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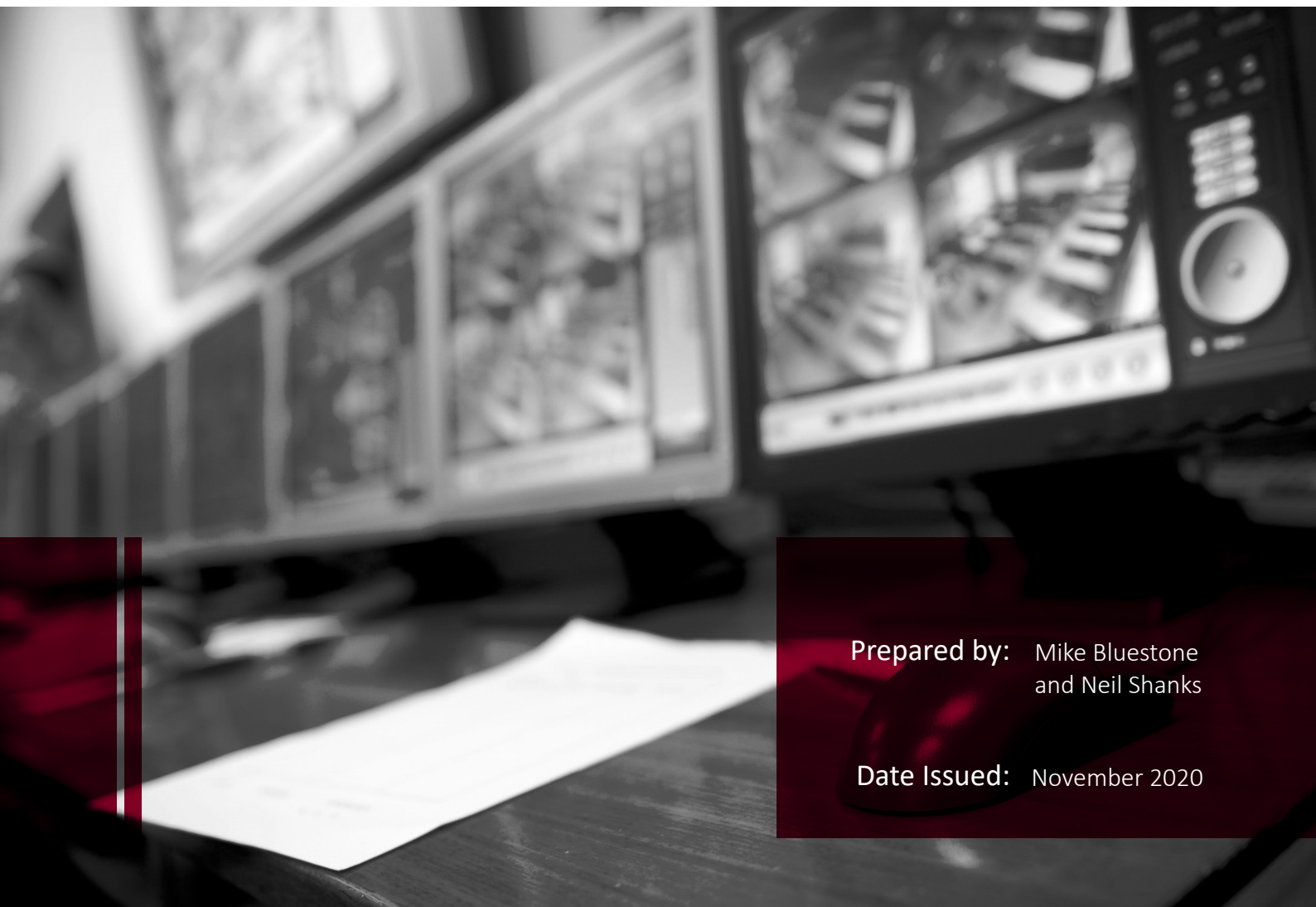


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CORPS
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RELAY



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Current National Threat Level

The threat to the UK (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) from terrorism is **SEVERE**

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

United Kingdoms Terror Threat Level Increases

In response to recent terrorist activity, including the Vienna Attack (Monday 2nd November) and multiple attacks in France, the UK terrorism threat level has been upgraded from “substantial” to “severe”. The move means security chiefs believe that an attack is highly likely but there is no specific intelligence of an imminent incident. Please read the [Corps Security Special Bulletin issued on 4th November 2020](#) for more detail and analysis of these events.

Recent Terrorism Developments

Vienna Shooting

On Monday 2 November 2020 four people were killed and 23 others wounded in a gun attack in the Austrian capital, Vienna. One suspect was shot dead by police. For more detail and analysis please see the [Corps Relay Special Bulletin](#).

French Attacks

The last month has seen three terror related incidents in France, with a total of five fatalities (including the death of one of the attackers). In brief, these incidents were:

- Friday 25th September 2020 – Charlie Hebdo related attack (see Corps Relay [Special Bulletin](#) 25/09/2020). 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
 - **Method of attack – knife attack**
 - **Victims – two** injured, no fatalities
- Friday 16th October 2020 – Paris school attack. Teacher Samuel Paty was beheaded for sharing the Charlie Hebdo images in a lesson held on freedom of speech earlier in October. [Multiple people are being investigated in relation to the murder](#) and the attacker was killed during the incident
 - Method of attack – knife attack then threats to Police of a firearm
 - Victims – two fatalities (including the attacker, 18-year-old Abdoulakh A)
- Thursday 29th October 2020 – Nice attack at the [Notre Dame basilica \(church\)](#) by a 21-year-old Tunisian national believed to be Brahim Aïoussaoi, although his identity is yet to be officially confirmed. The attacker was shot and detained
 - Method of attack – knife attack
 - Victims – three fatalities

Other recent attacks that have not been confirmed as linked include:

- Thursday 29th October 2020 – **A man was killed in Monfavet, Avignon**, after threatening the Police with a handgun. Links have been suggested between the man and Mou Vance Identitaire, a far-right anti-Muslim group, which would mean the initial suggestion that this was another Islamist Terror Event were incorrect
- Thursday 29th October 2020 – **A Guard was attacked outside the French consulate in Jeddah**, Saudi Arabia, and hospitalised. The attacker, who is said to have used a knife, was later apprehended
- Saturday 31st October 2020 – **Attempted murder of Greek Orthodox Priest in Lyon** involving the shooting of Nikolas Kakavelakis by an unknown person. This is being treated as attempted murder and there is no suggestion that there is any terrorist involvement at this time

There are a certain number of consistent factors between the confirmed terror incidents. All have used a bladed weapon, with two of the three involving attempts at decapitation. Two of the three attacks also directly referenced the Charlie Hebdo cartoons as part of their motive. All the attacks have taken place in cities that have previously seen Islamist Terror Attacks during the 21st Century.

The rationale for the increased hostility in France, as well as against the French consulate, may be directly linked to Charlie Hebdo/Je suis Charlie, but it is unlikely to be that simple. Other factors that may also be relevant include the ongoing trial of 14 alleged accomplices in the 2015 Charlie Hebdo attack, the clear support shown by French President Emmanuel Macron to Charlie Hebdo's freedom of speech (considered an "essential freedom" in France under the 1789 Declaration of Human and Civic Rights), Emmanuel Macron's description of Islam as a faith "in crisis all over the world" that had been hijacked by extremists which resulted in a number of **Anti-French protests** across the world, and the current hostile rhetoric between Emmanuel Macron and the President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

What to do in the event of a Weapon/Terror Attack – 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 to request a user name and password



COVID-19: Back in Lockdown

Following the decentralisation of the management of COVID into locally managed responses, the Government has announced they will step away from the series of local tiered restrictions in England and follow the circuit/fire breaker lockdown approach of Wales and Northern Island that was [recommended by SAGE in September 2020](#). This means that anyone who is able to work from home is being asked to do so and the furlough scheme, which was due to end on 31st October 2020, has been extended to at least 2nd December. Once again England will enter a state of mainly empty buildings and significantly reduced movement on the streets and roads. In addition to the [previous COVID-19 sections from Corps Relay](#), some new developments that may be relevant are captured below.

COVID Fraud

Criminals have been industrious in identifying ways to take advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic, with particular emphasis placed on fraud. Cyber fraud was prevalent in the initial phase of working from home and has continued to be an area of concern. There have been instances of a new type of COVID fraud taking place where individuals masquerade as [COVID Marshalls](#). They are using this role to gain entry to people's homes in order to ensure that COVID restrictions are being observed and are threatening to issue fines if they are refused entry or if they identify any compliance failures.

Whilst the reports show that these criminals have targeted residential properties, there is no reason why the same approach could not be used to target a business so it is important to ensure that visitors are checked before being permitted entry, even if they state they have a higher level of authority. If in doubt, keep them out.

Mobile CCTV

Developments in CCTV continue to grow with multiple forms of either temporary or mobile CCTV now available. The benefits of these mean that CCTV can be quickly and easily used to view an area. Examples of this type of CCTV include body worn CCTV, temporary CCTV towers (which can be provided and monitored by the [Corps Monitoring Centre](#)) and even drones. Drones are particularly interesting and their use in this way has increasing momentum, with the Surveillance Camera Commissioner, Tony Porter, issuing the first certificate of compliance of surveillance camera systems and the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 in October 2020.

COVID Response – Changes to Market Demand and Premises Use

It would not be fitting to re-enter lockdown without identifying the necessity for businesses to take stock and re-evaluate their security provision at this time. Therefore, this month's Corps Focus: Security Issue of the Month is COVID Response. More details can be found in the Corps Focus section.



Technology and you

Mobile Phones and Driving

A change has been proposed to close a loophole in the current laws around using mobile phones and driving. The change, which only applies to hand-held phones (not phones being operated hands free whilst driving), is set to outlaw all use of mobile phones whilst driving rather than the current restriction on interactive communications only. The change is currently going through a **12 week consultation** process which is set to conclude on 17th January 2021. If this change passes it will mean any use of a hand-held mobile whilst in control of a vehicle will be outlawed including the taking of pictures etc. There are potential implications on a number of functions that mobile phones are used for in relation to security and these should be considered carefully if any apply to a business or its employees. Examples could include where phones are used for access control and need to be held to a reader, use of phones as lone worker devices in vehicles, use of phones as part of a patrol system where the driver scans from the drivers seat etc. It should be noted that being on private property may not be a defence if contravening this law as there are a number of examples where private property is still required to abide by the Highways Act 1980 and other connected laws.

Rise in Hate Crime

A report published in **February 2020** by the Office for National Statistics showed a continued rise in hate crimes in the UK, with a 60% increase in the percentage of crimes that were based on religion. The report showed that 50% of religious hate crimes targeted Muslims, whilst other major faiths were fairly comparable. All forms of hate crime have more than doubled since 2013. There are concerns that these figures hugely understate the actual scale of the problem, with one study showing that **70% of people that had experienced religious hate crimes did not report it.**

Only 8% of hate crimes are linked to religion but the reason for highlighting these at this time is that there is a tracked increase in these crimes within the UK following each terrorist attack on UK soil. Whilst the closest attacks recently have been in France, it is possible that misunderstandings about the killing of Sergeant Ratana (Croydon, September 2020), or the recent **attempted hijacking of Navios Tanker Management Oil Tanker (October 2020)** which resulted in an operation by the Special Boat Service just off the coast of the Isle of Wight, could have a similar affect.

Armistice Day/Remembrance Sunday

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, and the lockdowns throughout the UK, it is not possible to mark Armistice Day or Remembrance Sunday (8th November 2020) in the normal way. This does not detract from the importance and significance of these days and what they represent to the UK and the world. The **Royal British Legion** have acknowledged this and, despite the annual Remembrance Day March past the Cenotaph being cancelled, they are calling on people to mark the occasion themselves or collectively by video links or other socially distanced methods. It is also likely that many people have been unable to buy a poppy this year but fear not, the **2020 Poppy Appeal** has taken this into consideration and donations can be made via phone, mail or online.



Demonstrations



The Million Mask March London 5th November 14:00-1800

The annual million mask march event to be held on Bonfire night. Organisers have requested for participants to meet in Trafalgar Square. There will be two separate groups operating at 14:00 and 18:00 hrs. It is expected participants may disperse in other areas of Central London. The details of the dispersal is unknown as the organisers traditionally refuse to liaise with the Police. It is unknown at this point whether the lockdown will impact on the number of attendees.



Justice for Grenfell London 5th November 11:30-13:00

Members from the Justice for Grenfell campaign will be holding a demonstration during the Grenfell Inquiry. The inquiry is being held on the ground floor of 13 Bishop's Bridge Road, London, W2. It is unknown at this point whether the lockdown will impact on the number of attendees.



Stand Up to Racism Manchester 7th November 12:00

Following on from the anti-Trump demonstrations on the 4th November, Stand Up To Racism Manchester plan a further rally at St Peters Square, Manchester, to show solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. This will go ahead regardless of the result in the U.S, Presidential Election although it is unknown at this point whether the lockdown will impact on the number of attendees.

Notable Dates



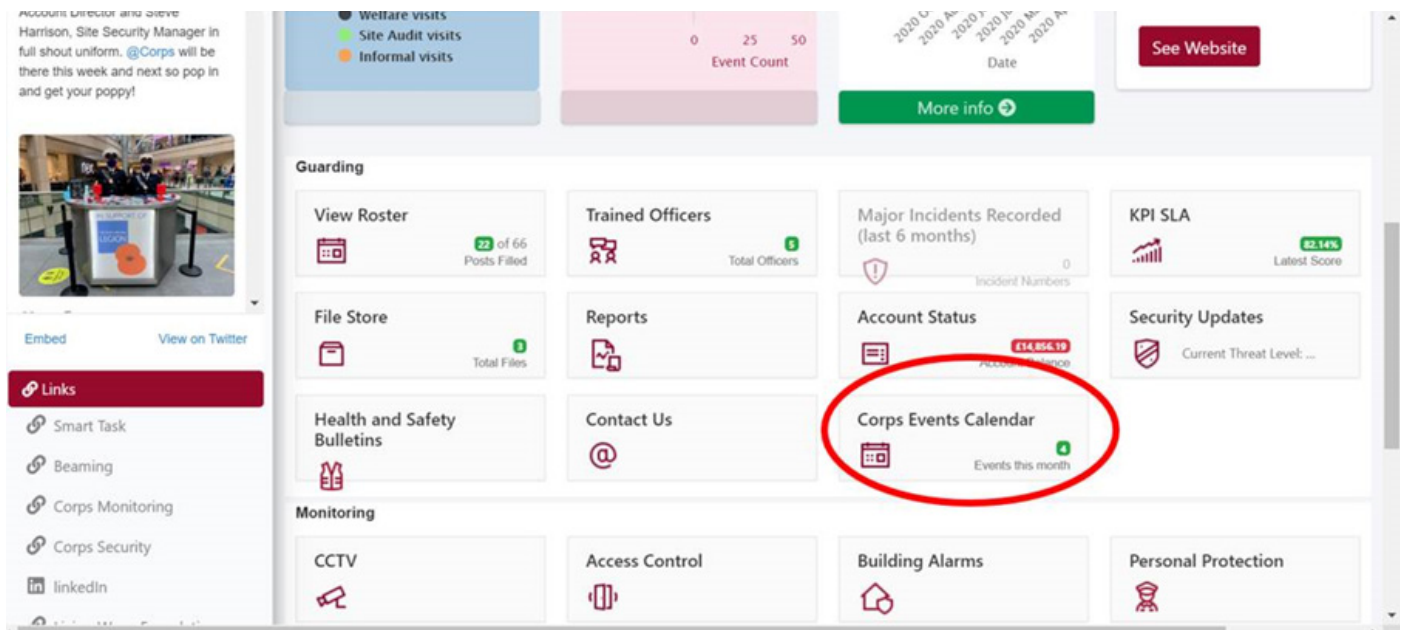
Anniversary of the Bataclan/Paris Attacks

The 13th November marks the 5th anniversary of the Paris Attack that includes attacks at the Bataclan Theatre, a restaurant and a bar. Given the recent terrorist incidents in France, and the notoriety of this incident, it is definitely a key date to be aware of.

Corps Events Calendar

All users of the Corps customer portal can now gain access to the Corps events calendar. The calendar includes, but is not limited to known demonstrations, sporting events, dates of national importance, anniversaries of terrorist events, and religious holidays/events. The calendar is a live tool and is updated regularly as and when new events are announced. The entries will, where known, include the time, date, location, and nature/potential significance of the event.

You can access the customer portal here at <https://customer.corpssecurity.co.uk/Identity/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2F>.



Corps Focus: Security Issue of the Month

COVID Response – Changes to Market Demand and Premises Use

As England heads into a second national lockdown, following similar actions in Wales, Northern Ireland and a five-tier lockdown in Scotland, many businesses face increased commercial pressures. With buildings that were once occupied by thousands of employees, now only accommodating tens or at the most a few hundred people, or are completely vacant altogether, security provisions need to change to be effective both operationally and from a cost perspective.

Businesses should review all their services, including security, and potentially explore whether an alternative approach may be beneficial. Corps 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.

We are offering complimentary, bespoke security service reviews. At a glance this comprises the following steps:

- Step 1 Understanding your current spends & service
- Step 2 Review existing security
- Step 3 Our recommendations on savings
- Step 4 Mobilise – defining the best way forward for your 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 email Hayley on hpage@corpssecurity.co.uk.

