

CORPS RELAY

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CORPS
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SECURITY

Knife Arch Donated Following Harvey Willgoose Murder

Children as young as six have admitted to taking a knife into school according to police data. In 2024 there were 1,304 recorded offences involving knives or sharp objects in schools or sixth form colleges. It is estimated that up to 10% of these incidents took place in primary schools. The majority of these offences were committed by adolescent males. In response, the government has announced that schools will have greater authority to implement security measures, such as knife arches, where considered appropriate. While the overall number of offences in 2024 showed a slight decrease compared to 2023, there has been an increase in more serious incidents involving the use of weapons rather than mere possession. The use of knife arches follows on from the tragic murder of Harvey Willgoose, who was fatally stabbed by another pupil during the school day on school premises. Since his murder, Harvey's mother, Caroline Willgoose, has advocated for the installation of knife arches in all schools.

She attended the first installation of a knife arch donated by a foundation established in Harvey's memory at a South Yorkshire school. It was noted that the school itself did not experience knife-related issues but adopted the measure proactively as a safety precaution, which was welcomed by Ms. Willgoose, with the aim of preventing further fatalities. The donated knife arch is portable and can serve as a deterrent for knife carriage within other areas of the school and broader community. Although the school receiving the donated knife arch has not experienced issues with knife crime, it is anticipated that this proactive measure will contribute significantly to reducing the carrying of knives by individuals attending the premises.

Met Police Staff to Commence Industrial Action

Over 6,000 staff members of the Metropolitan Police to participated in industrial action on 5th Nov, traditionally one of the busiest days of the policing calendar, following a pay dispute. The reason for the strike was over the withholding of a £1,250 London living allowance, which is currently provided to police officers but not to civilian staff. Although the Police Act 1996 prohibits police officers from engaging in strike action, civilian employees within police forces retain this right.

Staff that participated included operational call handlers (including those responsible for emergency response), detention officers, and police community support officers. To mitigate the impact of these absences, police officers were drafted in to temporarily cover these operational functions.

With police officers' step into unfamiliar roles to ensure continuity of service, others were likely reassigned to front-line duties. While police responses to incidents involving risks to people or property were expected to continue, the progression of routine policing activities such as crime investigations was highly likely to have been limited during this strike period, with the force highly to have been only able to respond to emergency incidents on what is historically one of the busiest nights of the year.

Three Arrested for Spying for Russia

Three men have been arrested under Section 3 of the National Security Act 2023 on suspicion of assisting a foreign intelligence service, specifically Russia. Counter Terrorism police confirmed the arrests are part of an ongoing effort to disrupt Russian proxy operations within the UK.

Arrests like these are becoming increasing concerning for authorities and government, as they attempt to crack down on Russian interference within the UK. In October, three men were jailed for their involvement in a Russian-ordered arson attack targeting a London warehouse supplying aid to Ukraine. Two of those individuals became the first to be convicted under the National Security Act 2023. The Act was introduced to address threats beyond traditional espionage, explicitly targeting the use of proxies, thereby equating such activity with assisting a foreign intelligence service.

Earlier this year, six Bulgarian nationals were arrested for Kremlin-linked spying offences committed in 2024. More recently, two men and a woman were detained on suspicion of spying on behalf of Russia.

M15 Director General Sir Ken McCallum has warned of a significant escalation in state threats from Russia, Iran, and China, noting a 35% increase in individuals under investigation for state-sponsored espionage. Concurrently, the UK's cyber security agency has issued a warning about a surge in online attacks, attributing a substantial portion to Russia and China.

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) reported a 50% rise in cyber incidents over the past year. While many attacks are financially motivated and carried out by criminal groups, the UK is also being targeted by hostile states—either directly or via proxies operating from Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea. Of particular concern are pro-Russian hacker groups, which, while appearing to operate independently of state control, are actively targeting UK interests, seemingly doing Russian state bidding. These groups objectives appear to be disrupting support for Ukraine as well as retaliating against the UK's alignment with Ukraine.

Over the last 12 months, the NCSC categorised 18 incidents as highly significant, meaning they had a major impact on government operations, essential services, the economy, or a large segment of the UK population.

This combination of cyber threats and physical recruitment efforts underscores the persistent and evolving use of proxies by the Russian state and its intelligence services. Organisations connected to national security, government, or even tangentially linked to Russia or Ukraine remain highly susceptible to targeting. The pattern of incidents over the past year strongly suggests that such threats are likely to continue.



NPSA Issues Guidance on The Espionage Threat

The National Protective Security Authority (NPSA) has issued updated guidance detailing the increasing risks associated with foreign espionage and interference targeting UK democratic institutions. Although this guidance is primarily directed towards elected officials, candidates, or peers, its implications are broadly relevant.

The principal threats identified include acts of espionage—covert and clandestine efforts to obtain sensitive information—and foreign interference, which encompasses deceptive or coercive actions aimed at manipulating democratic processes.

Although intended for elected officials, the guidance is readily applicable to individuals' holding positions of authority or responsibility, especially within organisations that interact with government departments.

The report highlights the below tactics to watch for from state actors which include:

- Informal attempts to obtain sensitive information
- Establishment of long-term relationships for development and growth
- Coercion and blackmail
- Online approaches (such as through LinkedIn)
- Financial investment with hidden agendas
- Cyber-attacks, including spear-phishing (targeted phishing emails that use social engineering against specific individuals)
- Exploitation during overseas travel
- Disinformation spread using AI

The recommended countermeasures for this are as follows:

- **Be Alert:** Understand the threat, vet contacts made and vet unusual activity
- **Enhance security, especially when traveling abroad:** minimise the number of devices you bring and uninstall unnecessary apps, operating under the assumption that information may not be secure while overseas
- **Protect Your Information:** Monitor your online presence, maintain robust password habits, and enable multi-factor authentication
- **Trust your instincts:** Report any suspicious activity right away

The full guidance can be found by following the below link <https://www.npsa.gov.uk/national-security-act/defending-democracy/countering-espionage-and-foreign-interference>

Waste Crime Becoming an Endemic

A House of Lords report has found that serious waste crime is being under-prioritised, despite its growing scale and the increasingly sophisticated methods used by organised criminal groups (OCGs) to illegally dump waste. The Environment Agency has described waste crime as endemic, estimating it costs the English economy approximately £1 billion per year.

The report highlights how easily criminals can operate, with waste crime seen as a low-risk, high-reward activity. Around 38 million tonnes of waste is dumped annually. OCGs require only land and access to establish a site. In many cases, unsuspecting landowners are approached with offers of money to store or process waste, often under the guise of legitimate recycling or industrial use. Other instances involve leases taken out under shell companies or false identities, with criminals abandoning the site once it is full leaving the landowner responsible for the clean-up.

Once operational, these illegal sites may attract legitimate organisations that pay to dispose of waste, unaware that no sorting or proper disposal is taking place. This poses a risk to users of such services, as both businesses and individuals have a legal duty of care under the

Environmental Protection Act 1990 to ensure their waste is disposed of responsibly. This includes taking reasonable steps to confirm that waste is placed in an authorised location.

Scam waste collectors often offer disposal services at prices significantly lower than legitimate landfill operators, who must include landfill tax in their charges. Authorities expect organisations to conduct due diligence, especially when offered unusually low disposal costs. Failure to do so can result in unlimited fines.

To avoid liability and reputational damage, organisations must ensure that any waste disposal company they use is registered with the Environment Agency. If an offer seems too good to be true, it likely is. Neglecting to carry out the relevant checks can have serious consequences and cause significant reputational harm to a business.

A list of registered waste carriers can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>



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

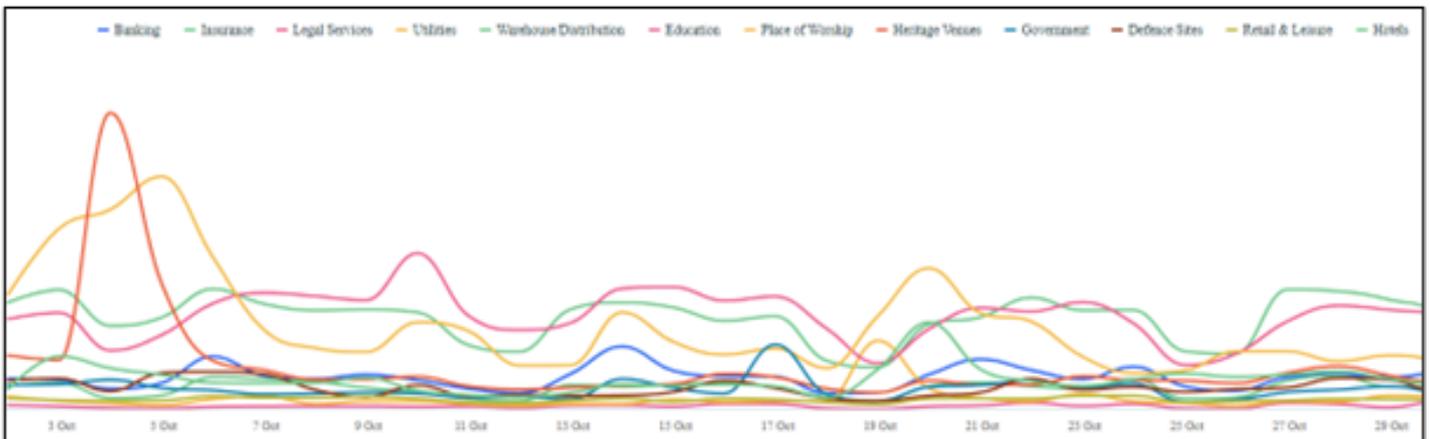
CRITICAL means an attack is highly likely in the near future

Social Media Monitoring 1 Oct – 1 Nov

Industries & Activism

A significant increase in discussions about heritage venues was observed at the beginning of the month. This surge was closely tied to a major protest supporting Palestine Action that took place in Trafalgar Square on October 4th. Online conversations have remained critical of the government; and while there wasn't direct support for Palestine Action as a group, there was widespread negative sentiment—primarily anger—toward the government's proscription of them as an organisation. While Palestine Action itself did not necessarily gain public backing, criticism was largely directed at the central government for restricting the right to protest.

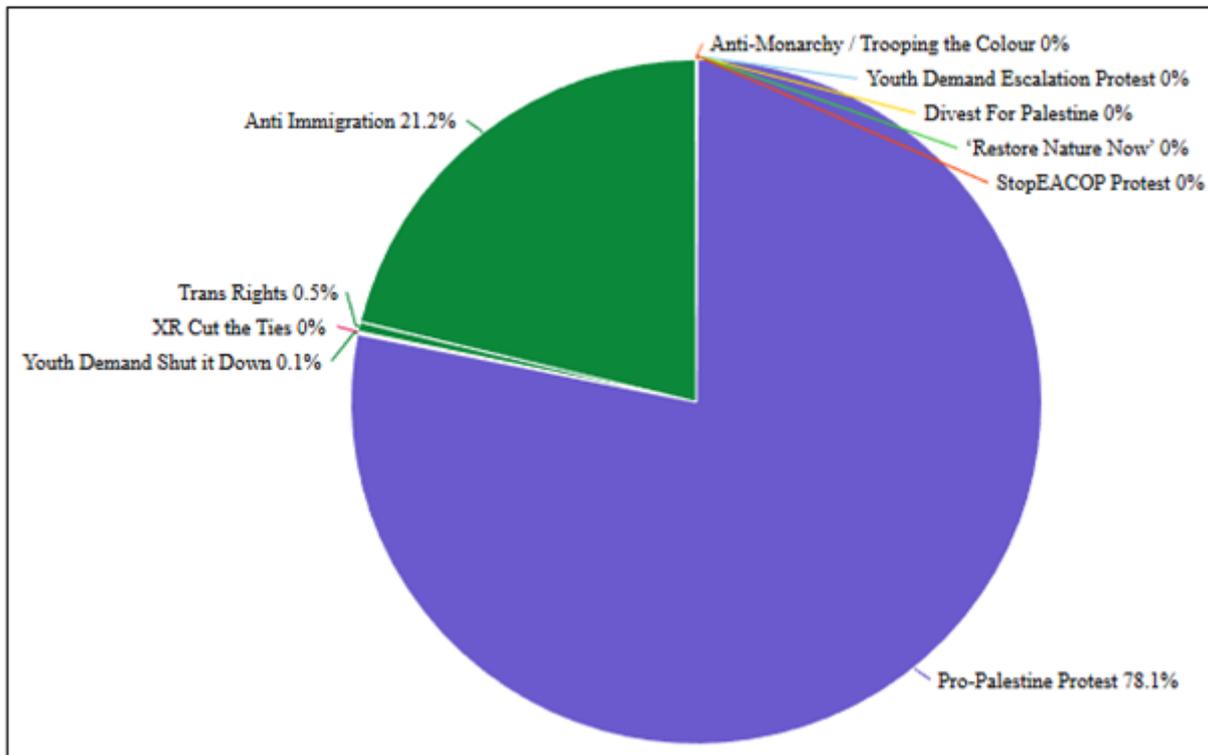
Following the attack on a Jewish synagogue in Manchester on 5th October, public discourse around Palestine Action became noticeably more critical. The incident led to increased discussions about places of worship, which is unsurprising given the location of the terror attack. Although criticism of the government persisted, as the month went on, negative sentiment increased regarding Palestine Action, particularly concerning ongoing protests held in their name despite sensitivities surrounding the Manchester attack. While overall, social media users continued to support protest and remained indifferent toward Palestine Action, online articles and commentaries began to express criticism towards the pro-Palestinian protest, a shift from the tone seen in previous months.



Activism Events and Movements

Following the Manchester terror attack on October 5th, Pro-Palestine protests have continued to be a major topic of discussion. Within the conversation there was noted anger regarding the actions of pro-Palestinian supporters, especially over their choice to protest on the anniversary of the October 7th Hamas attacks on Israel. Negative sentiment towards pro-Palestine protest has increased on social media after the terrorist incident in Manchester and with students' decision to protest on October 7th. Despite this, many still support the right to protest within these

movements, and criticism of the government remains the most dominant viewpoint. Anti-immigration sentiment is also significant—second only to the pro-Palestine movement. There continues to be strong support, with ongoing conversations about the Unite the Kingdom demonstration and sustained backing for migrant hotel protests across the country.



Protest Review and Look Ahead

Review

Pro-Palestine protests have dominated recent mass demonstrations, including large-scale acts of civil disobedience. Over 500 people were arrested after more than 1,000 participated in a planned protest organised by Defend our Juries in support of Palestine Action on October 4th. Student-led pro-Palestinian demonstrations continued on October 7th, which were criticised by the UK Prime Minister Kier Starmer as “un-British” due to their timing after the Manchester terror incident. Another major march took place on October 11th, with more than 10,000 participants gathering in Whitehall. While police made 14 arrests, a small number relative to the turnout, most protesters remained peaceful. Smaller demonstrations also occurred nationwide, including outside the Labour Party conference in Liverpool.

Anti-immigration demonstrations, though on a much smaller scale and not comparable to the “Unite the Kingdom” march that took place in September, have continued to occur nationally. These protests typically involve fewer participants and are generally held near hotels accommodating migrants. It should be noted that counter-protests—often organised by groups such as Stand Up To Racism—frequently take place alongside anti-immigration demonstrations, sometimes resulting in

heightened tensions between the two groups. While these events are generally permitted, there have been instances of police intervention. For example, a planned UK Independence Party (UKIP) march through Whitechapel was subject to police action due to concerns over potential public disorder, including anticipated counter-demonstrations by Stand Up To Racism. Consequently, the Metropolitan Police imposed Section 14 public order conditions, prohibiting the protest from occurring in the designated area and requiring it to be relocated.

Look Ahead

Several key dates in November are associated with the Israel/Gaza conflict. Based on historical patterns of protest in the UK during notable events related to this issue, it is reasonable to anticipate potential demonstrations occurring around these dates as likely.

On October 10th, a 20-point peace plan was implemented, primarily brokered by US President Donald Trump, focusing on the exchange of captives and the repatriation of the deceased. The agreement also included provisions for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from certain populated areas within Gaza. While initially met with approval, the deal has proven to be highly fragile, with both parties alleging violations of its terms.

Following this agreement, Israel conducted bombing raids across Gaza on October 28th and 29th, which is highly likely to cause further mass demonstration and protest within the UK.

The following dates hold particular significance in the Palestinian calendar and are likely to see large gatherings of demonstrators—especially in London, where protest activities tend to attract significant media attention.

Date	Occasion	Description
15 Nov	Palestinian Independence Day	In 1988, Yaseer Arafat signed the Declaration of Independence in Algiers, establishing the State of Palestine and calling for self-determination within the 1967 borders. It is a day of national pride and political reflection among Palestinians globally.

Date	Occasion	Description
29 Nov	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people	This date commemorates the 1947 UN General Assembly resolution which proposed partition of Palestine.

Additionally, several planned demonstrations are already scheduled throughout November, organised by Defend Our Juries, which is encouraging thousands to participate in mass arrest in relation to the proscription of Palestine Action. Additionally, smaller immigration-focused demonstrations are highly likely to continue taking place across the country, especially near locations where hotels have been used to accommodate migrants. These events are often organised locally, typically held on weekends, with announcements usually made during the week prior. Such protests frequently attract counter-protests, which are generally scheduled about an hour earlier and can lead to tensions within local communities. While large-scale violence or major disruptions are unlikely, smaller incidents or points of tension remain a realistic possibility.



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