



# Weekly Digest

## Advisory Services Newsletter

16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

# Agenda

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# Terrorism Update

The current threat level for the UK is 'SUBSTANTIAL', meaning a terror attack is 'likely'. For further information see [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

## MI5 Had Intelligence on MEN Bomber Abedi Before Attack (Guardian 15<sup>th</sup> February)

Intelligence received by MI5 but not passed on to Counter Terror police described Abedi as engaging in “activity of pressing national security concern”. The file on Abedi as a “subject of interest” was closed prior to the attack on the arena despite him being "red-flagged" twice between 2014-2015. Kim Harrison, of Slater and Gordon, solicitor for families of 12 of the victims responded to the revelations saying:

*“To hear that concerns had apparently been raised with superiors regarding the triaging of intelligence, including worries that something could get through due to the volumes of documents being considered is difficult to swallow.”*

Details were released last month regarding the **testimonies** (in November 2021) of **MI5 officers** at the **Manchester Arena Enquiry** where **the intelligence agency’s practises** were **described** by officers as “clunky”, “hit and miss” and “haphazard” and the **security service** itself described as “struggling to cope”.

## Counter Terror Command Confirm Arrest of Two Men Under Terrorism Act (GB News 14<sup>th</sup> February)

The Met Police’s **Counter Terror Command Unit** confirmed the **arrest** of **two men** in **London** on Tuesday as part of an on-going investigation. A 30-year-old man was arrested in East London this week under **section 41** of the Terrorism Act for being ‘**involved in commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism**’. Another 30-year-old man was arrested the previous week under **section 38B** of the Act where someone “**does not inform the police if he/she believes that someone they know is in preparation of acts of terrorism.**” The investigation is on-going, and police confirm there is no imminent threat to the public.

## Man charged with Disseminating terrorist publications (Police.UK 12<sup>th</sup> February)

**Counter Terrorism Policing North East** announced the **arrest** last week of a **19-year-old man** from **South-East London** charged with **four acts of disseminating terrorist publications**. Mohammed Hussain entered a plea of "not guilty" at Westminster Magistrates Court. He is due to appear again on 25<sup>th</sup> February.



Headline 1 – MI5 had intell on Abedi prior to attack  
[Manchester Evening News Dec 2020](#)



# World news/COVID19

## Uncertainty in Ukraine as Russia shows no signs of withdrawing troops (Independent 16th February)

Despite claims to the contrary from Russia's Western Military District, there appears to be **no sign** of a **Russian troop withdrawal** from the **Ukrainian border** says Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky, an assessment echoed by both NATO and the US Government. NATO general secretary Jens Stoltenberg suggests the opposite is in fact evident as **Russia builds up its presence** at the border rather than reducing it. The statements come amid accusations against Russia being responsible for the recent cyber attacks on the Ukrainian defence ministry and at least two banks. Yesterday (the 16<sup>th</sup> February) the **Ukraine** celebrates '**Unity Day**' a holiday created by president Zelensky this week to show unity against the threat of an invasion from Russia. <sup>1</sup>

## British Citizens Urged to Leave Ukraine (Sky News 12<sup>th</sup> February)

The **UK Government** urges its **citizens** in **Ukraine to leave** the country immediately by "any means necessary" and not to expect assistance in fleeing (military or otherwise) should Russia's invasion go ahead. Impressing upon those remaining in-country, James Heapey, Junior Defence Minister, warned there would be **no military evacuations** like those carried out during the summer in Afghanistan. The British embassy in Kyiv remains open but unable to provide in-person assistance and the Foreign Office advises against all travel to the country.

## Public Inquiry into Post Office Horizon Scandal Begins (BBC News 15<sup>th</sup> February)

The **Horizon Post Office scandal** public Inquiry began this week overseeing an **investigation** into what has been described as the most **widespread miscarriage of justice in UK history**. Approximately **700 sub-postmasters** and mistresses were **wrongly convicted** of theft because of financial shortfalls in their accounting between 2000 and 2014. The discrepancies are now believed to have been caused by a computer error in the system purchased from Japanese communication technology firm Fujitsu. A number of the convictions led to **imprisonment**, the longest sentence of which was three years and four months. Post masters not imprisoned made up the financial shortfalls at their own expense whilst many of the victims lost the trust of their community, suffered severe mental health issues, relationship breakdowns and livelihoods and homes lost. The Inquiry is expected to run all year. <sup>2</sup>



Headline 3 – Sub-postmasters Inquiry begins (BBC News 2022)

# Industry News

## ENERGY

### UK Government Announces the Creation on Two Freeports in Scotland (BBC News 15<sup>th</sup> February)

The move, announced this week as part of the UK government's 'levelling-up' agenda and will consider a number of locations for the ports including **Shetland, Aberdeen** with Peterhead, **Dundee**, and the **Glasgow city region**. **Free Ports or Free Trade Zones** are areas where "different economic regulations apply". Tax relief, business rates retention, lighter customs regulations and financial support (up to GBP25 million per port) will be available to those areas that meet the criteria and are chosen for the scheme. Freeports were **last used** in the **UK in 2012** and there are believed to be 3,500 in existence in 135 countries 80 of which are in the EU. Allocated **Freeports** in **England** (subject to an authorisation process) are **Humber** (including the port of Immingham), **Liverpool City Region, East Midlands airport, Plymouth and South Devon**, Solent (including ports of Southampton and Portsmouth) and **Felixstowe & Harwich** ( both ports). <sup>3, 4.</sup>

### BP CEO announces business as usual in Russia amid tensions in Ukraine (CNBC 14<sup>th</sup> February)

Bernard Looney **CEO** of **BP** announced this week that **growing tensions** in the **Ukraine** and the threat of an imminent invasion by Russia has had **no impact** on its **Russian operations**. BP which own almost a 20% stake in Russia's national oil company **Rosneft** is the country's largest foreign investor. Looney would not speculate on the current situation in Ukraine but added BP would fully comply with sanctions against Russia should they be imposed.

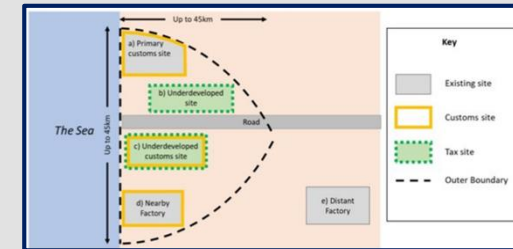
## AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE

### Gatwick to Reopen South Terminal after Two Years (Travelmole 14th February)

**Gatwick Airport** CEO Stewart Wingate announced the **reopening** of the terminal from **27<sup>th</sup> March** and added:

*"After an incredibly challenging two years for the airport, our partners, local communities and the entire aviation industry, we are delighted to be reopening our South Terminal next month."*

The move comes amid an influx of increased flying schedules from most airlines as COVID restrictions ease and testing for vaccinated passengers is no longer required.



Headline 1. UK Freeport structure (GOV.UK 2022)



Headline 2 BP CEO Bernard Looney (CNBC 2022)



# Activism Updates

## PROTESTS

### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February – UnitedAgainstJohnson

Location: Parliament Square, London @Midday

Cause: Protest against Government

Details: <https://twitter.com/search?q=%23TakeBackDemocracy>

### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February – INSULATE BRITAIN - Rave on the M25

Location: M25 @Midday (Saturday) - 04:00 (Sunday)

Cause: 16 hour rave at four different music stages set up along the M25.

Details: [Facebook Event](#)

(101 expressed intent to go to this event with another 309 interested on Facebook)

### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February – Glasgow Freedom Rally

Location: Commonwealth monument, Glasgow Green, Glasgow @13:00

Cause: Freedom March

Details: <https://t.me/SCOTLANDTGR>

### Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February – Trans Autonomy Now

Location: Parliament Square @15:00

Cause: Reform the Gender Recognition Act

Details: <https://twitter.com/TransActionBloc>

### Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – NUS rally

Location: Outside Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh @12:30

Cause: demonstration for students having to struggle and rely on foodbanks and discretionary support.

Details: <https://www.nus-scotland.org.uk/>



Take back Democracy (Twitter 2022)



Insulate Britain (Facebook 2022)



# Protest Guidance

## GENERAL ADVICE

- It is recommended you maintain a good awareness of your surroundings if in the vicinity of a demonstration or public gathering as some protests may escalate into violence.
- Anticipate localised travel disruption in the area of the demonstration.
- Allow additional time for journeys or arrange alternate routes to minimise potential delays.
- If in the area of a spontaneous protest, it is recommended to leave the area by the quickest means possible and seek a secure location.
- Continue to monitor media sources for updates and additions to the scheduled events.
- Consider the possibility of regular protests occurring throughout the summer as they are often not isolated events, with activists returning to the same locations time and again.

## KEEPING STAFF INFORMED AND PREPARED

- Inform staff that routes to work may be impacted by protest groups.
- Keep staff updated and provide guidance on how to approach the site (e.g. consider dressing down, no identification on display on approach to site, organised travel from transport hubs).
- Morning Briefs to include lockdown measures and scenario discussion to aid confidence in SOPs.
- Escalation and Incident procedures to be brief. Allocated Team Leads to be communicated.
- Named First Aiders on site to be communicated to the rest of the team daily.

## ACCESS CONTROL

- Secondary access points to be used, in order to keep main access areas clear.
- Perimeter Surveillance to be proactively undertaken.
- Reinforce security on approach to site.

## PATROLS

- To identify suspicious activity in the area.
- Vary patrols by changing routes and frequency.
- Check all exterior perimeter fencing.

## STAFF

- Consider increasing the number of staff on duty.
- Consider patrolling in pairs if appropriate.
- Staff access to the building may be prevented. Consideration should be given to working from another location.

## SOCIAL MEDIA AND CYBER SECURITY

- Monitor social media platforms for chatter regarding protests in your vicinity.
- Further guidance to staff could be given regarding their personal cyber security to ensure no cyber-attacks via home working Wi-Fi.

# Counter-Terrorism Guidance

## **THE FOLLOWING ADVICE IS FROM THE [NATIONAL COUNTER TERRORIST SECURITY OFFICE](#)**

### **GENERAL ADVICE ACT** (Action Counters Terrorism)

On identifying suspicious activity, individual, vehicle or suspect object, move away and call 999.

Or use the confidential hotline - **0800 789 321**

- **Provide updated and regular threat briefings**
- Maintain an effective **risk assessment**.
- Maintain training and engagement with **ACT app**.
- [Easing Lockdown Vigilance Campaign Toolkit](#)

### **SUSPICIOUS ITEMS**

#### **CONFIRM**

- Has it been deliberately hidden
- Is it obviously suspicious
- Is it typical for this location

#### **CLEAR**

- Do not touch the item, stay away from the hazard
- Be out of sight of the item or behind hard cover
- Cordon off the area in advance of police arrival.

#### **COMMUNICATE**

- Inform your control room/supervisor
- **DO NOT USE MOBILE PHONES/RADIOS** within 15m

### **CONTROL**

- Public should be stopped from entering the area
- Try to keep eyewitnesses on scene.

### **MARAUDING TERRORIST ATTACK**

#### **RUN**

- Escape if you can
- Is there a safe route? Run, if not Hide
- Insist others leave with you,
- Leave belongings behind.
- Do not attempt to film the incident. Run.

#### **HIDE**

- If you can see the attacker, they may be able to see you. Bullets go through glass, brick, wood and metal. You must still hide, even if you are behind a locked door.
- Be aware of your exits
- Be quiet, silence your phone
- Lock/barricade yourself in
- Move away from the door

#### **TELL**

- Call the police
- Nature of the Incident - What is happening?
- Location - Suspects –Direction –Descriptions

### **BOMB THREAT**

- Remain calm and talk to the caller
- Note the caller's number and record the call
- Write down the exact wording and time of call
  1. Where exactly is the bomb right now?
  2. When is it going to explode?
  3. What does it look like?
  4. What does the bomb contain?
  5. How will it be detonated?
  6. Who put the device in place?
  7. What is your name?
  8. What is your address?
  9. Do you represent a group or acting alone?
  10. Why have you placed the bomb?

Note the following

#### **The caller's**

Sex / Nationality / Age

#### **What threat language was used**

Well spoken / Irrational / Incoherent

#### **Caller's voice**

Calm / Excited / Accent – note if possible

#### **Background sounds**

Street noises/House noises





**Contact**  
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