

# CORPS RELAY

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**CORPS**  
— Est. 1859 —  
**SECURITY**

# UK Home Secretary introduces stricter knife laws

UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper announced in February that stricter rules for online retailers selling knives will be introduced by the government.

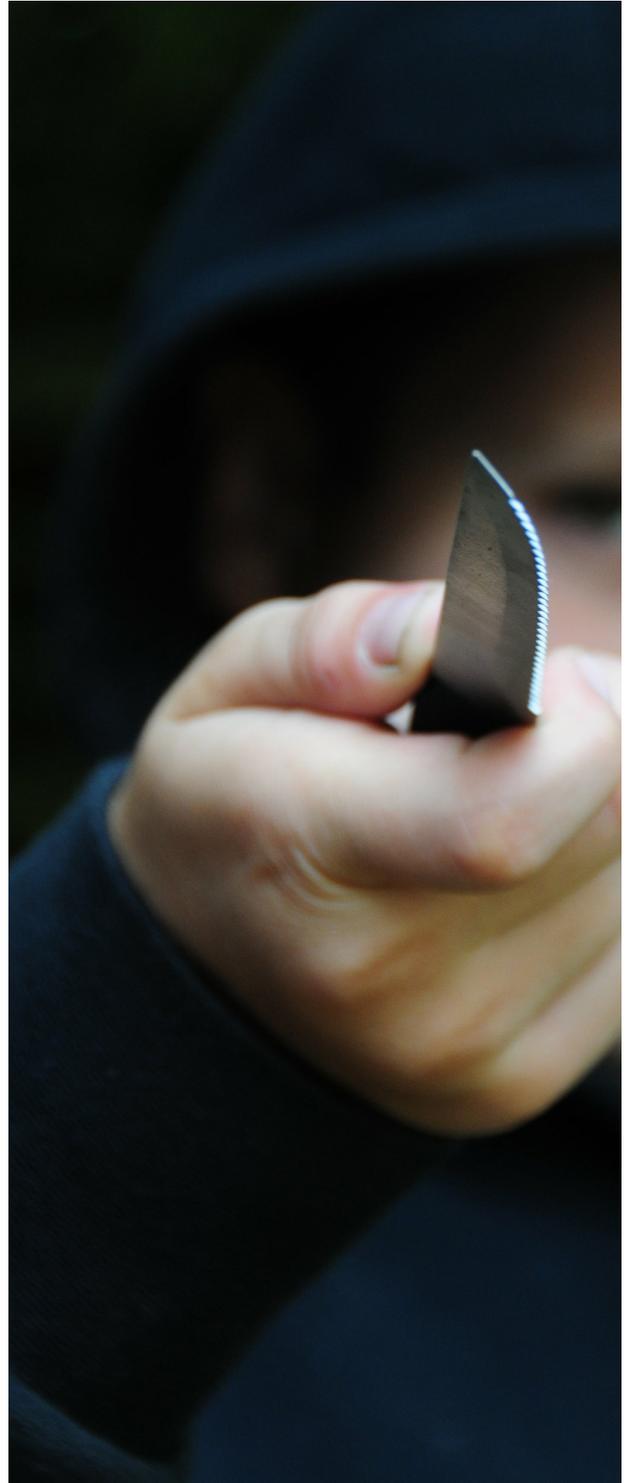
The series of measures, known as 'Ronan's Law', in memory of 16 year old Ronan Kanda who was murdered in Wolverhampton 2022, is the government's latest approach to combating knife crime in the UK, and include tougher penalties for those who fail to follow / enforce them.

The key measures associated with 'Ronan's Law' include:

- Retailers will be required to report any bulk or suspicious-looking purchases of knives on their platforms to police to prevent illegal resales happening across social media accounts.
- Custodial sentences for selling weapons to under 18's will increase from 6 months to up to 2 years, this could also apply to an individual who has processed the sale or a CEO of the company. This increased penalty will also apply to the sale or supply of prohibited offensive weapons such as recently banned zombie-style knives.
- A new offence of possessing an offensive weapon with intent for violence will be introduced in the Crime and Policing Bill which will come with a prison sentence of up to 4 years in prison. This means that regardless if the weapon in possession is legal or not, if there is intent to cause violence, it is a crime.
- Consideration is also being given to the implementation of a registration system to ensure only 'responsible' sellers are permitted to sell knives. This follows the government's recent announcement that they will 'significantly strengthen ID checks on the sale and delivery of knives to keep our streets safe as part of the Plan for Change'.

The Home Secretary said recently:

"It is horrifying how easy it is for young people to get hold of knives online even though children's lives are being lost, and families and communities are left devastated as a result. This government has set an ambitious mission for the country to halve knife crime over the next decade and we will pursue every possible avenue to save young lives".



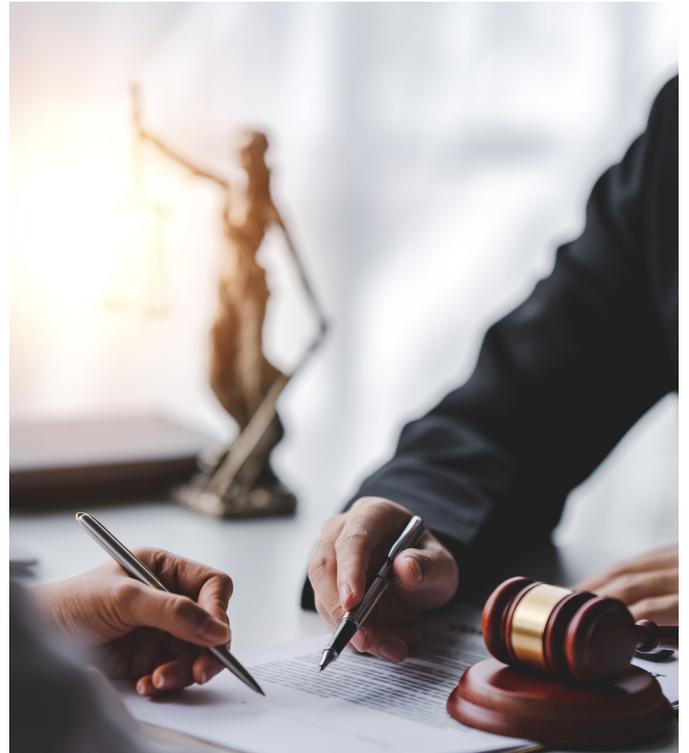
# Mayor of London proposes £83m Investment in Met Police

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan has proposed an additional investment of £83 million in the Metropolitan Police Service for the next financial year. His proposal includes £10 million from City Hall and £73 million from central government, bringing the total mayoral funding for the Met to an all-time high of £1.159 billion for 2025-26.

If approved, the funding aims to preserve hundreds of police officer positions and reduce anticipated cuts to key specialist units. In November, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) projected a reduction of 1,899 officers by March 2026 due to underfunding. The new investment is expected to significantly reduce these cuts, with more detailed plans to be announced in March 2025.

Mayor Khan underlined his renewed commitment to public safety, stating:

“Bearing down on crime and keeping Londoners safe is my top priority as Mayor.”



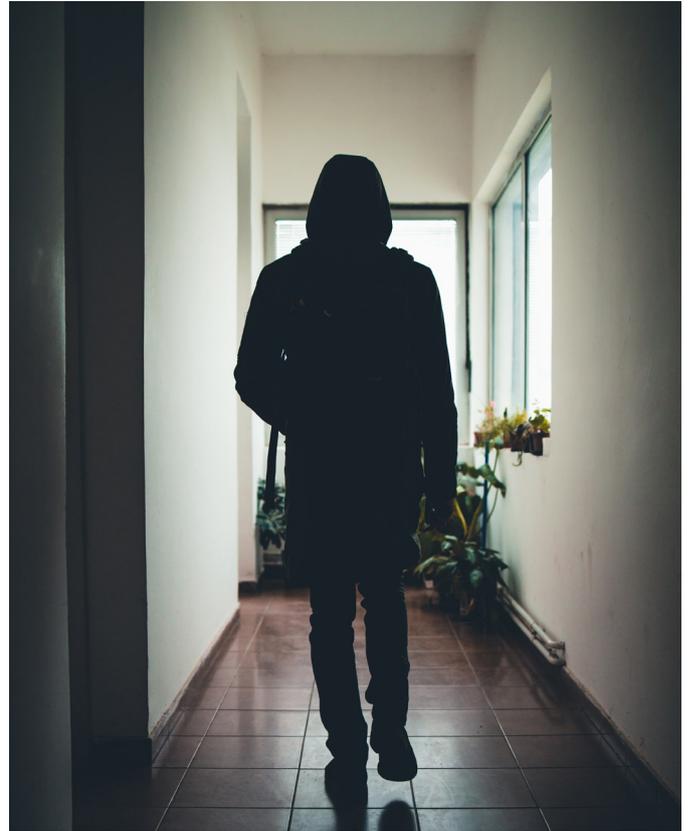
# The Prevent Strategy

Prevent sits alongside safeguarding duties for professionals and is one of the four parts of CONTEST, the governments counter-terrorism strategy. The Prevent strategy aims to stop people from becoming terrorist and or supporting terrorism. This is delivered by the Home Office, working with local authorities and a wide range of other government, and community organisations. The guidance for England and Wales (Scotland has a separate guidance) is under Section 29 of the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 (updated September 2023).

An overview of the Prevent Strategy objectives:

- Responds to ideological challenges from terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat of those that promote these views
- Provides early intervention to individuals at risks of radicalisation from being drawn into terrorism and ensures they are given appropriate advice and support
- Works with and rehabilitates people who have already been involved in terrorism

Further information and Prevent duty training can be found at the following: <https://www.support-people-susceptible-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk/>



# Sir David Amess Murder - Prevent Learning Review

Sir David Amess MP was murdered in October 2021 by Ali Harbi Ali (26) who was known to the government as he was part of the Prevent programme.

A Prevent Learning Review, jointly commissioned by Counter Terrorism Policing and the Home Office following the murder, was published on 12th February 2025. Matt Jukes, Head of Counter Terrorism Policing stated, "It is clear from the Prevent Learning Review that the management and handling of Ali's case in 2014 should have been better.

The report also acknowledges that by the time of the attack in 2021, significant changes had been made, and

more work has been done since then to act upon the review's recommendations." Duke further commented "Difficult decision in steering people away from radicalisation continue to be made every day, and with almost 60,000 Prevent referrals in the last decade we owe it to all those affected, including those making the decisions, to take every opportunity possible to improve the system. It is critical that we use reviews such as this to ensure the system works now, and in the future, so that other families are spared the pain felt by the loved ones of Sir David."

Terrorist Activity can be reported via the following link: <https://act.campaign.gov.uk/>

# Social Media Monitoring

Social media monitoring over the previous month has noted spikes in social interactions in relation multiple industries, but most notably within the banking and education sectors.

**Banking** – The social commentary online and spike in conversation within the banking sector was largely linked to the behaviour of two cabinet ministers within government, and in particular the current chancellor Rachel Reeves. Reeves was under pressure over embellishments she has allegedly made on her CV where she has a previous working background within the banking sector. This information was highlighted within the mainstream media, and was used by opposition politicians to highlight what they believe would be hypocrisy and a lack of integrity, which has been denied by the chancellor. There has previously been marches and demonstrations around Whitehall, marching on Downing Street, most notably in relation government ministers alleged rule breaking within during Covid 19 Lockdowns. While at present, demonstrations at this scale appear unlikely, it is certainly a realistic possibility that demonstrators could march on Downing Street in the near future, if the trending continues.

**Education** – There has also been a steady spike over the last month in relation to the education sector, due to demonstrations at university campuses. Students have been demonstrating in relation to links between these universities and what they perceive as financial complicity and research ties to weapons firms supplying arms to Israel. Most recently, the conversation appears to be levied now at universities and a perceived crack down on students right to protest.

Universities have threatened students with sanctions as severe as expulsion, should they participate in any protest or demonstration that inhibits the movements of others on campuses. These protests are likely to continue in the coming months, however given the social commentary in relation to student protest crackdowns, there may well be further protesting on campuses purely in relation to the right to protest, increasing activism on university campuses.

**Just Stop Oil** – There has been a steady mention of activist groups that were trending socially, which were mainly Extinction Rebellion, and the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign, which would be expected given the demonstrations that have occurred over the last two weeks of the month in relation to climate activism and events in Palestine. What is interesting is the most mentioned activism group over the last month is Just Stop Oil, despite them not participating in any demonstrations. Just Stop Oil appear to be mentioned by other organisations in relation to their treatment compared to other protest groups, with a large spike coinciding with the farmers protests in London, with many commenting the unfairness that members of Just Stop Oil were arrested and prosecuted yet many other protest groups have not been. The term “Two Tier” used during the 2024 Summer UK riots to describe how police dealt with certain protests and demonstrations more harshly, now appears to be widely used by all groups to describe an incident they believe to be unfair or unjust. At present, this trend is likely to continue, as Just Stop Oil activist are summoned for court appearances for activity that occurred the year previous

# 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

## Teen Imprisoned for Terrorism Offences

Shaan Farooq (19) from Birmingham was found guilty for three counts of intentionally distributing terrorism material after he had previously pleaded guilty to possessing terrorism material in May to June 2022. Farooq

was given three, four-year sentences for intentionally distributing terrorism material and 18 months for possessing terrorism material which will run consecutively.

## Man Found Guilty of Planning to Attack a Mosque

Jason Savage (35) from Birmingham was convicted for researching and planning an attack on a Mosque and book store in Small Heath. Savage had converted to Islam in the 2010's and followed an extreme and violent interpretation of the Salafi movement. This led to Savage targeting a Salafi cleric who was outspoken about Islamist terrorism and extremism contrary to Savage's views. Days prior to his arrest Savage changed his WhatsApp profile to 'Lone Wolf' and voice messaged a friend stating that, 'he would

see him in paradise' indicating he was planning to carry out an attack on his own.

Savage was charged with Section 5 of the Terrorism Act 2006, engaging in conduct in preparation for acts of terrorism.

# Woman Who Planned to Join Daesh in Afghanistan Found Guilty of Terrorism Offences

Farishta Jami (36) from Stratford-upon-Avon, was convicted of two counts of engaging in conduct in preparation for terrorism under Section 5 of the Terrorism Act 2006. Jami was planning to travel to Afghanistan to join Daesh and martyr herself. The courts heard that she was an administrator on several of the groups, overseeing the posting and messaging of the users. Some of the groups had over 700 members and disseminated large amounts of Daesh propaganda including instructional videos to make devices so Daesh could see that she was loyal and committed to the cause.





## Trump Tariffs and the UK

# Corps Focus: Security Issue of the Month

Donald Trump has a well-established history of using tariffs as a strategic tool in its trade negotiations. His 'America First' agenda prioritises protecting domestic industries, which is what leads him into imposing tariffs on imported goods. Currently, tensions are escalating in a global trade conflict as more nations introduce retaliatory measures in response to his blanket tariffs on steel and aluminium imports to the United States.

The United States' imposition of 25% tariffs on steel and aluminium imports since 12 March 2025, has already impacted UK industries. These tariffs extend to products incorporating these metals, including furniture, fitness equipment, and industrial machinery. In 2024, UK exports of steel and aluminium, encompassing both raw materials and manufactured goods, to the US were valued at approximately £2.7 billion.

The European Union is poised to implement retaliatory tariffs, with a phased introduction commencing on 01 April 2025, and full implementation by 13 April 2025. It is anticipated that the US administration will respond with further tariffs on EU products. The EU has declared its intention to impose counter-tariffs on £22 billion worth of US imports. In a manner similar to the situation with Canada, the EU is likely to take a firm stance.

In contrast, the UK's approach, as articulated by Kier Starmer on 12 March 2025, emphasizes a pragmatic stance, with all options under consideration, reflecting a prioritization of securing a trade agreement. This approach potentially aligns with the diplomatic strategy employed by Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, who has successfully negotiated delays in tariff implementation through diplomatic engagement.

Should the existing tariffs on steel and aluminium demonstrate a positive impact on the US economy, the likelihood of the Trump administration expanding tariff measures to encompass other import sectors increases substantially. As the US is the UK's largest single trading partner, any imposition of tariffs is likely to adversely affect the UK economy. The effects will almost certainly vary, depending on the industry and the measure the US implements on other countries the UK has partnerships with.

However, subsequent reports, indicate that Donald Trump has explicitly stated there will be no exemptions to the imposed tariffs. This development significantly increases the possibility of a retaliatory response from Kier Starmer. Should the UK pursue retaliatory measures to Trump's tariffs, a subsequent escalation by the US administration, in the form of additional tariffs on a wider range of goods, is highly likely. The UK's ability to avoid a trade war currently remains uncertain.



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