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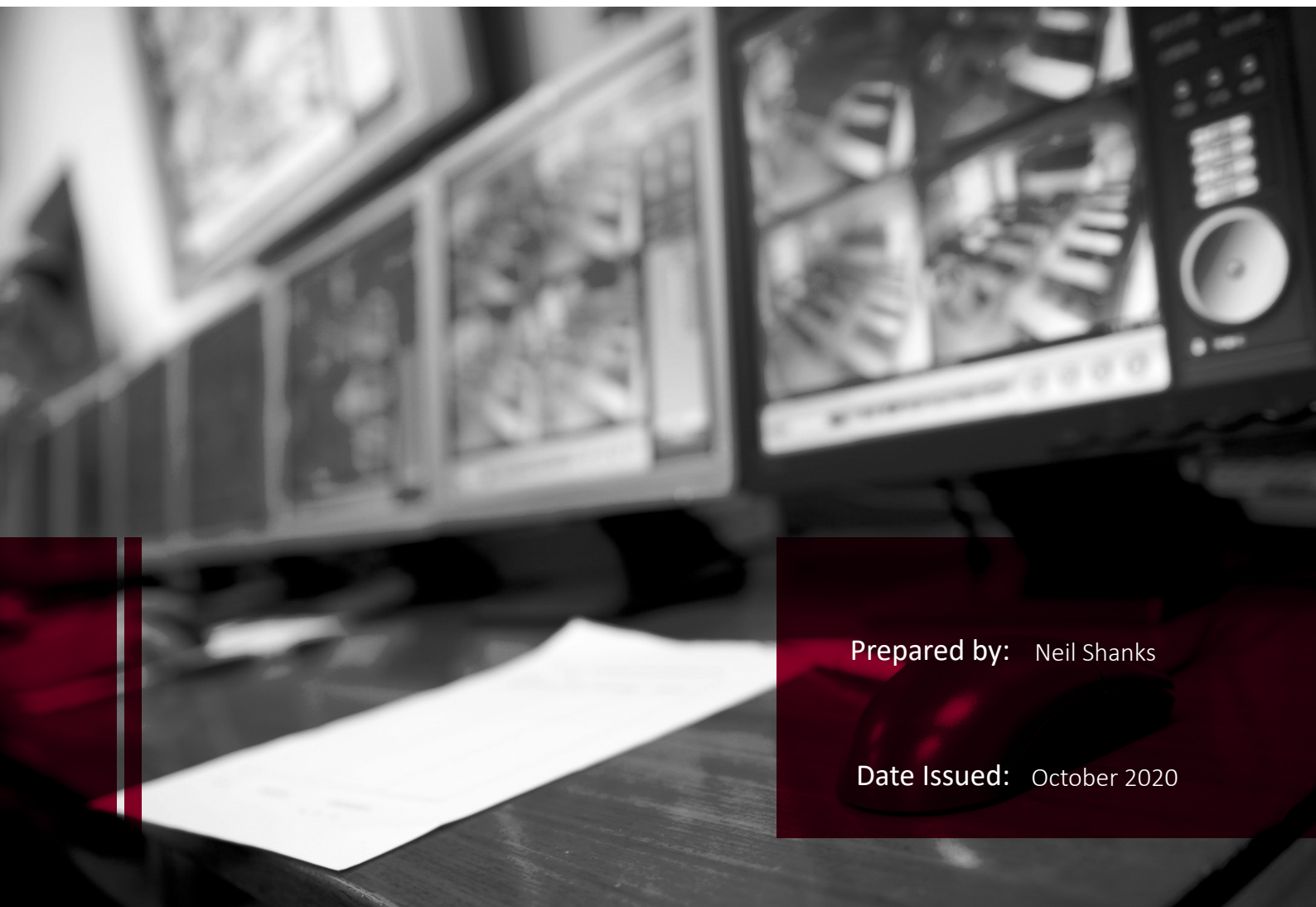
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**CORPS**  
**SECURITY**

# CORPS

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# RELAY



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Date Issued: October 2020

# Covid-19: The Second Wave?

The increase in the reproduction rate of Covid-19 in the UK has resulted in a number of local lockdowns, with a significant percentage of the country under some form of lockdown once again. The full extent of this wave is yet to be realised but without the same financial support in place for businesses there are undoubtedly difficult times ahead.

## Track and Trace

The government has updated its guidance around [Self-Isolating](#) in the event that Covid-19 symptoms are exhibited, or individuals have been exposed to someone with a confirmed case of the virus. Many sites are establishing QR codes to allow them to work with the [Track and Trace](#) App, and guidance about how to respond if contacted by Track and Trace is available (including some security warnings to prevent fraud). There have been conversations about the security of the Track and Trace App, with examples including some [Police Forces instructing their employees not to use the Track and Trace App whilst on duty](#), however such organisations are taking independent measures to trace the exposure of their employees to Covid-19.

## Recession and Redundancies

There are various views about the link between unemployment and crime rates, as well as crime rates during a recession. Certain crimes, such as [burglary](#), tend to decrease in low income areas during a recession due to the occupants being at home more. Conversely, anti-social behaviour, [drug relates crimes](#) and burglaries in wealthier areas where people still have jobs all increase during recessions. Businesses should have a heightened awareness of protecting their assets in the coming months as unemployment increases and the hours of darkness lengthen.

There has been an increase in unemployment to 4.1% (from 3.9%) and, despite the percentage of unemployment remaining low, there are a number of factors that should be taken into account when considering the impact on criminal behaviour, including:

- the information from the [Office for National Statistics](#) reports on previous months data rather than being a real time representation
- the [number of people claiming benefits increased by 120% between March and August](#) which is a significantly larger increase than a 0.2% increase in unemployment would suggest
- and the rise in claims occurred whilst the furlough scheme was in place allowing businesses to retain staff at little cost, meaning further job losses are almost inevitable in some sectors.

One final change that businesses may also need to consider is the impact of a potential increase in the numbers of homeless people. Part of the [Covid-19 protections included restricting landlords from evicting tenants](#). The protection was initially due to end on 23rd August 2020 but this was then extended to 20th September 2020. There is no longer any protection in place and, as well as removing the temporary housing for those who were already on the streets, those that have been unable to meet their contractual requirements may face eviction without any housing alternatives being made available to them. This will be particularly difficult as winter draws nearer and people need to get out of the cold and wet.

## Face Masks

The rules around wearing of face masks have been extended, with more places now requiring face masks to be worn, as well as increased penalties for non-compliance. The latest guidance can be found on the [.Gov website](#). This guidance places a greater emphasis on those running the premises to intervene when patrons fail to abide by the rules, however, this is certainly neither simple nor risk free. There is a risk that intervention may result in an altercation, which examples of incidents on a [Transport for London Train](#) and in a [Paris Laundrette](#) show. There is an additional risk with regards to challenging people that are exempt from wearing masks, as any actions that cause them to feel harassed could result in a claim that a disability hate crime has occurred, whether they produce an exemption card or not.

### Covid-19 Safe Useful Resources

Please find links to useful information/resources below:

- [HSE Social Distancing Guidelines](#)
- [HSE Protecting Lone Worker Guidelines](#)
- [HSE Lone Worker Booklet](#)
- [HSE Coronavirus Working Safely Guidelines](#)
- [Corps Guard Lone Worker Device](#)

## Technology and you

### Huawei

Government Communication Headquarters (also known as GCHQ) have reportedly found [nationally significant vulnerabilities within the UK's Huawei Cyber Security Evaluation Centre \(HCSEC\)](#) so severe that it was withheld from the company. Whilst there is nothing stating that these vulnerabilities are by design, they still potentially offer cybercriminals (state sponsored or otherwise) opportunity to enact cyber attacks on the UK's telecommunications networks. Huawei has had a number of limitations placed on them, restricting them from accessing the most sensitive areas of the network, however the US sanctions against Huawei have caused the National Cyber Security Centre to rethink their assessment of the feasibility of managing the risks of the equipment. Unfortunately, it is not as simple as removing Huawei from the UK mobile networks systems as this has the potential to cause significant mobile "blackouts" across 2G, 4G and 5G services nationally. Given the demand for connectivity during the "New Normal" this is even more important.

### Google Maps Street View

It is not only cyber criminals and fraudsters that utilise the internet to prepare for their nefarious activities. Google Maps Street View has made hostile reconnaissance significantly easier, even when the actual area is in "Covid lockdown". Every business should conduct regular checks of the information readily available about their company on-line, and this should include using Street View. Not only is there a potential that security weaknesses may be identifiable via the images, but it is also possible that personally identifiable information may have been captured, including faces of staff/visitors and vehicle number plates. Consideration should be given to any advantages of having the business visible through Street View, and if there are none, the image can be removed by contacting Google.

If you would like to remove your premises from Street View please see this ["How To" guide](#) created by BT.

## Brexit Considerations

### Potential Supply Chain Disruption

There have been an increasing number of concerns raised recently about the potential for supply chain disruption as we enter 2021. These include concerns raised by the [Road Haulage Association](#) about lack of preparation for the new customs procedures. This was echoed in a letter by The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster wherein he warns of [queues of 7,000 trucks and disruption for up to three months](#) whilst alternative routes are sourced.

Consideration will be given to business-critical resources, which will undoubtedly be stockpiled if there is a belief there could be a shortage. Consideration should also be given to the supply chain for your security systems. Are there consumables, such as RFID access control cards or printing ribbons, that are sourced from Europe? Are their components or whole pieces of equipment that are built outside the UK that may cause serious issues if they are suddenly unavailable for a prolonged period of time? A conversation with your security team or your third-party provider may be necessary to ensure there is no break in the continuity of your security provision.

# Croydon Custody Shooting

## Sergeant Matiu “Matt” Ratana

Corps Security would like to recognise and pay tribute to Custody Sergeant Matiu “Matt” Ratana, who sadly lost his life carrying out his duties on Friday 25th September 2020. The incident involved 23-year-old Louis de Zoysa and is not being treated as a terrorist incident.

# 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

# Recent Terrorism Developments

## The New IRA and Hezbollah

An assessment completed by Denis McFadden, an MI5 agent, has identified links between the **New IRA** and Hezbollah. The New IRA, a group founded in 2012 from members of the Real IRA, Republican Action Against Drugs and independent republicans, has been linked to a number of murders and other crimes. The publication of the assessment, which made headlines in both **England** and **Northern Ireland**, led to Mr McFadden being placed in witness protection. The report details the belief that Hezbollah are supporting the New IRA both financially and through provision of weapons.

This is not the first time in recent years Hezbollah are believed to have been involved in terrorist related activities in the UK. In 2015, following a tip from a foreign intelligence agency, the MET Police and MI5 discovered a Hezbollah weapons cache in North West London (attracting attention in the **UK** and **Israel**). The cache included ammonia nitrate, the same fertilizer responsible for the **Beirut explosion**, and was very similar to other caches discovered in Thailand, the U.S and Cyprus. The weapons cache was believed to have been established for future use, with no imminent attack planned. This raises the question of whether similar supplies are available for use by the New IRA now.

## Charlie Hebdo / Je suis Charlie

Sadly, on Friday 25th September, Paris experienced yet another Charlie Hebdo related attack. Details about the attack can be found in the Corps Relay **Special Bulletin** that was shared the same day. Information that has come to light since the attack explained that the attackers were **intending to burn down the offices of Charlie Hebdo** but they were not aware that it had moved to a secret location. The rationale for this attack was described in the **September Edition of Corps Relay**, published on September 3rd 2020, which highlighted the imminent risk to anything associated with Charlie Hebdo based on the magazines relationship with Islamist Extremists.

## What should we know? – Some guidance to share with Staff and Colleagues

Further information is available in the **September Edition of Corps Relay** but some useful links include:

- NPCC Website, Video and RUN HIDE TELL Posters (English & Welsh) - <https://www.npcc.police.uk/NPCCBusinessAreas/WeaponAttacksStaySafe.aspx>
- ACT Training - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/act-awareness-elearning>
- ACT App - Download the Urim app from the Google Play or Apple Store, then email [ct@highfieldelearning.com](mailto:ct@highfieldelearning.com) to request a user name and password.

# Demonstrations



## **40th Arbaeen Procession UK London – 10th/11th October**

This march will take place between 07:00-18:00 on Saturday 10th, and between 12:00-18:00 on Sunday 11th, from Marble Arch to Paddington Green (via Edgware Road and Church Street). This two day celebration is held each year and tries to replicate the worlds largest peaceful gathering that takes place in Karbala, Iraq each year on the day of Arbaeen. Their website proclaims it “the largest peaceful Muslim gathering in Europe” and over 1000 people are expected to attend each day.



## **Covid Related Protests National – 10th October**

There are multiple “Whistleblower” marches taking place across the country from 12:00 on Saturday 10th October, where attendees are encouraged to blow whistles as part of a protest against Covid restrictions. The cities include Bristol (College Green), Birmingham (Victoria Square), Liverpool (St George’s Hall) and Manchester (Piccadilly Gardens). Additionally, the “Match a Million” march will take place in London from 13:00-17:00, marching between Hyde Park and BBC Broadcasting House. The “Match a Million” march is also against Covid restrictions, as well as vaccinations and the mandated wearing of masks.



## **Extinction Rebellion (XR) National – Throughout October**

XR have announced they intend to focus their efforts in three main sectors throughout October, namely the Government (with actions between 5th October-10th October), “Big Finance” (with actions between 12th October-18th October) and Fossil Fuels (with actions between 19th October-25th October). There are then plans to take simultaneous actions against all three on the 26th October. The mode of these actions are not known but it is likely they will follow their usual methods of disruption. As described in the [September Edition of Corps Relay](#), there is no centralised control for XR, rather there are multiple sub groups, and as such actions are not always connected or correlated. Therefore, despite some of XR’s intentions this month being publicised, they may conduct as yet unknown actions without any prior warning.



## Corps Focus: Security Issue of the Month

### The Insider Threat

One of the biggest threats to an organisation comes from within. There is always a potential for those within trusted positions to abuse them whilst working there, or after they leave. Additionally, the “Insider” may not be aware that they are a threat, either through carelessness of systems/information, falling for social engineering or simply the loss of an access control card/keys. Despite the natural tendency to think of inside threat being for personal gain, studies have shown “most insider threat incidents (62%) stem from careless user actions that inadvertently cause security breaches or even as a result of compromised access” (Smith, D. (2020) The Complete Guide to Insider Risk. Retrieved from <https://www.forcepoint.com/resources/ebooks/complete-guide-insider-risk>)

In the current economic climate, every business is going to face hard times and unfortunately, we are already experiencing an increase in unemployment through redundancies. New ways of working, designed to help people working remotely can also increase a business’s risk of theft, sabotage or espionage. Opening-up systems and servers without having the necessary protections in place can be incredibly costly.

Some basic points to consider include:

- Do you educate your employees about Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) Gathering e.g.
  - Social Engineering such as Phishing/Vishing attacks etc.
  - The vulnerabilities of Social Media (including LinkedIn).
- Does your business remove access to leavers immediately – access includes physical and digital access?
- Do your access control cards include the business address where they are “active” on them?
- Do you routinely change any shared passcodes/passwords?
- Is access to company assets controlled by a check point or is it freely accessible to employees?
- Do you use tiered access for areas of the building, systems, shared drives etc.?
- Do you receive alerts when access is attempted and denied including who, when and where?
- Does your IT system allow a “bring your own device” or equivalent, and if so, how is access to your server protected?
- Do you have a filter on your email system that protects confidential files/intellectual property?
- Do you prevent access to personal email accounts on your work systems?
- What access do you allow third parties to your systems?
- Do you use the same server for everything or do you have dedicated servers for different functions e.g. main server for general use, security server for CCTV etc., third party server for systems that are remotely accessible to third parties such as certain types of printers, vending machines etc. – allowing a third party access to your system, behind your fire wall, is an exploitable risk.
- Is your server(s) physically secure?