

# CORPS RELAY

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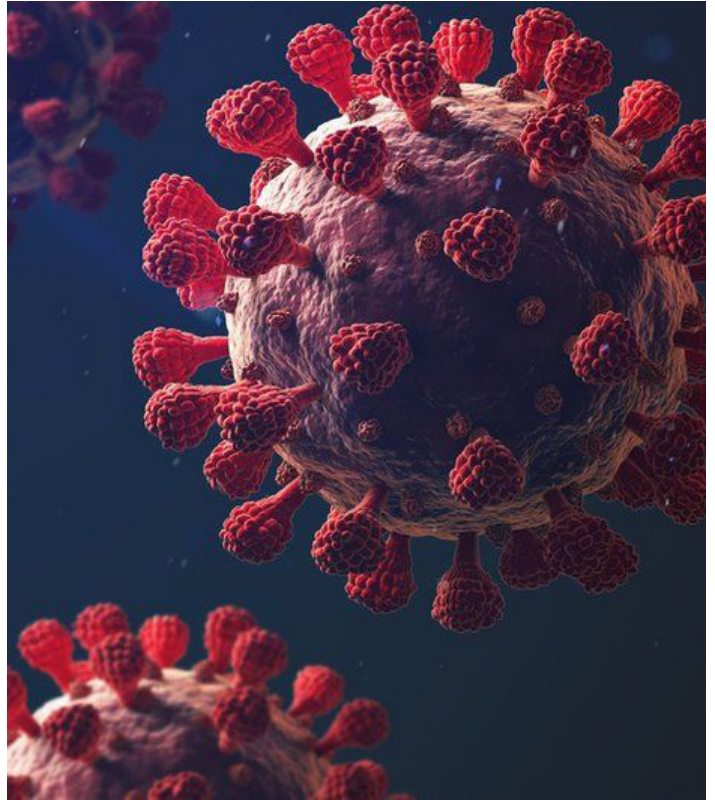
**Date:** June 2021

**CORPS**  
**SECURITY**

# COVID-19: New Variants Discovered

There remains uncertainty about whether the UK will further ease lockdown restrictions in June due to the further threat posed by the COVID-19 strain known as the Indian Variant. There are a number of [areas in England that have been advised to avoid meeting indoors](#), despite this being permissible due to the easing of restrictions in May 2021. Other areas, such as Glasgow, have remained under higher levels of restrictions despite the areas around them having restrictions eased.

In addition to the Indian Variant, [Vietnamese Officials have warned of the discovery of a very dangerous, new hybrid variant](#). Vietnam's Health Minister Nguyen Thanh Long has stated that the new [variant appears to combine the characteristics of the COVID-19 variants first found in India and the UK](#), making this "very dangerous". One of the greatest concerns about this new variant is that it is more transmissible than previous variants, especially in the air. There is, however, no suggestion that the illness that results from this variant is any more dangerous than any other variant.



# COVID-19 Scammer Jailed

Teige Gallagher, a 21-year-old from North London, was sentenced to [over four years in prison for sending fake NHS texts](#) to people. Mr Gallagher used the "smishing" attacks to gain personal information from his victims who, in some cases, were waiting for the COVID-19 vaccine and his message told recipients it would confirm if they were eligible. Mr Gallagher also posed as other reputable organisations including banks and mobile phone providers.

Smishing is described by Oxford Languages dictionary as "the fraudulent practice of sending text messages purporting to be from reputable companies in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords or credit card numbers.", and differs from phishing only in the medium that it uses (SMS message for smishing as opposed to email for phishing).



# Cyber Attack on the Northern Ireland Health Service Executive

The [Health Service Executive \(HSE\) Ireland](#) was the target of two ransomware attacks in May, firstly on Thursday 13th and then again on Friday 14th. The latter resulted in substantial disruption to outpatient services and the cancellation of a large number of appointments. A similar attack, though not thought to have been as extensive, was also [carried out on the Department of Health](#). It is

believed that the attacks were conducted by the same individuals and it is not thought to have been espionage. The Europol Malware Analysis System in the Hague are assisting by analysing the digital footprint of the malware attack to ascertain if it has been used elsewhere.

## Smart Cities - Connected Places Cyber Security Principles from the NCSC

In the [March Edition of Corps Relay](#) we highlighted the dangers posed by cyber criminals through an attack in the US. The incident involved cyber criminals gaining access to the water treatment system for Oldsmar, Florida, and increased the sodium hydroxide levels by 111%. Had it not been identified, it would likely have resulted in a number of fatalities.

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) have published their new [Connected Places Cyber Security Principles](#), which includes a recommended set of cyber security principles to make the systems easier to manage and increase resilience to cyber attacks. The NCSC hope the new principles will also ensure consideration is given to the security requirements when designing, building and managing “connected places”. Connected

places, otherwise known as Smart Cities, are urban areas which use a variety of different technical methods/sensors to collect data, which is then used to improve the management and operation of those areas.

In a similar vein to the threat to utility providers/ systems highlighted by Corps Consult in March 2021, [Ian Levy, Technical Director, NCSC](#) said “... as these ‘connected places’ become increasingly joined up, the ubiquity of the services they provide will likely make them a target for malicious actors.”. [Ian Levy](#) also said “We hope these principles will help designers, owners and managers of connected place systems to make well-informed cyber security choices (and encourage the citizens who live and work there to trust these connected places).”.



# National Cyber Security Centre

# SIA Succeed in Case for Licence Infringement

In May 2021, the Security Industry Authority (SIA) published the outcome of a case against [an individual that failed to comply with the conditions of their SIA licence](#). Paul Tilson, who held a Public Space Surveillance (CCTV) licence and a Security Guard licence, was found to have breached Section 9 of the Private Security Industry Act 2001 by contravening the licence conditions. Mr Tilson failed to inform the SIA that he had been prosecuted for theft and also failed to notify them that he had changed address. As a result, Mr Tilson appeared in court on 18th May 2021 and received a 12-month community order and a total of £595 in financial penalties. What is more, Mr Tilson also received a further criminal conviction.



# Denmark alleged to have assisted the US to spy on European Officials 2012-14

Denmark's oldest and largest public service broadcaster Danish Broadcasting Corporation, also known as DR, have alleged that [Denmark helped the US spy on European politicians between 2012-14](#). These new reports link to similar events in the secrets leaked by Edward Snowden in the 2013 whistleblowing incident, including the alleged use of technical surveillance/wiretapping of the German Chancellor's phone. DR have stated that the Danish Defence Intelligence Service (FE) worked with the US National Security Agency (NSA) to collect information on officials from France, Germany,

Norway and Sweden. There was no indication in the Snowden whistleblowing documents of the FE's involvement and both a spokesperson for Angela Merkel and German President, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, have stated they were not aware of any involvement by Denmark until the DR report at the end of May.

# 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

The [May edition of Corps Relay](#) discussed the continued growth of far right groups, highlighting the recent developments including the cases of [Ben Raymond](#) and [Benjamin Hannam](#) who were found guilty of being members of the [proscribed](#) neo-Nazi group National Action. In the year 2019/20 (April-March), both the majority of referrals to the UK's Prevent Programme, and the majority of those subsequently deemed "at risk of radicalisation", were for far-right extremism. Assistant Commissioner, Neil Basu, has warned previously that far right extremism is the biggest growing terror threat in the UK, and former

Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley previously warned of the use of sophisticated propaganda and subversive strategies by far-right extremists to indoctrinate sympathisers for their cause. Counter Terrorism Policing recently shared a [UK Protect Bulletin](#) highlighting [recent guidance](#) aimed to help individuals identify the possible risks of far right extremism and take action.

# Notable Dates/Events

## Key Religious or National Celebrations

There are significant days for several religions and nations in June 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 June 2021 include:

- 2nd June – Coronation Day – UK and Commonwealth celebration
- 3rd June – 4th Anniversary of the London Bridge Vehicle Attack – Key Event Anniversary
- 3rd June – Corpus Christi – A Christian celebration

## 4th Anniversary of the 2017 London Bridge Vehicle Attack

Eight people were killed and many more injured when three men (Khuram Shazad Butt, Rachid Redouane, and Youssef Zagbba) drove a van into pedestrians on [London Bridge](#) killing three people. After crashing the van the men got out and attacked those around them with the knives they had tied to their wrists. The men moved through Borough Market attacking people before being shot dead by the police. The men were found to be wearing fake suicide vests.

- 6th June – Anniversary of D Day/The Normandy Landings – A celebration of a decisive military victory for the Allied Forces of WWII
- 7th June – Eire Bank Holiday – Bank Holiday in Ireland
- 10th June – Birthday of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh – A UK and Commonwealth celebration and the first following his passing
- 11th-13th June – The 47th G7 Summit (Carbis Bay, Cornwall) – International Political Summit
- 12th June – H.M. The Queen's Official Birthday – UK and Commonwealth celebration
- 15th June – 26th Anniversary of the 1996 Manchester Bombing – Key Event Anniversary
- 16th June – 5th Anniversary of the murder of MP Jo Cox– Key Event Anniversary
- 21st-26th June – Armed Forces Week – A UK celebration of the UK Armed Forces
- 21st June – Anniversary of the 2013 attempt to blow up Walsall Mosque – Key Event Anniversary

## 5th Anniversary of the 2016 murder of MP Jo Cox

Thomas Mair, a far right terrorist, is currently serving a life sentence for the murder of the Member of Parliament for Batley and Spen, Jo Cox, during the EU Referendum campaign in June 2016. Mrs Cox was attacked by Mr Mair as she got out of a car in Birstall. Mr Mair shot and repeatedly stabbed Mrs Cox whilst saying "This is for Britain", "Britain first", and "Keep Britain independent".

# Black Lives Matter - Sasha Johnson Shot

Prominent member of the Black Lives Matter movement in the UK, and founding member of the Taking the Initiative Party, [Sasha Johnson was shot in head at a party on 23rd May](#). It is reported that four men entered the garden of a property in Peckham where a silent disco was taking place and proceeded to fire their weapons. Although Ms Johnson was hit in the head, it has not been confirmed whether she was the intended target of the attack at this stage. Another person at the

party was also injured and received treatment for a superficial knife wound to his hand. Detective Chief Inspector Richard Leonard, of the Metropolitan Police, stated that Ms Johnson was [shot during the ensuing melee](#). Ms Johnson remains in critical condition. One male, 18 year-old Cameron Deriggs, was charged with conspiracy to murder in relation to the incident. [Five men have been arrested in connection with the incident](#) and four men have been released on bail until late June.

# Demonstrations

- 31st May - 1st June – Anti-Lockdown Protest – Hyde Park, London
- 4th June – “McDonalds – Clean Up Your Act” Protest – St Martins Gardens, Camden Street, London
- 4th June – XR are planning a mass banner drop referencing the G7 Summit in Cornwall, UK wide
- 5th June – Suffolk Animal Rights Activism Anti-Fishing Protest – Bury-St-Edmunds
- 5th June – Anti-Lockdown/Vaccine “Official Voice Open Top Bus Tour of London” – London
- 5th-10th June – XR “Protest the Earth” March – Plymouth to Cornwall with known stops at Smeeton Tower, Looe, Fowey, Grampound, Truro and Canbourne.
- 5th June – Anti-Lockdown/Vaccine Protests – Glasgow & Edinburgh
- 5th June – Pro-Scottish Independence Demonstration – Greenock
- 6th June – Stand Up X Anti-Lockdown Party in the Park – Battersea Park, London
- 6th June – Possible Anti-G7 Protests re Climate Change have been promoted – Carbis Bay, Cornwall
- 6th June – “One Year On - Justice” Anti-Racism Protest to coincide with the anniversary of the first Black Lives Matter event – Greys Monument, Newcastle upon Tyne
- 7th June – Part of a series of Anti-G7 Protest re Climate Change – Scotland
- 7th June – Anti-Child Grooming Protest – Old Market Square, Nottingham
- 8th June – Animal Rebellion G7 Related Protest – Cornwall
- 8th June – Part of a series of Anti-G7 Protest re Climate Change – North East, North West and Northern Ireland
- 9th June – XR “Make a Wave” G7 Protest – Maldon, Essex
- 9th June – Part of a series of Anti-G7 Protest re Climate Change – East Anglia, Wales, and Northern Kent Coast
- 10th June – Part of a series of Anti-G7 Protest re Climate Change – South Coast and Severn Channel area
- 10th June – Environmental/XR supporting Folkestone Red Rebel Brigade Protest – Folkestone
- 11th-13th June – Anti-G7 Protest re Climate Change – Carbis Bay, Cornwall
- 12th June – Myanmar Themed G7 Protest – Falmouth
- 12th June – Surfers Against Sewage are hosting a ‘Paddle Out’ G7 Protest – Falmouth
- 12th June – Pro-Scottish Independence Demonstration – Kirkcaldy, Scotland
- 12th June – Anti-Lockdown Protest – Glasgow
- 12th June – Protest opposing the Robert Geffrye statue outside the Museum of the Home – Hackney, London

## Extinction Rebellion (XR)

XR are expected to be busy in June. Key events, including the G7 summit, XR's Uprising Weekend and the Free the Press event will likely result in more disruption and potential damage to property.

- Uprising Weekend – 25th-27th June – UK wide but no specific details available
- Free the Press – 27th June – Event directly targeting the media and wealthy media owners. The event specifically names Rupert Murdoch. Details of where, when and what form this will take are as yet unknown.

The [Rebellion of One protests](#) at the beginning of May saw hundreds of protestors take to the streets

across the UK. The plan was for individuals to block certain roads for a short period of time (1 hour) whilst supported by individuals looking on but not engaging in the activity. Nine individuals in London were arrested for gluing themselves to bridges, a behaviour that has become fairly common resulting in the Police having solvents ready to remove protestors whilst causing little harm to their glued skin.

Co-founder of XR and molecular biophysicist, [Gail Bradbrook, was arrested on 11th May for conspiracy to cause criminal damage and fraud](#) in relation to the XR Money Rebellion campaign. Ms Bradbrook was later released but remains under investigation.



**POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS**

## Rise in Anti-Semitism in the UK

# Corps Focus: Security Issue of the Month

The recent [conflict between Israel and Palestine in Gaza](#) resulted in 11 days of fighting and 240 deaths. Despite the conflict taking place 2,226 miles away from the UK capital, the effects were felt on the streets of London also. There was a [500% increase in the number of religiously motivated attacks on Jews](#) in and around London during the conflict in Gaza. Examples of these include:

- The hospitalisation of [Rabbi Rafi Goodwin who was attacked by two men](#). The incident reportedly began after the two attackers stepped out in front of Rabbi Goodwin's car and anti-Semitic language was used during the attack.
- [Four men were arrested after travelling to the St John's Wood area of North London and shouting anti-Semitic abuse out of their vehicle](#). The men were arrested on suspicion of racially aggravated public order offences and later also arrested in connection to a similar incident in Manchester.
- [A man has been arrested after attacking a woman that was 27 weeks pregnant](#). After he tried, and failed, to get a bag over her head he punched her multiple times in the head and stomach until she escaped.

- An [Orthodox Jewish man was attacked in his car on Golders Green Road](#), London. Witnesses say that the assailant targeted the car because it displayed an Israeli flag. The assailant broke into the car and attacked the driver.

Whilst there are suggestions some may be linked to the recent conflict in Gaza, these incidents are by no means outliers. A report in February 2021 compiled by the Community Security Trust (CST), a charity that was set up to protect British Jews from antisemitism and related threats, found that there has been a [dramatic rise in anti-Semitic incidents since 2008](#).

Lord Mann, the government's Independent Adviser on Antisemitism stated *"Whilst the CST figures show a decrease in antisemitic hate incidents in 2020, these figures are worryingly still the third-highest ever recorded by CST. It is clear that Covid-19 has led to a rise in antisemitic conspiracy theories and the use of dangerous alternative media platforms. Whilst it is partly to do with better reporting and knowledge, it is worrying that this trend isn't coming down"*.





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