

CORPS RELAY

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CORPS
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SECURITY

Proscribed, Rebranded, Resilient: The Shifting Face of Direct Action

On 5 July 2025 at 0001hrs, Palestine Action (PA) was formally proscribed under the Terrorism Act 2000, placing it alongside groups like alQaeda and Hamas. Making membership, support, or even displaying slogans a criminal offence punishable by up to 14 years' imprisonment.

Protesters in Parliament Square, London, held a vigil supporting Palestine Action that afternoon. Within around 30–90 minutes, the Metropolitan Police arrested 29 individuals, including an 83-year-old retired priest, on suspicion of terrorism offences.

Since Palestine Action was officially proscribed as a terrorist organisation in early July 2025, police have arrested over 120 people across the UK on terrorism-related charges, primarily for expressing support for the group. As of 28 July 2025, it does not appear that any individuals arrested solely for public support have yet been formally charged or prosecuted.

Approximately one hour prior to the proscription, PA launched a new, secret website called "Direct Action Training" hosted on an Icelandic IP address, almost certainly to protect data and avoid UK jurisdiction. The Telegraph revealed that the site invites prospective recruits to complete a 14-question vetting form, soliciting personal details, political beliefs, direct action experience (e.g. climbing), and self-assessed dedication to "dismantling the Zionist war machine in the UK". This mirrors earlier PA recruitment tactics, which also screened for security risks and practical skills.

It is highly likely that Direct Action Training is either a rebranded arm of PA or a proxy group established to continue its agenda post-proscription. PA is highly likely to use the new website, under the guise of Direct-Action Training, to recruit individuals for activism aligned with its previously stated aims. This is likely to serve as a continuity strategy to sustain operations despite the group's official ban. PA's actions likely suggest a strategic effort to obscure direct affiliations while maintaining recruitment, training, and ideological mobilisation.

Additionally, it is likely that we will continue to see a rise in pro-Palestinian aligned protests adopting similar tactics, techniques, and procedures to those previously employed by PA. This will likely be in solidarity with PA or because PA activists, who do not wish to be arrested on terrorist charges, will now seek to align themselves with other pro-Palestine groups, which will likely lead to subtle shifts of the TTPs of these organisations as they absorb members with a history of direct action and disruptive protest associated with PA.

TTPs are likely to include one or more of the following: high-visibility disruptions, occupation of symbolic sites, and the signature use of red paint to symbolise Palestinian bloodshed. Evidence of this tactical diffusion has already emerged: at a recent Pride event, the group Youth Demand, while not formally linked to PA, carried out a direct action using red paint, clearly echoing the aesthetic and confrontational style of PA's previous operations. This suggests a growing convergence in protest methods among ideologically aligned groups, particularly as PA's proscription may push activists to rebrand or embed themselves within other campaigns.

Although PA is now a proscribed organisation, there remains a realistic possibility that hardline activists will continue to protest under the group's name, particularly as many view the proscription as politically motivated and unjust. Since the proscription of the group in early July, over 200 people have been arrested, many just for displaying support for the group by displaying banners.

It was announced on 30 July that PA has obtained permission to legally challenge its ban, allowing the group to contest the decision to designate it as a terrorist organisation. This ruling enables PA's appeal to be considered, rather than dismissed without review, which is likely to result in increased attention or involvement from supporters and activists.

Strava Reveals the Locations and Whereabouts of the Swedish PM

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson's private address and movements were inadvertently exposed via the fitness app Strava. According to an investigation by Swedish Newspaper, Dagens Nyheter, over 1,400 activities logged by his bodyguards over the past year revealed his residence, running routes, and travel details. The investigation also found that the locations of other top officials, including royals, were made public.

What is important to clarify is that no data breach occurred; users shared their information voluntarily due to improper use of privacy settings, despite media reports of a "leak."

The consequences of inadequate operational and personal security should not be underestimated if sensitive information is accessed by hostile parties or states. Data disclosures can reveal patterns and behaviours - such as running routes - that may be exploited not only by organised threat actors but also by individuals with malicious intent. Such data has the potential to be used for intelligence gathering, attack planning, and ultimately jeopardising the safety of protected persons.

This highlights what was inadequate operational and personal security and how easily sensitive information can be exposed to hostile parties, risking misuse for intelligence gathering or attack planning. Disclosed data, such as patterns or behaviours, can easily be exploited by threat actors and individuals, jeopardising protected persons' safety.

This situation is not unique and highlights the possibility of information being exposed as a result of oversight rather than intentional actions. For instance, in 2018, Strava released a global heatmap to display frequently used running routes, which unintentionally revealed the locations of U.S. military bases around the world due to the activity of service personnel.

Social media apps are designed for user interaction and usually default to open settings. To protect one's privacy, it is imperative that locations and other information are set to private.

You can review your privacy settings by visiting the National Cyber Security Centre's website: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/social-media-how-to-use-it-safely>



Donald Trump's State Visit Confirmed

US President Donald Trump will make his second state visit to the UK from 17 to 19 September 2025, the first time a US president has done so.

Donald Trump's visits to the UK have prompted significant public protests, including an estimated 100,000 people in London in 2018 and over 10,000 during his 2019 state visit, reflecting widespread opposition among some segments of the British public.

During his visit to Scotland in July 2025, demonstrations were organised by the Stop Trump Coalition in several locations, including Edinburgh and Aberdeen. These events attracted thousands of participants expressing opposition to President Trump.

During this recent trip, Trump commented to the press that "immigration is killing Europe," although he did not mention specific countries. His upcoming September visit to the UK is likely heighten demonstrations related to immigration, especially amid current ongoing debates and tensions within the UK over hotel use and immigration policy. Trump's presence is almost certain to polarise opinions, drawing both anti-Trump protesters and supporters of his immigration stance to central London. At present the only reported organised demonstration is the Stop Trump Alliance, however counter demonstrators in support of Trump are likely to also be in attendance. While significant violence is unlikely, his upcoming visit will be closely monitored for potential tension and flashpoints.

Microsoft Has Servers Hacked by Chinese Groups

Microsoft reported that certain on-premises SharePoint servers and business data were targeted by China-backed groups Linen Typhoon, Vilet Typhoon, and Storm 2603, which exploited server vulnerabilities. Cloud-based Microsoft services were unaffected. Microsoft promptly issued security updates, but warned unpatched systems remain at risk. The Chinese embassy in the US denied involvement, calling the accusations baseless. These state-linked groups are known for focusing on intellectual property theft, targeting government, defence, and strategic organisations, as well as espionage against government officials and businesses with ties to the government. Although a security update was promptly developed and deployed in this instance, the event underscores the persistent cyber threats posed by hostile state actors and the extensive measures they are willing to take to obtain sensitive information.



The Importance of Strong Password Discipline

Recently, major companies like M&S, Harrods, and Co-op have suffered ransomware attacks, with Co-op's CEO confirming data theft affecting 6.6 million members. In KNP's case, hackers reportedly accessed company data simply by guessing an employee's password, enabling them to encrypt files and lock all internal systems.

Hackers known as Akira attacked KNP, a Northamptonshire transport firm, locking staff out of their systems and demanding payment for data recovery. The company were unable to pay, resulting in permanent data loss and eventual closure. According to the National Crime Agency, ransomware attacks (illegally encrypting a victim's online system and then demanding a ransom to restore access) have doubled in the past two years to 35-40 incidents per week, driven by increased ease of execution.

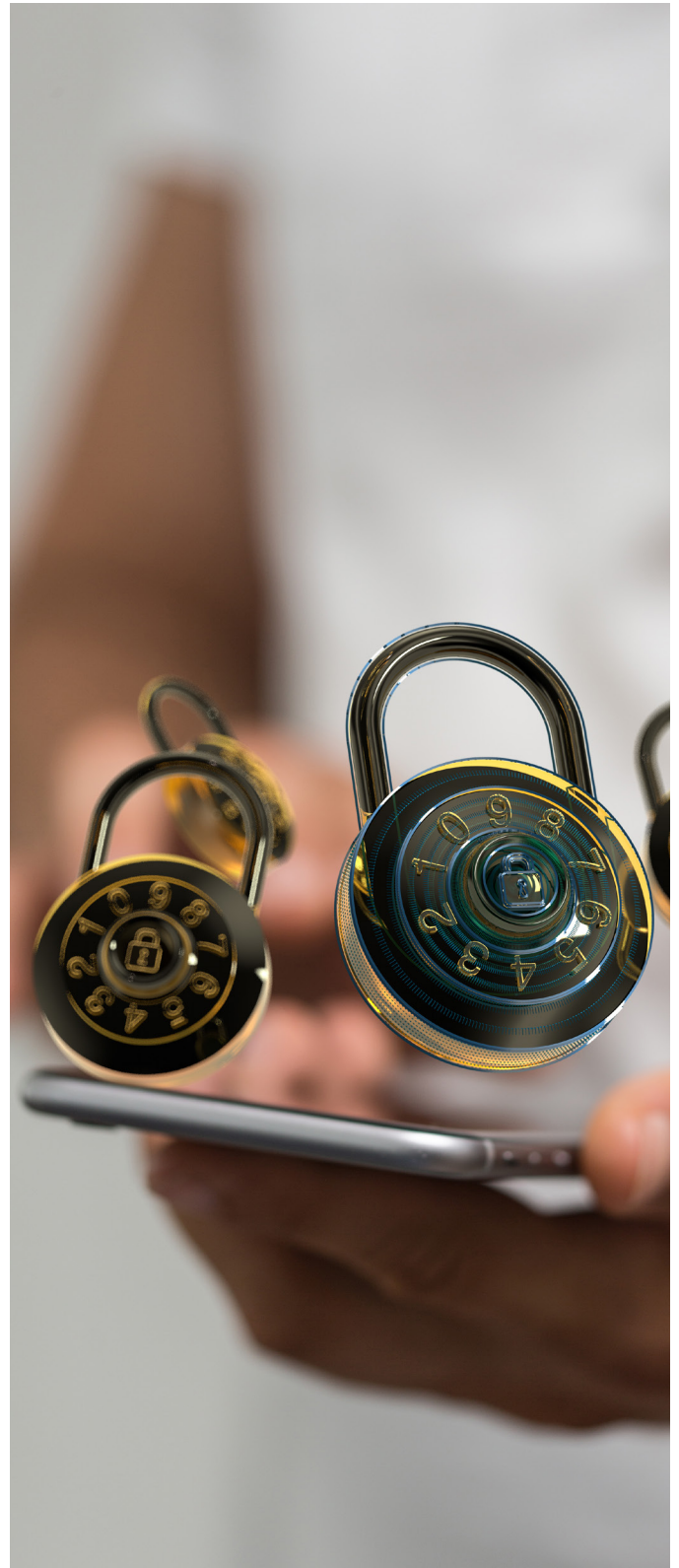
In July, it was announced that new regulations will be implemented to prohibit public sector organisations from paying ransom demands to criminals. Additionally, businesses not subject to the ban will be required to notify the government of any intention to make ransom payments.

This underscores that while organisations bear the responsibility of securing their systems, individual security awareness and accountability remain equally vital. In the case of KNP, it was determined that unauthorised access was obtained by simply guessing an employee's password. Social engineering also plays a significant role, with attackers employing basic tactics such as cold calling to extract information and persuade individuals to reveal passwords.

With upcoming legislation making public bodies less attractive targets, there is a realistic possibility of private businesses facing a higher risk of ransom attacks due to the higher likelihood of payout.

This underscores the importance of personal security and responsibility. The NCSC offers password security guidance at the following link:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/top-tips-for-staying-secure-online/use-a-strong-and-separate-password-for-email>



Migrant Hotel Demonstrations

On Thursday, 17 July 2025, demonstrations outside the Bell Hotel in Epping escalated into violent protests, resulting in confrontations between police and individuals protesting the hotel's use as accommodation for asylum seekers. The situation led to several nights of unrest between demonstrators and police.

The catalyst for the events that have unfolded over the last week are from the arrest and subsequent charging of a 38 – year old Ethiopian asylum seeker, who was charged with sexual assault of a 14-year-old female. This allegation was denied, and the male was remanded into custody.

An initial planned protest took place on Sunday, 13 July 2025. While tensions were notable, the event remained peaceful; however, a subsequent demonstration on 17 July escalated into violence. Many protesters expressed concerns regarding what has been described as two-tier policing and a perceived lack of action in addressing criminal behaviour within the community, particularly related to migrants. As tensions increased and crowd dynamics shifted, some individuals threw objects at police, resulting in violent disorder. According to police reports, individuals from outside the local area attended the demonstration with the intent to cause disruption. The unrest lasted only a few hours, with crowds dispersing by 23:00 that evening.

On Sunday, 20th July, similar circumstances unfolded when what began as a peaceful, albeit tense, protest escalated once again. Police reported that a significant number of participants had travelled from outside the area without legitimate grounds for protest, suggesting their presence was intended to incite violence and disrupt public order. Since the incident, demonstrations have occurred in about 10 towns and cities outside hotels housing migrants. Many protests have attracted counter-protesters, resulting in a left vs right dynamic and necessitating police presence. While there may have been pockets of violence at these other demonstrations, there has been nothing reported on the scale witnessed in Epping.

Currently, widespread disorder like the Southport riots appears unlikely, as the circumstances that triggered those events were highly charged. However, demonstrations of this kind are likely to continue throughout the summer and into autumn. Counter demonstrations are planned nationally by anti-racism groups, which are likely to also involve interactions with far-right groups. While large-scale national disorder remains unlikely, smaller, localised disturbances around migrant hotels are likely to persist through out the summer.

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

Social Media Monitoring

Activism

The most prominent group discussed over the past month has been Palestine Action (PA). This attention follows the government's decision to proscribe PA, after which an appeal was lodged and subsequently rejected on July 4th. A significant increase in conversation occurred following this rejection. The conversation activity peaked on that date and then plateaued as the month continued, with discussion regarding the activist group remaining steady. In addition, with demonstrators being arrested for displaying messages supporting Palestine Action, the prevailing sentiment appears supportive of the group, while criticism has largely been directed at the British government's decision to proscribe it showing disgust and anger directed towards the government. Major news outlets, political and social commentators, and sitting Members of Parliament have contributed to the conversation, amplifying its reach.

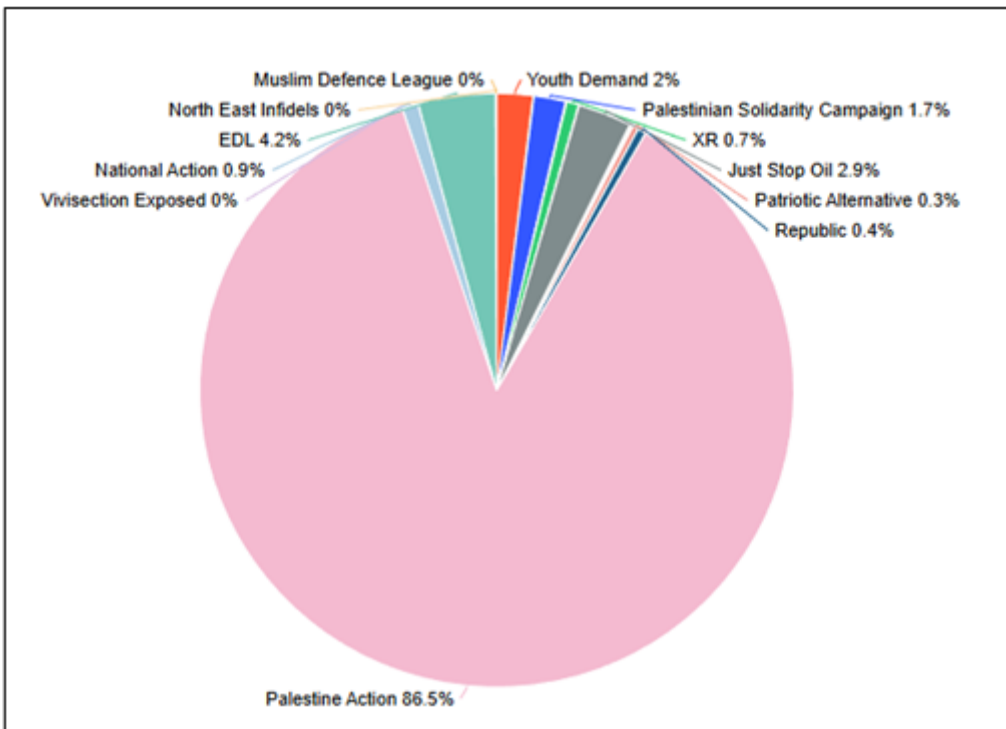


Image 1 – Showing the percentage of conversation within activism groups dedicated to Palestine Action

Social Media Monitoring

Activist Monitoring – Protests & Movements

Recent protests and activism movements show an increased conversation in regard to anti-immigration, particularly focused on discussions concerning the use of migrant hotels. Early in the month, following the proscription of Palestine Action, most discourse centred on pro-Palestinian protests, which aligned with ongoing developments at the time. A significant increase in discussion was observed around 18 July, corresponding to an initial demonstration outside a migrant hotel in Epping that served as a catalyst for subsequent demonstrations nationwide, though none matched the scale of those seen in Epping.

In contrast to Palestine Action, which maintains consistent support and pronounced opposition to governmental policies, the sentiment surrounding the anti-immigration movement is more diverse. While participants traditionally

associated with right-wing ideologies contribute to these discussions, there is also a substantial contingent within these groups expressing opposition to anti-immigration views, actively engaging in debate against far-right narratives. This dynamic is mirrored in real-world events, where anti-racism organisations are holding counter-demonstrations outside migrant hotels.

While the anti-immigration movement does have mentions of the defunct organisation EDL, this is minimal in comparison to how much Palestine Action has been mentioned. This demonstrates that the anti-immigration sentiment is not being led by a specific activism group or movement, and appears to be an ideology, that those with right wing ideations involve themselves in.

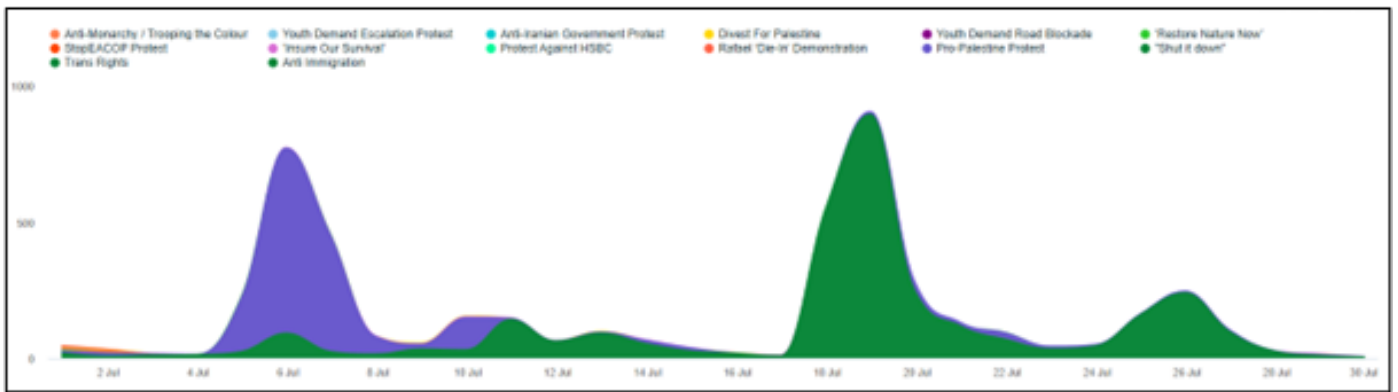


Image 2: The purple shading shows a spike in relation to Palestine Action during the early part of July, and then the green shows significant conversation around Anti-Immigration.



7/7 London Bombings – Reflecting on 20 years of terrorism in the UK.

Corps Focus: Security Issue of the Month

The 20th anniversary of the 7/7 London bombings has just passed. These past 20 years have seen a significant evolution in the landscape of terrorism in the UK, marked by shifts in primary threats, counter-terrorism strategies, and public perception.

Dominant Threats to the UK:

Islamist Extremism:

Following 7/7, Islamist extremism, largely inspired by Al-Qaeda and later by Daesh (ISIS), remained the most prominent ideology behind attacks. Major attacks include:

- 2013 Woolwich attack: The murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby by two Islamist extremists on 22nd May.
- 2017 Westminster attack: A vehicle and knife attack on Westminster Bridge and Parliament Square by a lone attacker, Khalid Masood, who injured several people, as well as killing four civilians and a Police Officer before being shot dead himself.
- 2017 Manchester Arena bombing: Salman Abedi carried out a suicide bombing at an Ariana Grande concert, which resulted in the deaths of 22 people, many of them children, and injured hundreds more. This was the deadliest attack in the UK since 7/7 and occurred on May 22nd, the anniversary of Lee Rigby's murder.
- 2017 London Bridge and Borough Market attack: A vehicle ramming and stabbing attack that killed eight people. The attack was conducted by three men, who lived in East London. They hired a van and travelled into central London for the attack.
- 2019 London Bridge stabbings: Usman Khan, a convicted terrorist released on licence, attacked members of the public near London Bridge. 5 people were injured, including 2 that died, before Khan was shot by Police.
- 2020 Streatham Attack: Sudesh Amman fatally stabbed 2 people on Streatham High Road before being shot

dead by Police.

- 2020 Reading Attack: Khairi Saadallah attacked two groups of people in Forbury Gardens on 20th June. The attack was carried out using an 8-inch kitchen knife. Saadallah was later detained by the Police and is currently serving life in prison without parole.

Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism (XRWT):

While Islamist extremism has been the primary concern, the threat from extreme right-wing terrorism has steadily grown, particularly in recent years. There have been multiple foiled terrorist plots, however, there were several high profile incidents involving far-right terrorism, including the murder of MP Jo Cox, and the 2022 petrol bomb attack on the migrant processing centre in Dover. The number of arrests and referrals related to far-right ideologies has increased sharply since 2017.

Northern Ireland-Related Terrorism:

Though significantly reduced since the Troubles, a residual threat from dissident republican groups persists, primarily in Northern Ireland, but occasionally extending to Great Britain.



7/7 London Bombings – Reflecting on 20 years of terrorism in the UK.

Counter-Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST):

The 7/7 bombings profoundly reshaped the UK's counter-terrorism approach. The existing CONTEST strategy (Pursue, Protect, Prepare, Prevent) was intensified and refined.

- **Prevent:** This strand, aimed at stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, gained significant attention. Initially focused heavily on engaging with Muslim communities, it has broadened its remit over the years to include all forms of extremism, including the far-right.
- **Pursue & Protect:** Law enforcement and intelligence agencies have intensified efforts to disrupt plots and bring terrorists to justice, leading to numerous attacks being prevented. Protective security measures have also been enhanced across critical infrastructure and public spaces.
- **Prepare:** To minimise the impact of an attack that cannot be stopped, through training, testing and exercising plans so that there is an effective response to any incident that is well rehearsed.

Increased Legislation: The period has seen a raft of new counter-terrorism legislation, enhancing powers for surveillance, detention, and proscription of terrorist organisations. This includes Martyn's Law, also known as the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act that was signed into law on 2025. Although not formal legislative changes, there have been strategic improvements following the Southport murders. Axel Rudakubana, referred to Prevent three times but rejected due to no clear terrorist ideology, highlighted gaps in the process. As a result, Prevent's scope has broadened to address individuals displaying extreme violent behaviour, even without ideological motivation.

Public Perception and Impact: The constant threat and periodic attacks have undeniably impacted public consciousness. While there has been a degree of "threat fatigue" concerns about terrorism remain consistently heightened levels, the underlying threat from terrorism has remained at an increased level throughout this period.

There was an immediate increase in faith-related hate crimes after 7/7, particularly against British Muslims, highlighting the social repercussions of such events. This is something many community groups have worked hard to overcome in the past 2 decades, however, there is now growing concern about further religious based mentions in the UK. Most notably, there has been a rise in antisemitic and Islamophobic aggregated crimes and social disorder.

Rise of Self-Initiated Terrorism (SIT):

The UK has seen a significant rise in self-initiated terrorism which often sees individuals that have become radicalised online deciding to take action without the support of any support network or group. Due to acting in isolation, it is extremely difficult for intelligence services to identify these "Lone Actors" prior to their attacks because they tend to have far fewer touch points for their intentions to be identified and challenged.

SITs often gather extreme material online, with the most common examples of UK SITs falling into either the Extreme Far-Right or Islamist Extremist categories, and there is easy access to both these forms of material online for those that seek it out. Often the individuals are also suffering from mental health conditions or have perceived grievances against certain groups or individuals. In most instances, SITs conduct low sophistication attacks, such as the stabbing of MP Sir David Amess in 2021, although the Liverpool Women's Hospital Explosion in November 2021 is an example of a SIT conducting a more sophisticated attack. Whilst it is harder to identify individuals that act in isolation, there are always touch points that these individuals have that are discovered in the post-incident analysis of their attacks. The intelligence services are using this analysis to enhance their abilities to detect potential threats to the public and it is rare that a SIT is found to have acted without any touch points at all. Often there is a digital footprint that links them to a group or ideology. This can then be identified and removed. The removal of indoctrinating sites can be beneficial in preventing others from going down the same route.



7/7 London Bombings – Reflecting on 20 years of terrorism in the UK.

Radicalised Youth:

One of the most concerning trends that is being seen is the radicalisation of young people in the UK. Over 50% of UK counter - extremist referrals between 2018-2023 were for under 18's, with over 300 referrals being made each year for children aged 10 or under. Referrals for 11-15 years-olds have varied from between 1.3k-2.6k per annum over the same period, highlighting a concerning trend in potential radicalisation amongst school aged children.

There is no concrete link between counter - extremist referrals, however, referrals and arrests for terror offences do follow a similar trend. There is an approximate 15% increase in the number of counter - extremist referrals for 11-15 year-olds between 2021 and 2023, increasing from 1,988 to 2,862 over the three year period (a 44% increase overall). The number of under 18's arrested for terror offences follow a similar rising trend, albeit on a sharper trajectory. Arrest records show an increase of 60% between 2021-2022, and again by approximately a 30% increase between 2022-2023. The actual numbers of arrests over this time increased from 20 in 2022 to 42 in 2023. marking a total increase of 110% in three years.

In summary, the threat landscape in the UK has changed significantly since the 7/7 bombings. While Islamist extremism still poses risks, the emergence of extreme right-wing and self-initiated terrorism has introduced new challenges. The UK has strengthened its CONTEST strategy, updated legislation like Martyn's Law, and made strategic adjustments to address violent individuals without clear ideological motives. Youth radicalisation and online self-initiated terrorism are growing concerns, but public awareness of different forms of extremism has also increased.



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