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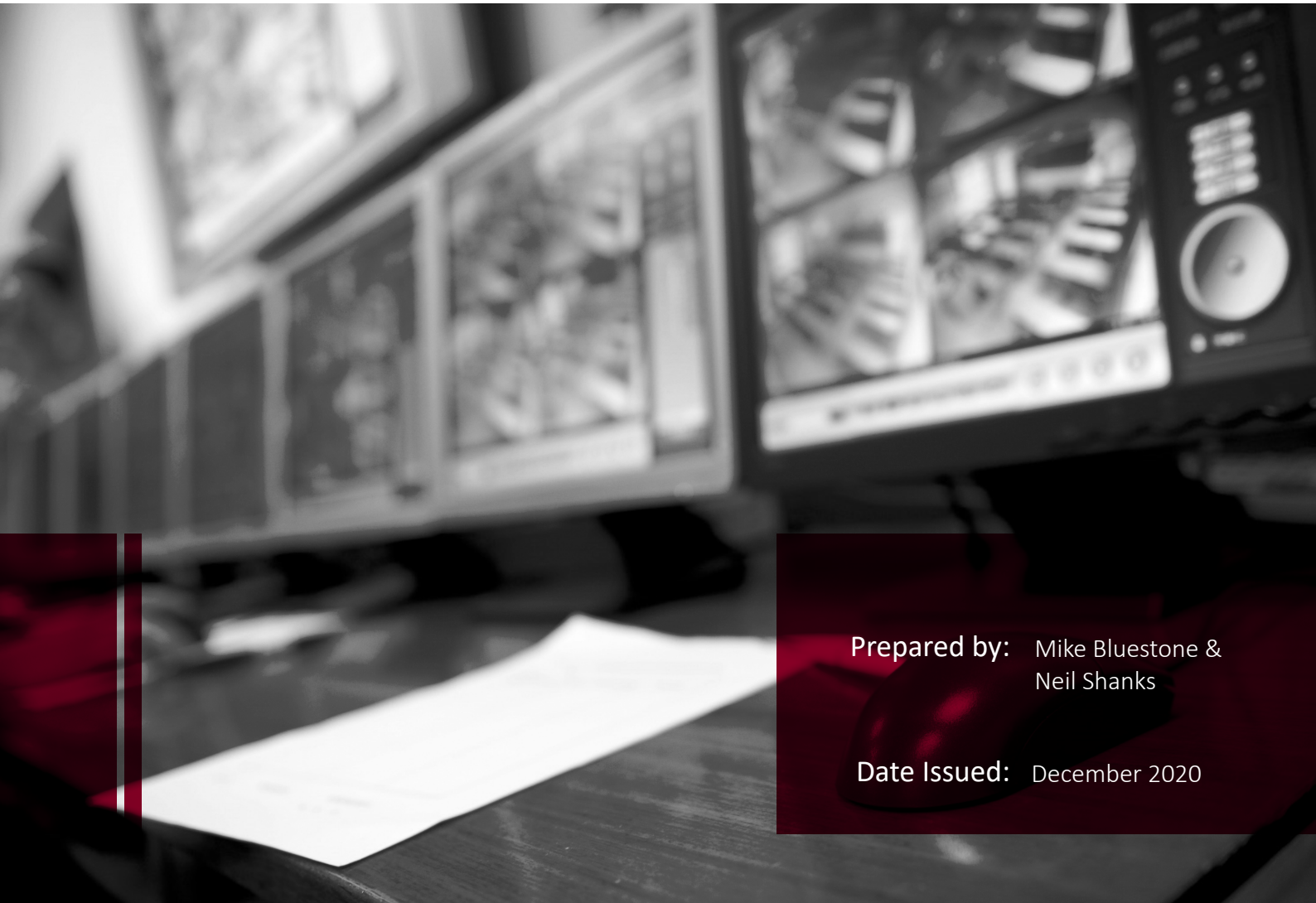


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COVID-19: Return to Tiers

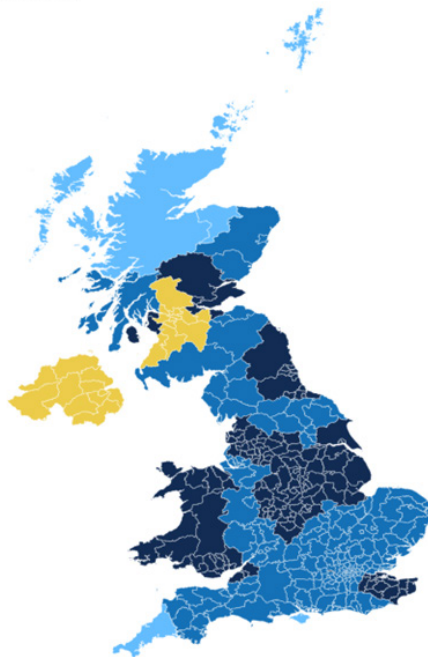
The latest COVID strategy from the government saw a return to the tier system in England following the second lockdown. The new tiers, which came into operation from 2nd December, are more restrictive than those previously in place in England and remain different from each country in the union, which have their own variations of COVID rules in place.

The new tier structure in England met criticism immediately from some as 99% of the country was placed in tier 2 (51%) or 3 (47.5%). This has been particularly controversial in areas where entire counties have been placed in the higher tiers but have multiple boroughs with both low R rates and low active COVID cases. The response to the tiers by the public requires monitoring for both the impact that it will have on businesses and the potential for civil disobedience in some areas.

COVID Restrictions on Wednesday 2nd December 2020

What level of restrictions apply in my area?

- Rule of Six
- No household mixing indoors
- Hospitality shut or early closing time
- Non-essential retail closed



COVID Christmas – Deliveries at Work

As with all aspects of 2020, the usual Christmas challenges have a new COVID element to them. There has already been a significant increase in on-line purchases this year, as evidenced by the record breaking profits of companies like Amazon. This is expected to increase in the run up to Christmas so businesses should be mindful that staff may try to have their orders delivered to their place of work, and the potential liabilities that any losses post delivery may entail. This may be offset by the reduced number of staff attending buildings in person, yet it remains important that each business has a clear policy in place around personal deliveries, and where they are permitted, and a tight management process.

Source: [Sky News](#)

Changing Landscape

The nature of businesses and uses of premises have changed significantly throughout the pandemic. The changing landscape of restrictions through tiers will continue this trend. Therefore, there are certain points that security professionals and businesses should be aware of and consider in relation to their premises. Two key areas that have been highlighted are:

- **Attracting Criminals:**

In many areas there are buildings that have compromised their security through leaving them empty without implementing additional security measures or have compromised their access control systems to support their new “one way” systems. These make easy access for certain types of criminals. The increased use of outdoor space, where no access control is in place and there is easy access by the public (e.g. hospitality) increases the risk from opportunistic criminals.

- **Changes of Use:**

The lockdown has impacted on the trading time available for retail outlets in one of their busiest periods. As a result of this, many retailers are considering increasing their opening hours from 2nd-24th December, some of which will include 24-hour opening hours. Bars and restaurants have also been required to adjust their opening hours, although this has reinstated a closing time of 23:00. Due to these factors there is a likelihood of increased night-time activity in areas around bars, restaurants, and retail outlets. This could lead to increased criminal activity, especially anti-social behaviour.

Lone Worker/Personal Alarm Systems can provide extra security in instances where staff are working alone, or employees would benefit from extra safety assurance when arriving at or leaving the premises during this period. The Corps Guard App can be downloaded to a personal or site phone to fulfil this function. For more information please click on the Corps Guard logo:



CCTV – do you know your licencing requirements?

Whether a role requires a Public Space Surveillance (CCTV) Licence from the Security Industry Authority (SIA) is one of the more widely misunderstood licencing requirements. As the industry drives towards more technological solutions, the opportunities provided by CCTV are unquestionably advantageous. It is a common misconception, potentially arising from the title of the licence, that a Public Space Surveillance (CCTV) Licence is only required when the CCTV overlooks public space. The SIA have produced a helpful [CCTV Flowchart](#) to clarify when the licence is required. To summarise, this licence is necessary for any role undertaken by a private contractor (not in-house) which involves operating CCTV that:

- Is used to monitor members of the public or identify particular individuals (whether the area is public or private)
- Is used to guard premises against disorder or to protect individuals from assault

A Public Space Surveillance (CCTV) Licence is not required if the CCTV is only used for the protection of property (not people) and/or guard against trespassers, as long as the individual has a Security Guarding Door Supervisor or Close Protection SIA badge. If there is any uncertainty it is always advisable that an expert be consulted on the licencing requirements of a specific activity.



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

Recent Terrorism Developments

High Profile Arrests in Pall Mall

At approximately 00:10 on Thursday 12th November, Police Officers near St James's Palace, Westminster, identified two males in a car acting suspiciously. The men, both 34 and from East London, were then stopped in Pall Mall.

After a search of the men and their vehicle was completed both were **arrested under suspicion of preparing terrorist acts**, contrary to Section 5 of the Terrorism Act 2006. They were placed in custody at a Central London Police Station and there has been no further information provided publicly since.

Lockdown Exploited by Extremists

Superintendent Matthew Davison, the Prevent Co-ordinator for North-East England, has reiterated a threat warning made in May this year regarding the dangers of **Social Media to radicalise vulnerable people during lockdown**. Supt Davison, from Counter Terrorism Policing, has highlighted both the benefits and **potential vulnerabilities that social media** exposed during the first lockdown and predicted the continuation of this during the second lockdown. The threats highlighted will remain the same during the period of tiered restrictions and social distancing.

Demonstrations

The coronavirus lockdown regulations in England previously included an exemption for protests. Whilst protests have not taken place illegally, the current rules have removed the exemption for protests. The result of this is that protests must follow the standard restrictions for people mixing, which will vary dependent on the tier that area is in, and limits both the locations where mixing can take place and the maximum number of individuals and households that can mix. This resulted in a reduction of demonstrations taking place during November, and a tier driven variation of this should be expected to continue throughout December.

XR Cenotaph

Extinction Rebellion (XR) maintained a lower level of activity during the lockdown, with fewer opportunities to publicly demonstrate due to the restrictions in place. Donald Bell, a British Army Veteran, elected to participate in an [Extinction Rebellion protest at the Cenotaph](#) on 11th November. Mr Bell laid a wreath proclaiming “Climate Change Means War” at the Cenotaph before posing with fellow XR members holding a banner to similar affect. Whilst the protest was to raise awareness of the risks of climate change, the method has been almost universally criticised as inappropriate and offensive.



Save Our Rights UK: Time for Action 12:00 05/12/2020 Birmingham

Save Our Rights UK have planned an anti-lockdown protest to take place in an undisclosed location. This follows the trend of anti-lockdown protests by Save Our Rights UK and more should be expected in coming weeks.



Extinction Rebellion (XR) – 06/12/2020- 20/12/2020 – International/UK Wide

Act for Amazonia: Disrupt the Destruction is an international event planned by XR. The event will run from Friday 6th December to Friday 20th December. XR activists are planning a “boycott” for the Amazon Rainforest for a minimum of a two-week period to persuade investors to divest all funds from Brazil and companies investing in deforestation. They are proposing activists use XR standard Paint the Streets tactics, in which activists disrupt business-as-usual using subversive art, design and performance to raise awareness and as a call for action.

Corps Focus: Security Issue of the Month

Counter Terrorism – Updated Guidance

New Guidance

November saw new guidance documents and updates published by the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO), Counter Terrorism Policing, and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI). Please click on the relevant link to explore the content.



Guidance
Crowded places guidance



Action Counters Terrorist - What to do in the event of a Weapon/ Terror Attack

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



Useful Numbers		
Event	Agency	Number
If an attack is happening	Police	999*
If you see something suspicious	Anti-Terrorist Hotline	0800 789 321
	OR Police	999
If you would like any guidance or support with your Security or Counter-Terrorism matters	Corps Consult	020 7566 0516
*Deaf or hard of hearing people can use the textphone service on 18000 or text on 999 if they have pre-registered with the emergency SMS service		

Training Materials

ACT online training is a highly recommended free counter terrorism and hostile reconnaissance awareness resource. It includes a section on bomb threats, complimented by a bomb threat checklist which should be stored by the switchboard for each building/site.

Link to:



Bomb Threats Guidance

