

# CORPS RELAY

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Date: May 2021

**CORPS**  
**SECURITY**



# COVID-19: Lockdown Eases Further

The lockdown has continued to ease across the UK, with some key milestones being reached.

In Wales, a large number of businesses reopened during May, including gyms, leisure centres, indoor children's activities, swimming baths, community centres and, no earlier than the 17th May, there is an intention to reintroduce inside hospitality and cinemas. Furthermore, people from two households are expected to be able to meet inside. There were already less restrictive lockdown measures in place in Wales than other areas of the UK coming into May.

Measures in Northern Ireland also included lifting a number of restrictions, with up to 15 people being able to meet externally as they entered May. Whilst retail, hospitality (outdoor service) and gyms were previously open, Northern Ireland aim to, no earlier than 24th May: reopen hotels and bed and breakfasts, reopen indoor hospitality, allow some household mixing indoors, and reopen visitor attractions such as museums.

Areas of Scotland that were previously at Level 4 moved to Level 3 which allowed for the reopening of shops, gyms, leisure activities and hospitality. In addition, travel through the whole of Scotland, and for individuals to mix with up to 6 people from 6 households outdoors, was also permitted. Essential journeys to Northern Ireland were also permitted, however, if the trip takes 24 hours or longer, the advice remains to self-isolate for 10 days upon return. There is an intention to move to Level 2 during May, which will allow for up to four people from two households to mix indoors, fewer restrictions on hospitality venues which may include serving alcohol indoors up to 22:30, and cinemas and bingo halls to reopen.

In England, a trial of a [nightclub reopening](#) on Friday 30th April attracted a lot of attention and may represent a route out of restrictions for other public service industries ahead of the planned easing no earlier than 21st June 2021. The English lockdown is also due to ease to allow (no earlier than the 17th): up to 6 people from two households to meet indoors, hospitality venues to reintroduce internal service, international leisure travel to begin again, indoor entertainment including cinemas and soft play to reopen, performances and large events with limited audience members, and accommodation (hotels, bed and breakfasts, hostels) to reopen.



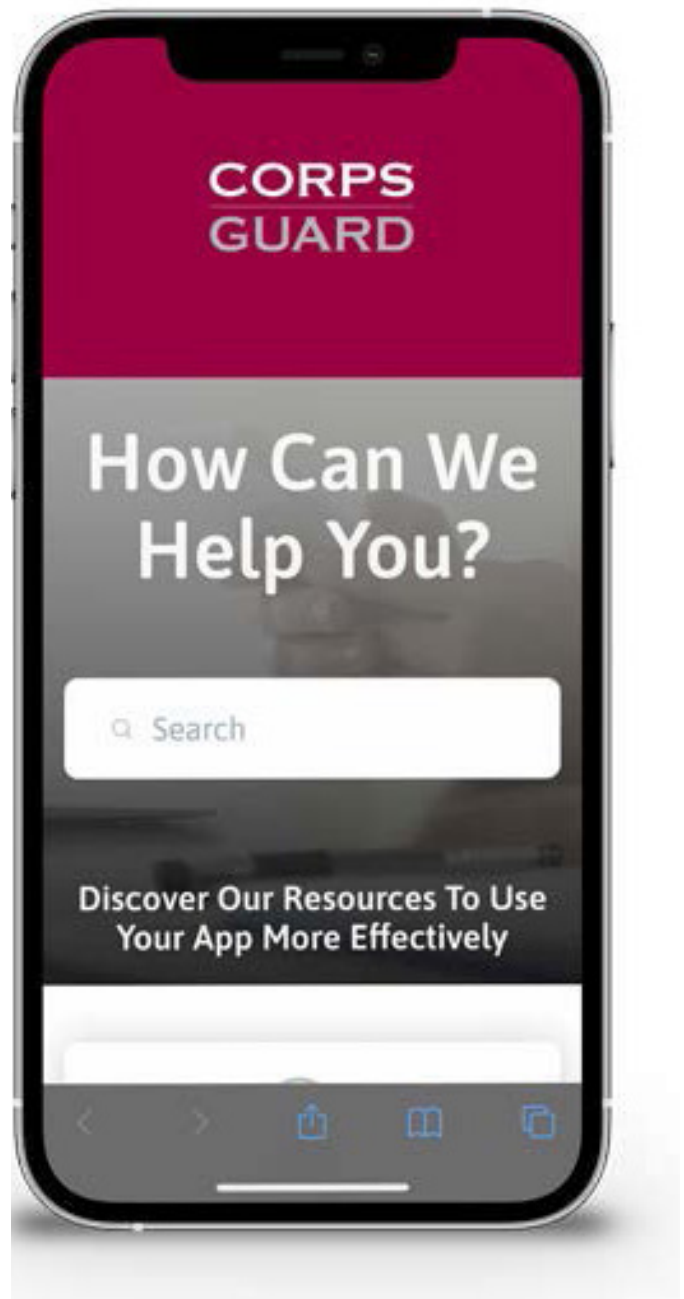
# Spotlight on Personal Safety

The death of Sarah Everard in March 2021 raised the profile of personal safety in public in the media and professional circles, leading to a national conversation about how to address this issue. Figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that, over the last decade, on average a woman is killed by a man every 61 hours. This decreases to one ever 42 hours when all killings of women in the UK are included.

Males are both the most likely to kill someone and to be killed themselves. On average, a male is killed in the UK every 19 hours, and over 90% of those convicted of killing someone are male. Whilst 32% of females are killed by ex-partners (compared to 2% of males), males are more likely to be murdered by a stranger (32% of males compared to 13% of females).

Many companies and groups are looking at ways to provide a safer environment for their staff or the public. Many companies are looking at their own workplace and how they can provide a safer workplace. The route to and from work, whilst not their direct responsibility, is something many are exploring. Providing situational security awareness training and options for safe transport are amongst the ideas that companies are exploring. Similarly, companies are also turning to mobile phone based technology for their staff, such as Corps Security's [recent provision of a free personal security protection app to all female employees](#) which will allow them to be monitored and raise an alarm for assistance if required.

Besides the steps being taken by companies, an interesting campaign was launched recently exploring the possibility of transforming unused telephone boxes into "[digital safety pods](#)". The process involves re-enforcing them, allowing them to be locked automatically as someone enters (and controlled remotely), and providing them with cameras and a link to the Police. The aim is to provide a secure location for someone to hide and get help if they believe they are being pursued.





# Technology and Security

The UK Government announced major plans to legislate for cyber security in an attempt to protect people from cyber-attacks. They laid out their intentions in [a paper designed to regulate consumer smart devices](#). Should the proposal be passed in law, nearly all smart devices would need to meet the following criteria:

- Customers must be informed at the point of sale the duration of time for which a smart device will receive security software updates
- A ban on manufacturers using universal default passwords, such as 'password' or 'admin', that are often pre-set in a device's factory settings and are easily guessable
- Manufacturers will be required to provide a public point of contact to make it simpler for anyone to report a vulnerability

These formalised steps align with the [Internet of Security Things \(IoXT\) Alliance](#) compliance program and replicate some of the [eight IoXT Principles](#).

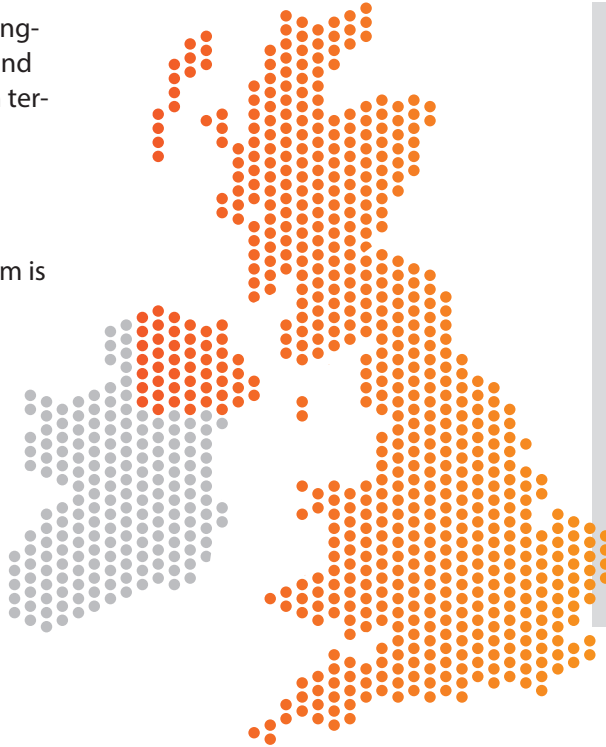
This announcement came shortly before Jeremy Fleming, Director of Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), made a stark warning during the annual Vincent Briscoe lecture at Imperial College London's Institute for Security Science and Technology. Mr Fleming warned that [the West face a "moment of reckoning" with regards to Security and Technology](#). The Director of the world-renowned intelligence and security agency went on to explain that the growing risk with technology is that it continues to evolve and there is a risk that it is "... implemented in a way which we [the West] can't assure its security;". He identified this as the moment where the UK needs to decide if we are going to continue to evolve and compete with our adversaries. Mr Fleming stated that "The UK really is a cyber power – a big animal in the digital world, but historic strength does not mean we can assume we will be in the future;". The whole lecture is available to watch [here](#).



# 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 Developments

### Far Right Developments

National Action is a neo-Nazi group founded in 2013 by Ben Raymond and Alex Davies because they felt the British National Party and English Defence League were not organised or extreme enough. National Action existed for three years before becoming proscribed under the Terrorism Act 2000 in December 2016, making it the first far-right group to be proscribed since the Second World War. A number of members, including [Ben Raymond](#), have been found guilty of remaining members of National Action after the organisation was outlawed. In Mr Raymond's case, he was also found guilty of three counts of possessing documents useful to a terrorist. [Benjamin Hannam](#), a 22 year-old Probationary Police Officer from North London, was also found guilty of being a member of the banned group. Subsequently, in April 2021 Mr Hannam became the first serving British Police Officer to be convicted of a terrorism offence and was sentenced to four years and four months.

An intelligence led [operation by Counter Terrorism Policing North East \(CTPNE\) resulted in the arrest of a man from South Yorkshire](#), Christopher Carey. Mr Carey has been charged with three offences contrary to Section 2 of the Terrorism Act 2006 (dissemination of terrorist publications) and one offence of the Possession of Class A Drugs contrary to Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. A second man from Hampshire was also arrested and questioned, but was released on conditional bail. No information has been shared to link Mr Carey with any specific Far Right Group.

### Attempted Terrorist Activity in Northern Ireland

[An explosive device was discovered attached to a container of flammable liquid positioned close to a policewoman's car](#). The car was parked near the officer's home, near Dungiven, County Londonderry, on April 19th 2021. Detectives believe that the New Irish Republican Army (New IRA) were responsible in an attempt to kill the officer and her young daughter. A 47 year-old man was arrested in the Dungiven area under the Terrorism Act, and a 48 year-old man was also detained.

# Notable Dates/Events

## Key Religious or National Celebrations

There are significant days for several religions and nations in May 2021. It is not only important to be mindful of these to celebrate our diverse society, but also because several Terrorist Groups have been known to select the days for their actions based on significant days in either their own or their targets' calendars. For a full list of key dates, events and demonstrations, please view the "Corps Events Calendar" in the Customer Portal or on the "Corps Secure" App.

Notable dates in May 2021 include:

- 1st May – International Workers' Day/May Day/Labour Day – International celebration
- 2nd May – Orthodox Easter – A Greek Orthodox Christian celebration
- 3rd May – May Bank Holiday – UK Wide
- 6th May – Scottish Parliamentary Elections – Scottish Event
- 9th May – Rogation Day – A Christian celebration
- 9th May – Jersey and Guernsey Liberation Day – A celebration marking the end of Nazi occupation during WWII
- 10th-16th May – Mental Health Awareness Week – UK event hosted by the Mental Health Foundation
- 12th May – Combat Stress Anniversary – Marking the 102nd anniversary of the charity Combat Stress
- 13th May – Ascension Day – A Christian celebration
- 13th May – Eid al-Fitr – An Islamic celebration
- 14th May – Anniversary of the Attack in MO Stephen Timms – Key Event Anniversary
- 17th May – Shavuot/Feast of Weeks - A Jewish celebration
- 22nd May – Anniversary of the Murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby– Key Event Anniversary
- 22nd May – Anniversary of the Manchester Arena Attack– Key Event Anniversary
- 22nd May – Anniversary of the failed Exeter Bombing – Key Event Anniversary
- 23rd May – Whit Sunday – A Christian celebration
- 31st May – Spring Bank Holiday – UK Wide

# Anniversary

## 11th Anniversary of the 2010 Attack of MP Stephen Timms

During a constituency surgery on 14th May, 2010, MP Stephen Timms was attacked and stabbed by Roshanara Choudhry. Ms Choudhry, a 21 year-old Islamic extremist and former student, attempted to murder Mr Timms as revenge for his vote supporting the Iraq War. Ms Choudhry was sentenced to 15 years in prison meaning she is due for release in 2025.

## 22nd May Anniversaries

### 1. 13th Anniversary of the 2008 attempted Exeter Bombing by Nicky Reilly

On 22nd May, 2008, 22 year-old Nicky Reilly failed to detonate an improvised explosive device as part of an attempted suicide attack on cafe "Giraffe" and restaurant in Princesshay, Exeter. Mr Reilly, who pleaded guilty, was the only person injured by the malfunctioning explosive device.

### 2. 8th Anniversary of the 2013 murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

On 22nd May, 2013, an off-duty Fusilier Lee Rigby was attacked and murdered near the Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich, southeast London. His murderers, Michael Adebolajo and Michael Adebowale, initially hit Fusilier

Rugby with a car before stabbing him to death. Both attackers were converts to Islam and claimed that they had killed a soldier to avenge the killing of Muslims by British Armed Forces. They were sentenced to life in prison and their actions were condemned by both political and Muslim leaders in the UK.

### 3. 4th Anniversary of the 2017 Manchester Arena Bombing

On 22nd May, 2017, 22 year-old Islamic extremist suicide bomber Salman Ramadan Abedi detonated a homemade explosive device at an Ariana Grande concert at the Manchester Arena. The attack killed 23 people (including Mr Abedi) and injured over 800. The inquiry into the event highlighted a number of learning points where, had alternative action been taken, the result may have saved lives. The inquiry led to the new [Protect Duty](#) being introduced by the UK Government which remains in the consultation phase. Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, also commissioned a non-statutory independent review of the events and aftermath of the Manchester Arena Attack which is known as the [Kerslake Report](#).



# Demonstrations

- 1st May – REBELLION OF ONE – Rebellion of One is a single-person roadblock, times 1,000
- 1st May – Kill the Bill – The #KillTheBill protests continue across multiple cities in the UK
- 1st-14th May – May Day Bingo – The Green Anti-Capital Front (GAF) announced approximately two weeks of protest action, beginning on 1st May, using [a point-based protest target](#) selection. They are awarding “points” based on their targets, which are, in descending order: Neo Colonialism, The Hostile Environment, White Supremacy, Queer Phobia, The Patriarchy, Fossil Fuels, Waste, Mining, Nuclear Energy, Police, Capitalism, and The State.
- 17th-21st May – These dates were previously stated but are not advertised on the XR site. Specific details are still unknown however there is a suggestion that two of the larger protests may take place at this time. The focus is thought to be on the economy (follow the money), democracy (democracy in crisis), or ecocide (stop the harm).

## Extinction Rebellion (XR)

An update on XR's plans, including their next “Waves” from May 2021 onwards. Notable features and dates within this include:

- 1st May – REBELLION OF ONE – Rebellion of One is a single-person roadblock, times 1,000
- 17th-21st May – These dates were previously stated but are not advertised on the XR site. Specific details are still unknown however there is a suggestion that two of the larger protests may take place at this time. The focus is thought to be on the economy (follow the money), democracy (democracy in crisis), or ecocide (stop the harm).
- 11th-13th June – G7 Rebellion – Protesting the G7 with demonstration in Cornwall, throughout the UK and some Global action.
- 25th-27th June – Uprising Weekend including Free the Press (27th) where they state they are “keeping up the pressure on the mainstream media in 2021”. They reference the ownership of the media and single out Rupert Murdoch.
- 28th August – Earth Fast – Organised fast with people fasting for 1 day, 1 week or indefinitely until their demands are met. They intend to establish a “hunger camp” within view of the Houses of Parliament. Whilst this event is UK based, there will be synchronised events internationally.

# Jury Acquits Protesters

[The jury in the trial of six Extinction Rebellion protestors at Southwark Crown Court went against Judge Perrins direction and acquitted the defendants.](#) The defendants, including co-founder Simon Bramwell, were accused of causing criminal damage to the London headquarters of Shell. Despite Judge Perrins’ assertion that there was no “...defence in law for the charges they face.”, the jurors went on to acquit them of both causing criminal damage and each having an article with intent to destroy or damage property. A seventh defendant pleaded guilty to the charges and will be sentenced at a later date.

This strategy of targeted property damage by Extinction Rebellion has been used in a number of high profile locations recently, including as part of their attacks on finance as part of the “Money Rebellion”. The highest profile of these may be the [damage caused to HSBC’s headquarter in Canary Wharf in April 2021](#). Nine women were arrested in almost identical circumstances to the seven arrested for damaging the Shell headquarters. The outcome of their case, in light of the aforementioned acquittal, bears monitoring closely.

## Knife Crime

# Corps Focus: Security Issue of the Month

Once again, knife crime is a focus in the media following an increase in bladed weapon attacks. Whilst the full 20/21 figures are yet to be published, the Metropolitan Police stated they took 460 weapons off the streets of London in March 2021 alone. [The Office for National Statistics figures](#) show that, despite the lockdowns, crimes involving bladed weapons for threats to kill and other select offences increased between September 2019-2020. There was approximately a 0.5% decrease in assaults with injury and assaults with intent to cause serious harm, with the overall figures being reduced by the large drop in bladed weapons being used for robbery, however the figures still remained higher than their 2018 counterparts.

In April the Metropolitan Police launched their "[Hard Calls Save Lives](#)" campaign to encourage people that do not want to contact the police directly to instead contact the charity Crimestoppers with any information. The campaign includes testimony from five mothers whose sons were stabbed to death.

A number of local forces are also launching anti-knife crime campaigns, many joining the national bi-annual Operation Sceptre 2021, which follows the success of its launch in 2020. Other forces are running their own campaigns, such as Leicestershire Police and their "[Lives Not Knives](#)" campaign.

## Transporting a Bladed Article

Whilst it is the criminal use of bladed articles that is publicised, there are many trades and professions that require an individual to transport a bladed article. It is, therefore, important to understand what the law states and what steps can be taken to protect the transporters from accidentally breaking the law.

The "offence of having article with blade or point in public place" is covered by [s.139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988](#) which

summarised, makes it an offence to carry a non-folding article in public with a cutting edge greater than 3 inches without good reason or lawful authority. Examples of good reason or lawful authority include:

- For use at work;
- Religious reasons; or
- As part of a national costume

It is important to identify that an article with a blade or point is not restricted to knives, but anything that meets that description including scissors, chisels, screwdrivers, awls, or anything else that could be described as bladed or pointed. Furthermore, whilst the act only applies to non-folding blades with a cutting edge over 3 inches, a precedent was set that any folding blade that locks is classed as a fixed (or non-folding) blade. Furthermore, any bladed item used as a weapon, regardless of length, is an offensive weapon as [section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953](#) provides that an offensive weapon is any article made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person, or intended by the person having it with him for such use by him or by some other person.

When there is a requirement to transport a non-s.139 compliant bladed article, it is advisable that the item(s) is stored in an inaccessible place e.g. a locked tool box or an inaccessible part of a bag. It is also advisable that items are transported directly from the location they are required to be used in and their storage location.

Whilst a site can specify that no bladed articles be brought in, this does not give the site authority to confiscate the items. If s.139 compliant items are declared or found prior to entering the premises the site can provide conditional entry on the basis that the item is not brought into/onto the premises. If a non-s.139 item is discovered, it should be reported to the Police.





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