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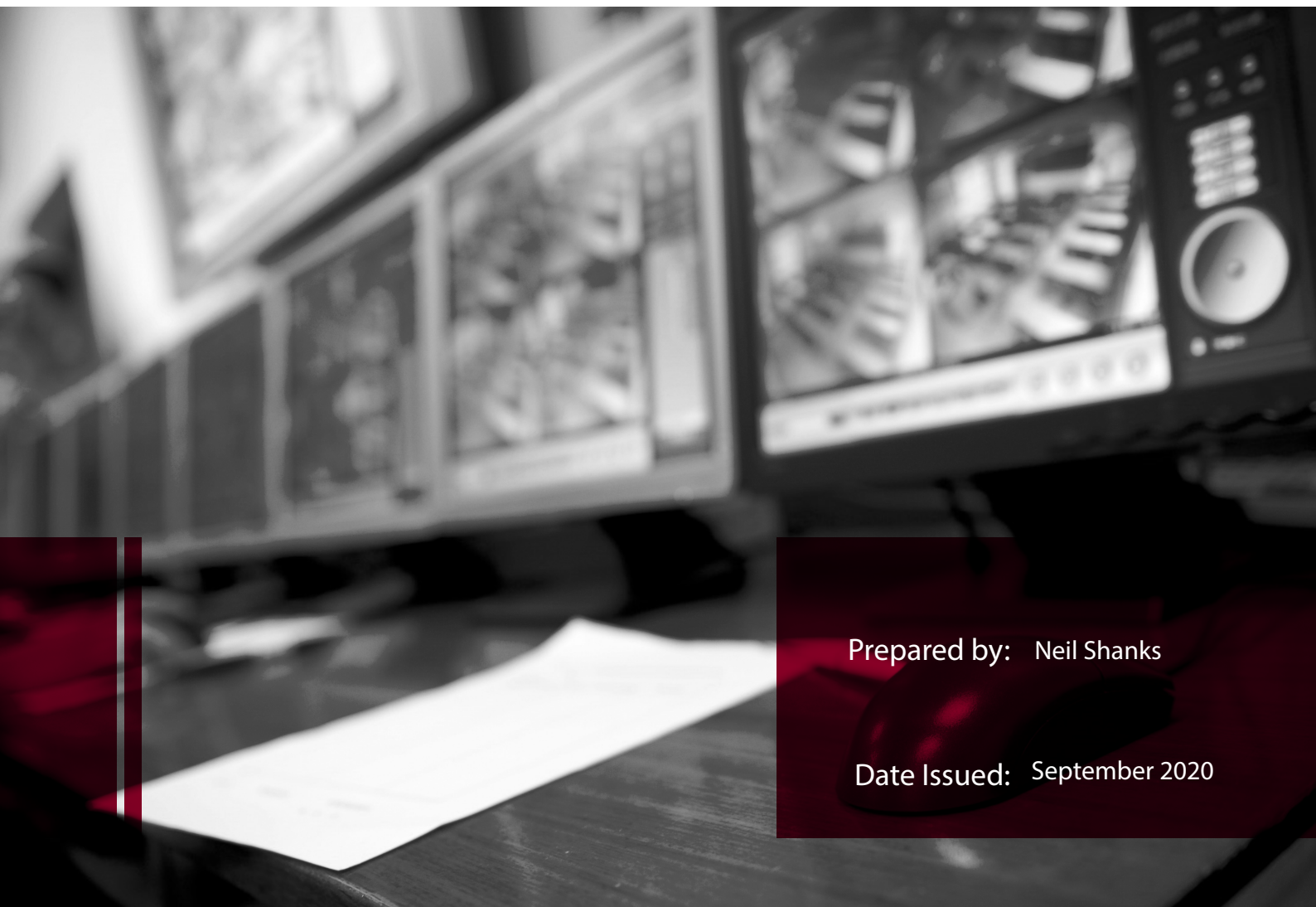


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The Impacts of Increased Easing of Coronavirus Restrictions

Although the threat of Covid-19 is still present and its impact can be seen everywhere, society and the economy are beginning to transition to a Post-Coronavirus state. Building on the information shared in the August 2020 edition of Corps Relay, further influences and impacts of the return to semi-normality include:

Crime Rates

There was a marked reduction in crime during lockdown with notable exceptions being the increase in drug related crime, assaults on emergency service workers and reports of domestic violence.

Figures show the highest total reduction achieved was 28%, however this has been gradually returning to pre-lockdown levels. The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) have identified that the number of crimes is now nearly back to 2019 levels and attribute part of this rise to the number of assaults without injury against emergency service staff. The NPCC news report can be viewed [here](#).

Lone Working

As furlough periods come to an end employers and employees are having to find Covid-19 safe ways of working. Staff are socially distancing at work and as a result of working further away from each other, there has also been an increase in lone working.

Where lone working is taking place, the employer should be taking measures to ensure the safety of those individuals. Processes such as routine welfare checks (ideally in person however these are often done remotely by phone) are recommended however these would not identify an incident that incapacitated the lone worker in between checks e.g. a heart attack resulting in the employee collapsing. Lone worker devices are beneficial in these situations and come in many forms. Corps Security recommend mobile phone-based systems as they are quick and easy to issue and install for staff and can be issued to personal devices if desired. To view further information on Corps Guard, a system operated by the Corps Monitoring Centre, please click the logo.



The Health and Safety Executive has offered guidance on socially distancing and lone working in light of Covid-19:

- Social Distancing Guidelines - [here](#)
- Protecting Lone Worker Guidelines – [here](#)

Review of Key Worker Fatalities

It is a sad fact that many people will be returning to workplaces without some colleagues who unfortunately did not make it through the Covid-19 pandemic. Some of these losses may be known to people already, whilst others may only become apparent once their absence is noticed from work. This may be a colleague from the office, one of the staff from the cafeteria or even the Security Officer that welcomes you each morning.

It is well known that Key Workers remained working throughout the crisis and unfortunately the security industry was particularly hard hit in terms of fatalities. There were a staggering 70 deaths for every 100,000 people according to the latest figures by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) which can be found [here](#). Prior to the ONS report being released in June security officer fatalities had been predicted at 45.7 deaths per 100,000 people. The significance of this led Corps Security to commission research into why security officers' were so susceptible to Covid-19 and you can download a copy of that research [here](#).

It is vital that the lessons from Covid-19 are not forgotten, especially when they can be used to inform future decisions and mitigate further loss.

Extinction Rebellion

According to the Extinction Rebellion (also known as XR) website “Extinction Rebellion is an international movement that uses non-violent civil disobedience in an attempt to halt mass extinction and minimise the risk of social collapse”. They believe that Governments’ are not being truthful about the Climate Crisis and are calling for immediate action to “halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025”.

XR has become decentralised in its operation and has 399 sub-groups directly affiliated with their goals, yet each operating autonomously within their specific theme. This makes the latest iteration of XR far more flexible, responsive and resilient. XR expressed their support for Black Lives Matter (BLM) during the summer and there are some concerns that XR events could mirror some of the problems experienced during BLM protests, potentially resulting in damage to buildings/statues and the potential for violence against authority figures including the Police. There is also the potential for counter protests against XR such as the Far-Right protests that countered BLM which unfortunately resulted in violent clashes.

One of the unintended consequences of restricting non-essential travel during lockdown was a significant reduction in traffic and the associated gases they produce. This was made possible, in part, by increased working from home. This reduction in travel also unintentionally went some way to achieving one of XR’s goals and some believe demonstrates a “new normal” that could be continued, all be it at the expense of a number of service businesses that depend upon commuters for their trade.

As the lockdown eases and a sense of the status quo returns XR continue their Climate Change campaign and have already undertaken several events in major cities throughout August, with more advertised for September. This is likely to continue and increase so commuters and businesses should prepare for the potential of activism/disruption to the same level XR used during their “International Rebellion” (October 7-19 2019) or greater.

The Metropolitan Police have issued guidance to business which can be found [here](#) (to view please click download), whilst XR also provide information on their own websites as to their plans and movements.

- Global - <https://rebellion.global/>
- UK - <https://extinctionrebellion.uk/>

Security in the ‘New Normal’

These are exceptional times. Things were already changing rapidly - the pace of technology development and the level and diversity of threats businesses face. Now, the overlay of the Covid-19 pandemic has put a fresh focus on those trends, as well as imposing multiple new impacts on organisations of all types and individuals at all levels.

All businesses are recovering from lockdown with a degree of change, some more dramatic than others. Security providers will need to re-evaluate their clients’ requirements to accommodate changes in this journey to the ‘new normal’.

To help customers make the necessary changes to their security provision Corps can provide – at no cost- an expert assessment of existing arrangements along with recommendations for enhancements or cost-efficiencies. Our experienced team are working quickly and closely with our client stakeholders to understand specific needs and expectations for the post-lockdown period and advise on the best way forward.

Our review process along with recommendations, is tailored to our customers businesses, each specific site and the wider pandemic environment in order to add real value for each organisation. Our emphasis is on finding smarter solutions to meet current and likely near-term needs, taking in considerations of security, health and safety, employee wellbeing and cost-effectiveness for the business.

If you would like to arrange a free assessment of your security operations or to discuss your requirements further, please get in touch with your contract management team or contact us on 01243216910 / corpssecurity@client-contact.co.uk

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

Berlin 18.08.2020

Shortly before 19:00 on Tuesday 18.08.2020 a man named Samrad A caused a number of serious injuries following an intentional collision on the A100 motorway, Berlin, Germany. The Suspect is said to be responsible for three crashes near the centre of Berlin, including intentionally ramming a motorcycle into another car, resulting in life threatening injuries for the motorcyclist and injuries to the passengers of the car involved. The Suspect later placed a metal box in the road, in which he claimed was a “dangerous object” and was reportedly heard to shout “Allahu Akbar”.

German Police are currently investigating this incident and, whilst not ruling out the possibility of the Suspect having psychological problems, have stated the “latest indications point to an Islamist-motivated attack”.

Vehicle attacks have become popular for terrorists to attack buildings and pedestrians, with notable instances in Europe including the Lee Rigby murder (London 2013), Nice (2016), Berlin (2016), Westminster

(2017) and London Bridge (2017). This attack differs from all previous attacks in that, instead of targeting pedestrians, vehicles were targeted. This begs the question, if this is confirmed as a planned terrorist incident, whether this is an evolution in the tactics of vehicle attacks in response to the increased anti-vehicle defences in pedestrianised areas.

Further information can be found [here](#).

If the goal is maximum disruption, consider the impact of a similar style event taking place on the major route in/out of a major UK city at the beginning of rush hour. The impact could be increased significantly if it were combined with an attack at another transport hub (e.g. train station) in the same area around the same time, or if used around the time of a Manchester Arena style attack to prevent people leaving the scene and inhibit emergency responders getting to the site.

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

RUN HIDE TELL – Guidance for what to do in the event of encountering a firearms or weapons attack

- NPCC Website, Video and RUN HIDE TELL Posters (English & Welsh) - <https://www.npcc.police.uk/PCCBusinessAreas/WeaponAttacksStaySafe.aspx>



Reporting incidents or potential issues is vital.

Reporting channels include:

- During an incident – call 999 and request the Police (if you're deaf or hard of hearing, use the textphone service 18000 or text on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service)
- If you suspect someone is at risk of being radicalised, or you see/hear something suspicious that you believe could be linked to potential terrorist activity you should report locally if possible and notify the Police via:
 - Phone: Anti-Terrorism Hotline on 0800 789 321
 - Online: <https://www.met.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/ath/possible-terrorist-activity/>

Once again, the links for ACT are:

- 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 to request a user name and password.

Charlie Hebdo / Je suis Charlie

The satirical French magazine, Charlie Hebdo, have decided to republish the 12 cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed that caused such controversy in 2006. The cartoons were originally published by Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten and are reported to be, alongside further cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed, the reason for both the 2011 firebombing of the Charlie Hebdo offices and the 2015 "Charlie Hebdo Attack" that resulted in 12 fatalities. The timing of this publication coincides with the beginning of the trial of 14 people accused of assisting the 2 gunmen that perpetrated the 2015 attack.

The impact of the 2015 attack is directly and indirectly linked to a number of other incidents that occurred in 2015/16. These include the Hypercacher kosher supermarket siege, the shootings in Denmark on 14.02.2015 in response to the "Art, blasphemy and the freedom of expression" rally supporting Charlie Hebdo, and the anniversary attack on Police in Paris. More recently Je suis Charlie ("I am Charlie") has been adopted as a slogan for those supporting Charlie Hebdo, and has been seen at events not dissimilar to that of the Denmark rally of 2015.

The 2006 cartoons, and similar publications by Charlie Hebdo, have demonstrated influence that far outreaches that of a general magazine publication. It is uncommon for the impact of any publication to be measurable in levels of civil disruption and fatalities. The impact of this latest decision is yet to be seen but it definitely requires monitoring closely, especially if there is any activity taking place locally linked to "Je suis Charlie" or Charlie Hebdo itself.

<http://news.sky.com/story/charlie-hebdo-magazine-to-republish-prophet-mohammed-cartoons-as-attack-trial-begins-12061086>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-53985407>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-30708237>

Demonstrations



Black Lives Matter (BLM) Update

The protests either organised by, or in support of, BLM continue across the World. August Bank Holiday weekend saw the inaugural “Million People March”, a now annually planned protest (next planned for 29.08.2021) in London, which is the latest largescale event affiliated with BLM in the UK.

The number of BLM protests and events had been in decline but a new wave was initiated as a result of the shooting of unarmed black man, Jacob Blake, seven times in the back by Wisconsin Police Officers. The number of BLM events in the UK are still lower than in this U.S., however there is a direct correlation with the number of BLM events globally and the proximity (time) to the latest instances of U.S. Police violence/shootings of a black person(s).



March for NHS Pay Justice – Multiple Locations

August saw a number of simultaneous protests in major cities across England and Wales calling for NHS pay to be increased. These demonstrations continue to occur across the country however there is currently no information suggesting there will be a further effort to hold Nationwide events simultaneously again.



Extinction Rebellion (XR) – National/International

There are multiple events planned across multiple locations throughout both the UK and the rest of the World. Notable locations for current planned events include London, Cardiff, Manchester, Kenilworth and a number of HS2 locations. Additionally, there are ten days of “We Want to Live!” protests (01.09.2020-10.09.2020) planned ahead of the re-opening of Parliament, mainly in the area around Parliament, with plans to blockade Parliamentary areas ahead of reopening. A shorter version of “We Want to Live!” will also take place for five days (01.09.2020-05.09.2020) in Cardiff City Centre.

XR are also planning a national “banner drop” at the end of August which promotes displaying XR banners in public places. This could potentially include private buildings if they are accessible to XR members. Details can be found [here](#)

The latest information can be found on the events page and on social media (below is the UK events page however for events in other countries please view the associated XR website for more details)
<https://extinctionrebellion.uk/act-now/events/>

Corps Focus: Security Issue of the Month

Travel/Transport

As businesses begin a return to pre-Covid working practices there will be an increase in travel and transport. There are a number of risks and issues that have recently presented themselves that both individuals and companies should be mindful of at this time. These include Covid-19 safe travel, the potential disruption of transport routes and how to ensure that people are safe whilst travelling.

Some points to consider include:

- Covid-19 Safe Travel
 - Identify the mode of transport most suitable for the destination
 - Wear a face mask if using public transport or in a vehicle with people from other households
 - Wash hands and carry alcohol hand gel
 - Be aware of any local Covid-19 response plans that impact on travel such as the preventing and managing a COVID-19 outbreak in the workplace: City and Hackney Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which can be found [here](#)
- Potential disruption to transport routes
 - Planned protests/events (e.g. Extinction Rebellion)
 - Spontaneous protests/events – how are these identified and communicated
 - Terrorist activity targeting transport routes (e.g. Berlin attack)
- Remaining safe whilst travelling
 - Route planning for staff/individuals shared with others
 - Lone worker devices
 - Completion of ACT training
 - Awareness of RUN HIDE TELL
 - First aid kits in vehicles (appropriate to level of training of the person e.g. a full trauma first aid kit is good but only if the person administering first aid knows how to use it)

