

CORPS RELAY

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CORPS
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SECURITY

Latest Threat Update from MI5 Director General

The second reading of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill, also known as Martyn's Law, took place in the House of Commons on 14th October and was met with broad support from MPs. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper expressed that the legislation is essential for balancing the protection of lives while ensuring that people can enjoy their daily activities without excessive restrictions. Cooper highlighted that "doing nothing is, in my view, not an option," reiterating the importance of proactive measures to safeguard public venues from potential terrorist attacks.

Figen Murray OBE, who is the driving force behind Martyn's Law following the tragic loss of her son in the Manchester Arena attack, attended the reading and shared her hope for its swift implementation. Having actively campaigned for new legislation since 2017, Ms Murray said after the second reading that it feels like "the beginning of the end of the campaign". Whilst there is still a lot of process to go through before the bill comes into law, this is another step closer to that end goal.

Latest Threat Update from MI5 Director General

Director General Ken McCallum delivered his latest update on the current national security threats facing the UK. He outlined a significantly complex and interconnected threat landscape and emphasised the overall terror threat level remains at "substantial," indicating that an attack is likely. Key points from his update include:

- Complex Threat Environment:** McCallum stated that the UK is confronting its most intricate security challenges, driven by a combination of terrorism, cyber threats, and activities from state actors, particularly from countries like Russia, Iran, and China.
- Terrorism Statistics:** Since March 2017, MI5 and police forces have disrupted 43 late-stage attack plots, with around 75% linked to Islamist extremism and 25% to right-wing terrorism. McCallum highlighted that 13% of individuals involved in ongoing investigations are under 18, identifying the trend of youth involvement in extremist activities, a topic addressed in several previous issues of Corps Relay with another reported in this edition.
- State Threats:** McCallum reported a 48% increase in investigations related to state-sponsored threats, particularly from Iran and Russia, which are implicated in numerous plots aimed at creating chaos within the UK. He noted that 20 Iran-backed plots have been

intercepted since January 2022.

- International Cooperation:** He stressed the importance of international collaboration, particularly with the Five Eyes intelligence alliance (UK, US, Australia, Canada, New Zealand), to combat the evolving threats he outlined.
- Influence of Global Events:** McCallum stated that current geopolitical tensions, especially concerning the Middle East, have the potential to incite violence within the UK, although a significant increase in terrorism has not yet occurred.
- Emerging Terrorist Groups:** He raised concerns about the resurgence of groups like al-Qaeda and Islamic State, which are attempting to regain operational capabilities and export terrorism.

Overall, the update from McCallum underscores a heightened need for vigilance and robust counter-terrorism strategies in response to the multifaceted threats facing the UK today. He thanked security services, law enforcement, the intelligence community and government partners both domestically and internationally for their collaboration and support which has been key to success.

Security Campaigns Promote Better Security Culture

As part of building a better security culture in your place of work a great initiative is the use of security campaigns.

This month we look at 'Wear them in, don't wear them out'.

Threat Actor(s) (individuals or groups of individuals seeking to breach or otherwise undermine an organisation's security measures) look for a way to enter your premises and may use fake ID passes. Additionally, Threat Actor(s) may target individuals based on where they work, so wearing easily identifiable items or clothing outside of work could attract unwanted attention.

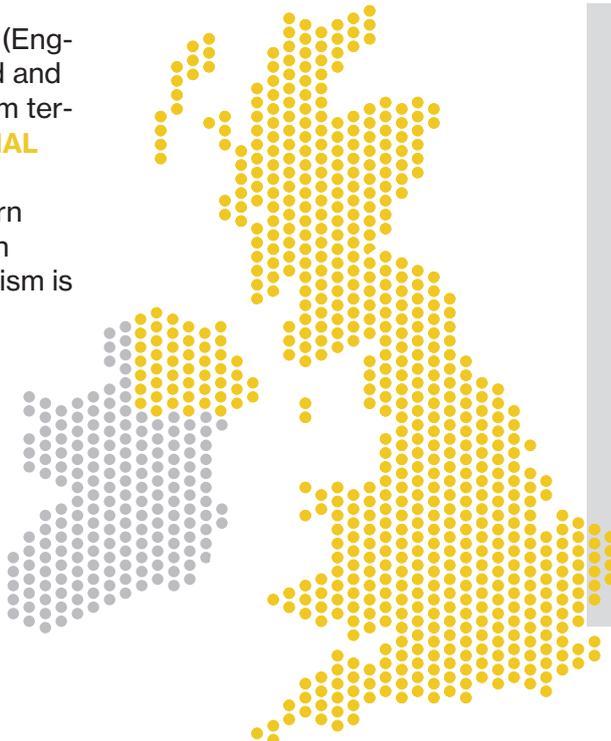
This risk can be mitigated by removing your ID pass when outside the access-controlled areas in public and covering uniforms when commuting to/from work. Also, when inside work areas, ensure you display your ID pass and challenge anyone not wearing theirs.



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

Teenager Charged with Terrorism Offences

A 15-year-old boy, who cannot be named due to his age, has been charged with four terrorism offences. The teenager from Wakefield, was charged with three offences of collecting or making a record of information of a kind likely to be useful to a

person committing or preparing an act of terrorism, contrary to s.58 of the Terrorism Act 2000, and one offence of disseminating terrorist publications, contrary to section 2 of the Terrorism Act 2006.

Falkirk Far-Right White Supremacist convicted of Terror Offences

Alan Edwards (54), from Falkirk, Scotland, is reported to have collected an array of weapons at his home where he was planning an attack on a Local LGBT group. Edwards, a former journalist with over 28,000 followers on social media, has been described as a 'Neo Nazi' white supremacist who glorified Hitler, denied the Holocaust, mocked the murder of George Floyd, and invited support for a proscribed far-right terrorist group.

Edwards was not only found guilty of four charges under the Terrorism Act, but was also found guilty of racism, antisemitism, Holocaust denial, and statutory breach of the peace. He was also found guilty of possessing weapons and ammunition, producing and supplying cannabis, and possessing a stun gun.

Anti-Vaccination Conspiracy Theorist Found Guilty of Terrorism Offences

Patrick Ruane (55), from Paddington, London, participated in several Telegram groups that spread conspiracy theories and misinformation about Covid-19 vaccines being designed for population control. Ruane posted that Sir Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Adviser, should be "whacked" and said it was a "shame" a creator of the AstraZeneca vaccine had not been assassinated. Ruane's post reached a very large audience through the two groups on the Telegram Messenger App, one of

which had 18,000 users and the other 8,000.

Ruane was cleared of a charge of possession of a document or record for terrorist purposes, contrary to section 58 of the Terrorism Act 2000, when he was said to possess a manual that included viable instructions for making Semtex. Ruane was found guilty of two charges of encouraging terrorism, contrary to section 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006.



Raneem's Law

Corps Focus: Security Issue of the Month

Home Secretary Yvette Cooper has announced that she will lead a cross-government initiative to tackle violence against women and girls. The initiative will form part of 'Raneem's Law', in memory of Raneem Oudeh and her mother Khaola Saleem, who were murdered by Raneem's ex-husband in 2018.

The police stated that almost 100 domestic abuse related offences were recorded every hour last year, and this initiative will ensure calls for help are treated with the urgency victims will need along with immediate specialist support.

The government will fund this pilot in targeted police forces from early 2025. Specialists with expertise in domestic abuse will be embedded in 999 control rooms to advise on risk assessments and work with officers on the ground, to ensure that victims get a fast response when needed and are referred to support services as quickly as possible.

Nour Norris, lead campaigner, aunt and sister of Raneem Oudeh and Khaola Saleem, said: "Raneem's Law will ensure that domestic abuse specialists are present in 999 control rooms, so victims' calls for help are taken seriously and that lives are saved by making sure no warning signs are ignored, unlike in Raneem's story. I am deeply proud that this government has listened and acted quickly to make Raneem's Law a reality. Their commitment to addressing domestic violence has shown me that change is possible when

we refuse to stay silent. Knowing that Raneem's name will now be a source of hope and protection for others fills me with a sense of pride I cannot put into words. Raneem's memory lives on in this law, and it means the world to me to know that her story will help save lives".

From November 2024, domestic abusers will be ordered to stay away from their victims and face tougher sanctions if they fail to do so through the launch of the new domestic abuse protection order pilot. The pilot will build on powers police already have to legally order abusers to not make contact with or go within a certain distance of the victim.

The new orders will make it a legal requirement for perpetrators to inform the police of any change in name or address, imposing electronic tagging, and ordering assessments for behaviour change programmes, and there will be no maximum duration for these orders as currently it is set to 28 days.

The orders will cover all forms of domestic abuse, including violence, stalking and controlling behaviour, extending from the police and criminal courts to other agencies such as family and civil courts, and third parties such as local authorities, charities and social services, with victims also able to apply directly for the order themselves.

Breaching these new orders will be a criminal offence, punishable by up to five years in prison.



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