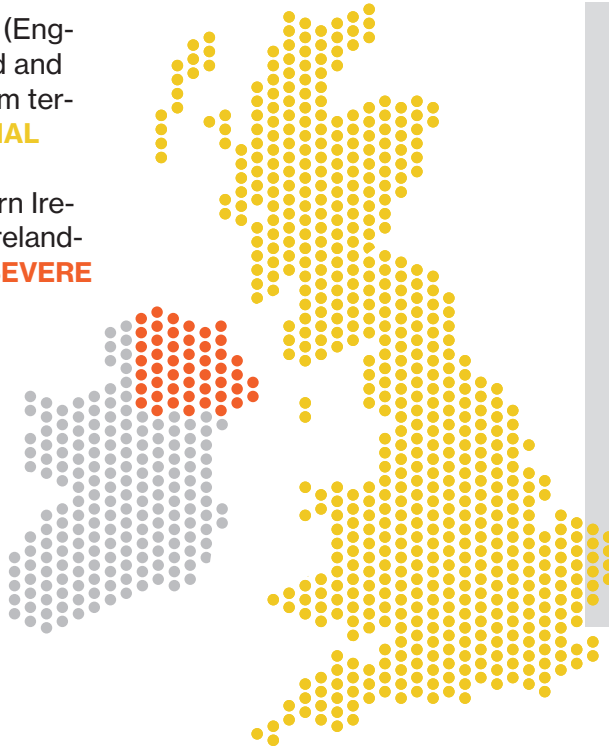
The survey revealed that helping during emergencies can have a positive impact for companies. 9% of the 4,000 UK adults polled said it was a way for companies to show they care about the communities they serve. 37% said companies could demonstrate that they live their values, while 30% felt it was a way for companies to strengthen their culture. More information on the National Emergencies Trust and its Appeal Partners Programme can be found [here](#).



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

Counter-Terrorism Police to be given more powers to retain biometrics

Proposed changes in data protection laws seek to grant Counter-Terrorism Police the authority to retain biometric information of individuals who pose a potential threat. The UK Government has announced the plan as one of several amendments to the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill aimed at bolstering national security and preventing fraud.

The change in the law on biometrics would only be enabled in cases where there is an INTERPOL notice in force, matching the process with the international police organisation's own retention rules. In addition, in cases where an individual has a conviction in a foreign court, their biometrics will be retained indefinitely in the same way as is currently the case for those with UK convictions. The announcement said this is particularly important

where foreign nationals may have existing convictions for serious offences including those related to terrorism.

Home Secretary James Cleverly said his "priority is to continue cutting crime and ensuring the public is protected from security threats. Law enforcement and our security partners must have access to the best possible tools and data, including biometrics, to continue to keep us safe.

"This bill will improve the efficiency of data protection for our security and policing partners, encouraging better use of personal information and ensuring appropriate safeguards for privacy." Amendments to the bill will be considered in Parliament next week.



‘Terror’ attack kills German tourist and wounds two others near France’s Eiffel Tower

Corps Focus: Security Issue of the Month

A German tourist has been killed and two others, including a British man, have been injured following a knife and hammer attack in central Paris, in what has been described by French President Emmanuel Macron as “a terrorist attack”.

The attack happened on the Quai De Grenelle, just minutes from the Eiffel Tower, shortly before 21:00hrs local time (20:00hrs GMT) on Saturday 2nd December. The German victim, a nurse who was visiting Paris, was with his wife when he was attacked and fatally stabbed on the Quai De Grenelle before the suspect fled across a nearby bridge spanning the river Seine.

After crossing to the north side of the river, the suspect then attacked two others: a French male and a British male tourist both in their 60’s. It’s reported that the British male suffered a blow to the eye with a hammer. The French Health Minister said on Sunday that both men were “in good health” following the attack. The attacker was chased by Police before being tasered and arrested on suspicion of assassination - defined in French law as premeditated murder - and attempted assassination in relation to a terrorist enterprise. It’s reported that the alleged attacker was heard shouting “Allahu Akbar”, Arabic for “God is greatest”, and allegedly told police he was upset because “so many Muslims are dying in Afghanistan and in Palestine”.

French anti-terrorism prosecutor Jean-François Ricard stated the 26-year-old suspect arrested, Armand R, was a French national born in France to Iranian parents and had already been under surveillance for suspected Islamist extremism following a four-year prison sentence in 2016 for planning another attack. He had previously pledged allegiance to the Islamist

State Group (IS) in a video recorded before Saturday’s attack which was posted on social media and is also understood to have suggested France was complicit in the deaths of Palestinians in Gaza.

An investigation is now underway into murder and attempted murder in connection with a terrorist organisation, prosecutor Ricard told a news conference. Three other people from the suspect’s family or entourage were in Police custody, he added. European security officials have warned of a growing risk of attacks by Islamist militants amid the Israel-Hamas war, with the biggest threat likely from “self-initiated terrorist” (SITs), or “lone wolf” assailants, who are hard to track.

France has been on high alert since raising its security threshold in October, when a man of Chechen-origin killed a teacher with a knife in a school in the north of the country. Pre-empting any that would question the security of the area less than eight months before the French capital is due to host the 2024 Olympic Games, Paris police chief Laurent Nunez told BFM TV on Sunday that the terrorism threat was “permanent”, and that the opening ceremony had been prepared with security measures considering a “high level” of terrorism threat.

French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne responded to the attack by posting on X: “We will not give in to terrorism.”



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