



CORPS RELAY

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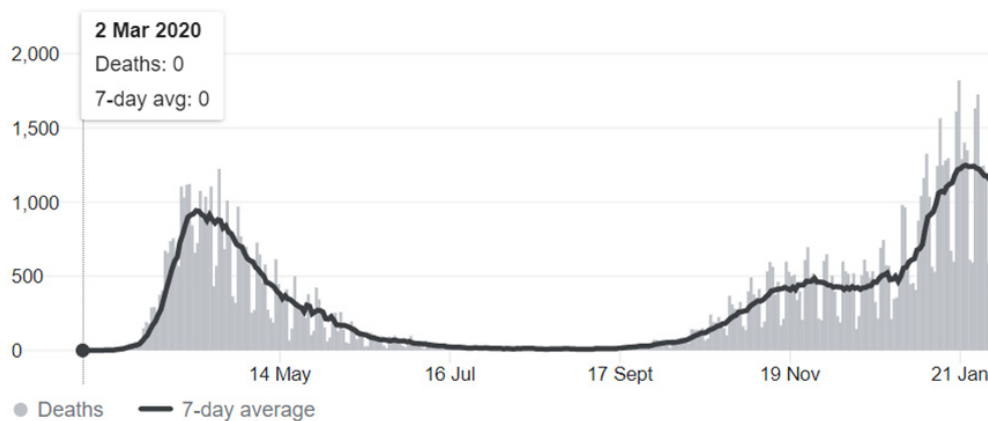
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CORPS
SECURITY

COVID-19: Third Lockdown Continued into February

The UK has continued its third national lockdown into February, with the greatest areas of public focus including the vaccination programme and when lockdown measures would be eased. This lockdown has seen record high mortality rates towards the end of January, before reducing significantly in the final days of January and first days of February.

Each area of the UK continues to follow their own lockdown timelines, with Wales planning to ease restrictions first (19th February), whilst Scotland state they will remain in lockdown until at least mid-February. England aim to review restrictions on 22nd February, whilst Northern Ireland have extended their lockdown until the 5th March.



COVID-19 Testing

The British Medical Journal have stated that early findings indicate that COVID tests on students are highly inaccurate with 58% of positive results actually being false positives. This raises questions over the use of this form of testing for schools before there is assurance that they are sufficiently accurate. There are also multiple unproven "COVID-19 tests" available on the market that should be avoided. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has warned against fake COVID-19 tests and vaccines being sold, and Interpol issued a warning regarding the likelihood that organised criminals would engage in COVID-19 Vaccine Scams.

Testing continues in earnest, with thousands of both the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), and Lateral Flow Antigen (LFD's) tests in daily use across the UK. The South African variant caused great concern, with eight initial areas being targeted with [door to door testing](#) at the beginning of February. The testing targeted everyone, aged 16 and over, living in key areas in Surrey, London, Kent, Hertfordshire, Southport and Walsall.

Passing 100,000 Deaths

The total COVID-19 death toll for the UK surpassed 106,000 deaths in January, with the rate equating to nearly one out of every 660 people in the UK having died of the virus. The UK currently has the fifth highest mortality rate by volume, and the third highest by population size.

Vaccinations

The UK is leading the way in vaccinations, with significant orders being fulfilled for the Pfizer/BioNTech, Pfizer/Oxford and AstraZeneca vaccines. The UK also has a supply of the Moderna vaccine currently available and has the highest proportion of vaccinated citizens in Europe. By the end of January, the UK was administering an average of over 350,000 vaccinations daily. The [total number of first vaccines issued in the UK](#), as of 1st February, was 9.3 million.

The UK continues to procure vaccines, with additional orders of the new Novavax, Janssen and Valneva vaccines taking the UK to 407 million doses



ordered. Whilst the procurement is undoubtedly good news, criminals are exploiting the vaccine process, with examples including a [man being charged with a number of offences after charging a 92-year-old woman for a fake COVID-19 vaccine](#).

COVID-19 Most Affected

The data around COVID-19 continues to grow and analysis highlights the demographics that are being hardest hit. [Male Security Officers continue to have one of the highest mortality rates due to COVID-19](#). The latest data offers further evidence supporting the research commissioned by Corps into Security Officer susceptibility to the virus, with the subsequent [report](#) published in June 2020. The lockdown requires people to work from home, if possible, and for safety measures to be taken to protect those that must attend work in person. Not all employees feel that this is being followed correctly, as demonstrate by the [Health and Safety Executive receiving over 4,000 COVID-related complaints in January this year](#).

New data identifies “offices” as one of the most prominent workplaces for COVID occurrences, with [over 500 outbreaks \(or suspected outbreaks\) in the second half of 2020 in office buildings in England](#). This is more than the combined outbreaks for supermarkets, construction sites, warehouses, restaurants and cafes during the same period. Corps continue to support clients in providing a COVID safe workplace, by not only offering a variety of COVID specific services, but also continuing to update [COVID related guidance, training and technological solutions](#) that are offered. We supported sites in preparing to re-open following the first lockdown, providing fever screening services and social distancing guidance, and we continue to explore innovative ways to protect our customers and their people.

UK's Three Year [Security] Vetting Transformation Programme

Dominic Fortescue, Government Chief Security Officer, launched his three-year vetting transformation programme towards the end of 2020. As part of the programme, he published a [new Vetting Charter](#) to explain what the applicant can expect during the process, the service UK Security Vetting Service provides, and the responsibilities of applicants and clearance holders. Mr Fortescue promised to “...deliver a faster, more

efficient and more effective vetting service to get people into security roles more quickly”, as well as sharing regular updates, features and blogs throughout the programme.

Fraud Epidemic

Corps Relay has referenced the increased threat of fraud in several editions, from the August issue exploring the risks of online fraud and cybercrime, though to January's publication addressing the threat of COVID related fraud. The Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) recently published a paper on the impact of fraud on the UK's national security, referring to it as “the silent threat”.

RUSI state that [fraud has reached epidemic levels in the UK and should be seen as a national security issue](#). Within the paper, RUSI claim “...the aggregate fraud cost to the UK [is] as high as £190 billion or 10% of UK GDP at that time”. They also claim that the damage inflicted by fraud on UK businesses undermines their credibility globally as it increases the risk to those that work with them. Whilst the paper highlights fraud against the government, calling it a heist against the public purse, it is the private sector believed to be worst affected.



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 Developments

Storming of the United States Capitol

On Wednesday 6th January, an unprecedented “[storming](#)” of the [US Capitol](#) Building occurred. During a rally [supporters of President Trump](#) attended in Washington people were encouraged by the President to march to the Capitol. Once the supporters arrived, a demonstration densely packed the surrounding area, followed by dozens of individuals breaking into the building. They then entered the Senate in an attempt to overthrow the results of the November election by preventing Congress certifying the votes. The police and security presence proved to be insufficient and the National Guard was deployed after the breach had already occurred. The incident ultimately resulted in damage to government property and reputation, at least 60 arrests, and five fatalities.

Whilst the intricacies of US politics do not directly affect the day to day lives of UK citizens, there may be some transference of the ideologies and views displayed in Washington. In addition to the

potential direct and indirect impact this may have on US owned companies in the UK, the UK has also demonstrated a greater propensity to take action in response to US politics in recent months.

The Black Lives Matters (BLM) movement reached new heights in 2020, with the UK experiencing similar demonstrations to those in the US, albeit on a smaller scale. The UK BLM movement did result in some property damage, but it also prompted a counter movement by the far right which resulted in [violent clashes with UK Police](#).

It is possible that the actions in the US in January this year could spur on like-minded individuals in the UK, similar to the way the BLM movement grew. The far right is acknowledged as a growing threat to the UK, with reports of radicalisation increasing. In the year 2019/20 (April-March), both the [majority of referrals to the UKs Prevent Programme](#), and the majority of those subsequently deemed “at risk of radicalisation”, were for far right extremism.

Demonstrations

Anti-COVID Restriction Protests - Nationwide

Groups protesting COVID-19 restrictions, the wearing of face masks, and vaccinations continue to demonstrate in UK. Some instances have become heated, with the Chief Executive of University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Trust speaking out at the end of January about an incident involving an [Anti-COVID protestor assaulting a Royal Derby Hospital Security Officer](#). There was also an attempt to rouse national civil disobedience on 30th January in the form of “The Great Reopening”. Businesses were urged to ignore lockdown regulations, reopen if they have been closed, and not to enforce social distancing or the wearing of face coverings. The Police were very proactive in their management of this and the day passed with little of note. Despite this, there will undoubtedly be further action from Anti-COVID Restriction/Vaccine groups to come.

Extinction Rebellion (XR)

XR remain active, despite the national lockdown. The most prevalent of their UK demonstrations at the beginning of February was their occupation of [a tunnel they excavated under Euston Square Gardens](#). In addition to numerous smaller protests and demonstrations in other locations, XR have been very active on social media. They are currently hosting introductory events, training events and workshops where they confer information and tips to likeminded individuals. Whilst they may not be as active in mainstream media at present, there is still a considerable amount of activity taking place behind the scenes.



Black Lives Matter (BLM)

[BLM are set to release more than £100,000 to organisations in the UK in January 2021](#). This money will come from their group's funds of over £1.2m, all of which was donated to the Black Liberation Movement UK community benefit society. The funds will be donated to “...groups that include educational projects, campaign groups, police monitoring projects, as well as some of the new protest groups, which helped organise at the demonstrations in the summer of last year,”. The additional funding to certain campaign groups, and the protest groups, may result in similar actions from BLM UK to those seen in 2020.

Corps Focus: Lone Working

COVID-19 has greatly increased the volume of lone workers around the world. Whether someone is working withing a socially distances/COVID safe office, on a building site, or working from home, if they are not working by themselves, and without direct supervision, they are a lone worker.

An Employers duty of care towards a lone worker include managing the risks they are exposed to, protecting them from violence, and supporting their mental health and other stresses. There are various guides to aid Employers, including:

- [The Health and Safety Executive \(HSE\) Guidance on Protecting Staff](#)
- [HSE Guidance on Reducing Workplace Violence](#)
- [HSE Guidance on Stress Management](#)

Employers should consider adopting some loner worker practices such as:

- Regular Welfare Calls
- Using multiple communication tools e.g. phone, radio, email, notes etc.
- Include social calls as well as work calls if possible
- Recommending regular breaks
- Installing alarms in key areas

Technology can help with some lone working functions. Two that should be highlighted are:

Corps Guard – An intuitive, next generation smartphone app that provides enhanced levels of personal safety. It can be used on iPhone and Android devices and offers an easy to use but highly effective way to protect your staff/workers. The latest version of Corps Guards features including:

- Panic Alarm and Person Down Alarm
- GPS location
- Enhanced levels of personal safety, 24/7
- Instantly sends alerts to emergency contacts and the Corps Monitoring Centre
- Immediate response from highly trained personnel
- Video footage that can be used to identify an assailant
- Daily Welfare Checks e.g. “Are you safe and well” (Yes/No)
- Team or Department Groups
- Distribution of notifications to users via the App
- Cost effective protection

Sentrikey – A secure key safe, with Bluetooth functionality, fully auditable and allowing remote monitoring and authorisation. The system offers an employer a key management system that doesn't rely upon the physical presence of staff, whilst also avoiding the necessity to hard wire it into the buildings.





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