

2nd March Weekly Digest



Advisory
Services
Newsletter



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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).

First Gravity Sensor to Detect Terrorist Tunnels Created in UK (National News 25th February)

Researchers from the **University of Birmingham** working at the **UK National Quantum Technology Hub** in Sensors and Timing, have **created a 'gravity sensor'**. The sensor originally designed to detect buried archaeological artefacts and for use in ecological surveys, can also be used to **detect the presence of tunnels** such as those used by terrorists in the hills and subterranean caves of **Afghanistan**. Gareth Brown, Principal scientist at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory stated:

"For national defence and security, accurate and rapid measurements of variations in microgravity open up new opportunities to detect the otherwise undetectable and navigate more safely in challenging environments,"

MI5 Chief Warns of British Extremists Travelling to Afghanistan (National News 23rd February)

Ken McCallum, **MI5's director general** continues to warn of a **hotbed of terrorism** in **Afghanistan** as news emerges of an **increase in UK nationals** travelling to the country to **Join ISIS-K**, a particularly violent and militant faction of ISIS. The group who claimed responsibility for the bombing of Kabul Airport during the US withdrawal of troops in August is creating a stronghold in Afghanistan. MI5's warning comes with a report on the arrest of British man attempting to cross the border into Afghanistan with the intent to join ISIS-K bringing with him GBP10,000 in cash, military fatigues and night-vision goggles.

Three Terror Inmates Guilty of Attack on Prison Officer (National News 23rd February)

Hashem **Abedi** (brother of MEN arena bombing suspect), Ahmed **Hassan** (Parsons Green bomber) and Muhammed **Saeed** (on remand for possession of material for terrorist purposes) have been found guilty and sentenced to an additional three years each after what was described as an **'animalistic attack'** on a **custodian manager** at **Belmarsh** prison high-security wing. It is thought all three were annoyed at having their privileges restricted. The prison officer suffered injuries including hearing damage and feared for his life during the attack which was stopped promptly after swift intervention from colleagues. ¹



Headline 3 – Three Suspects Guilty of Attack on Prison Officer (MET POLICE 2022)

World news (page 1 of 2)

UKRAINE [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#).

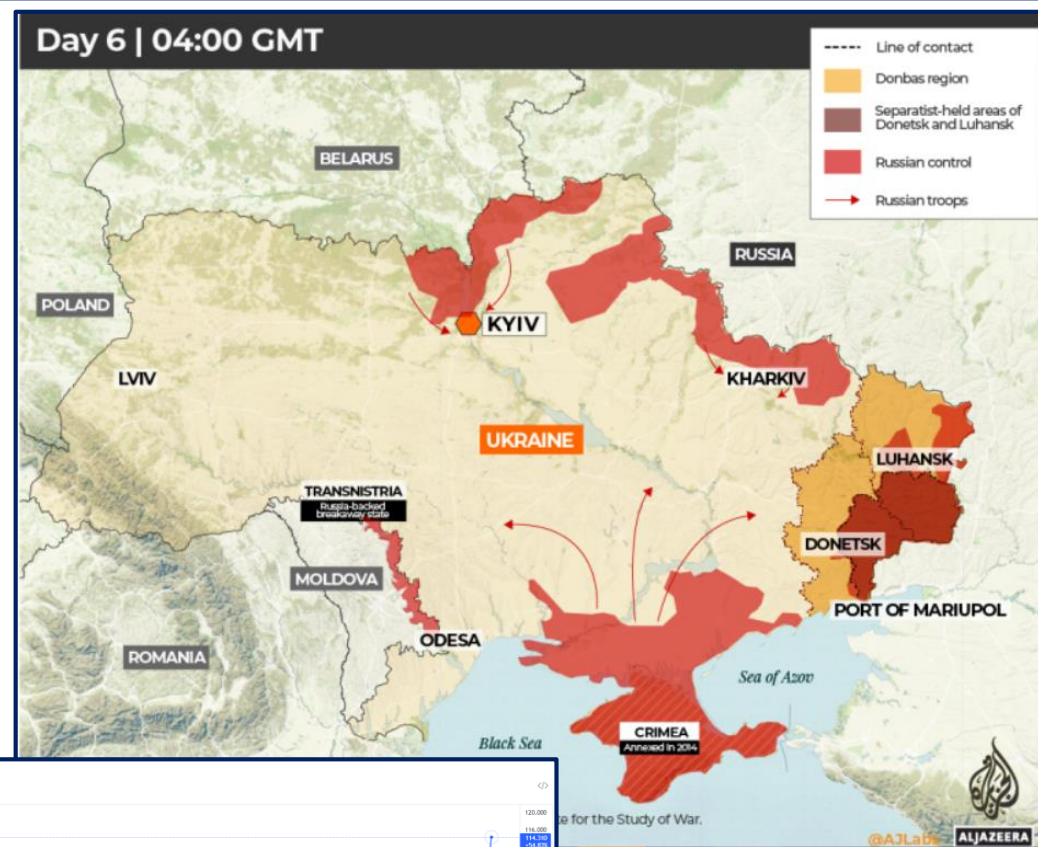
Ukraine continues to suffer heavy bombardment as Russia's invasion of the country enters its 7th day (Wednesday 2nd March). A convoy of 100's of Russian tanks (40 miles long) and over 15,000 troops en-route to the capital mobilised from Belarus on Tuesday and on Wednesday was within 20 miles of Kyiv. Despite fears the Russian army is running out of fuel and supplies, the incursion see no signs of abating as the Belarusian military join the fray. **Russia has been accused of using a 'vacuum bomb'** (most deadly non-nuclear bomb) and negotiations between Ukraine and Russia amounted to an agreement to 'meet again'.

The Russian Rouble has suffered a major slump in the currency markets since the unprecedented sanctions were imposed with Russia attempting to mitigate this by doubling the interest rate to 20% raising it from 9.5%. Russian citizens are barred from transferring funds out of Russia and foreign investors from selling Russian commodities. The Russian Rouble (RUR) is now worth less than one US Cent and the country risks economic collapse as it shuts its stock market until at least Monday 5th March.

A million Ukrainians have fled the conflict so far via Poland, Romania, Hungary and beyond.

The UN warns however another 4.5 million people could flee in the coming days. Poland has received over half a million refugees at its borders already where displaced families are met with 70 hour waits.

The UK government announced they were doubling the amount of refugees they would accept to 200,000.



Map of Ukraine and Russian controlled areas (Al Jazeera 2022)

Rouble/USD Foreign Exchange market price (Trading View 2022)

World news (page 2 of 2)

UKRAINE SANCTIONS CURRENTLY IMPOSED [8.](#) [9.](#) [10.](#) [11.](#) [12.](#) [13.](#) [14.](#) [15.](#) [16.](#) [17.](#)

- **Canada, UK, US** and **EU** have **prevented** Russia from gaining **access** to international reserve funds of **€640bn**.
- **EU** and **US** have **banned** all **transactions** with **Russian financial institutions** including removing listed state-owned stocks and shares from EU stock exchanges.
- The **freezing** of Russian **assets** in countries including the **US, UK** and **EU**.
- **Sanctions** and **assets freezing** of **key** Russian **individuals** including foreign minister Sergei Lavrov; members of the Kremlin Security Council and The Russian Duma **and** over twelve Russian **oligarchs**.
- **UK** has set a **deposit limit** of **GBP50,000** on bank accounts in the UK for Russians, the **EU** has followed suit setting a limit of **EUR100,000**.
- All **Russian aviation** banned from **UK** and **EU airspace** and **Turkey** is **limiting** Russian **warships** in the **Black Sea**.
- **Gazprom, Transneft** and **RusHydro** (amongst others) **banned** from **US credit markets**.
- **Ban** on **exports** to Russia (including semiconductors, aviation parts and telecoms) from **EU** and **UK**.
- **Ban** on Russia competing in **Eurovision Song Contest, Fifa** and **Uefa** football matches, the removal of **Putin's Taekwondo black belt** by the International Taekwondo Association and the boycott of **Russian Vodka**.
- **Cancellation** of international sporting events to be hosted in Russia including **F1 Grand Prix** and **Champions league final**.
- **Cancellation** of **Gazprom sponsorship** of Uefa.
- **Warner Brothers** cancelled the release of upcoming movie **The Batman** from cinemas **in Russia**.
- **Shell, BP, Exxon** and **Equinor** (Norway) have **pulled** their **positions** out of Russian energy companies (including Gazprom and Rosneft).
- **Russian media channels** **RT** and **Sputnik** have had access **restricted** on **Facebook/Meta**, and **Google** (including **YouTube**). **Meta** have also set up a Russian dis-information special operations group to deal with hate speech and threats or incitement of violence on-line. The UK's telecoms regulatory body **Ofcom** is also investigating the impartiality of RT reporting.
- **Apple** will no longer sell its products in **Russia**.
- **Shipping companies** **MAERSK, MSC, and CMA CGM** have **halted shipping** to and from Russia with the exception of food supplies, medical equipment and humanitarian aid. The **UK** and **Canada** have **closed** their **ports** to all Russian vessels.
- **Hacking groups** **Anonymous** (Germany) and **Cyber Partisans** (Belarus) **launch cyber-attacks** on Russian **banks, RT, the Belarusian railway network** (moving Russian troops to the front). They have so far claimed responsibility for over **1,500 attacks**, including an attack on Tvingo Telecom, broadcasting the Ukrainian national anthem on Russian news channels and hacking cyber-hacking group **CONTI**.
- The **Ukrainian government** encourages its citizens to join their **mass cyber hacking group** to attack Russian technological infrastructure with over 230,000 members who claim to have 'taken down' **Serbank** (one of Russia's largest financial institutions).

WILSON JAMES ADVISORY

In light of the recent escalation of hostilities in Ukraine Advisory Services would like to remind staff of the **importance of vigilance when online and our vulnerability to cyber-attack**.

Please therefore review our **Monthly Threat in Focus** which this month (February) is **Insider Threats**

Please remember to report suspicious activity to the appropriate Information Security Officer and IT team. For your information a guidance slide has been added to this week's digest.

Industry News - Energy

Energy Giants Pull out of Russia after Sanctions (Shell.com 28th February)

BP announced at the weekend it is **divesting** its **19.75%** stake in Russian oil giant **Rosneft**. Despite being left with a cost of up to USD 25Billion in foreign exchange non-cash charges, the energy giant's CEO stated:

"I have been deeply shocked and saddened by the situation unfolding in Ukraine and my heart goes out to everyone affected. It has caused us to fundamentally rethink bp's position with Rosneft,"

Rosneft is responsible for half of BP's oil and gas reserve and a third of its oil and gas production, but BP confirmed the move would not affect their short or long-term financial targets.

Shell has **pulled** its holdings in Russian energy companies including their **27.5%** stake in **Sakhalin 2 liquefied natural gas**; **50%** stake in **Salym Petroleum Development** and the Gydan energy venture (Gazprom). Shell has also announced they will stop all work on the **Nord Stream 2 pipeline** including its regulatory certification. [18.](#) [19.](#)

Price of Petrol Increases to Over £1.50 a litre (BBC News 28th February)

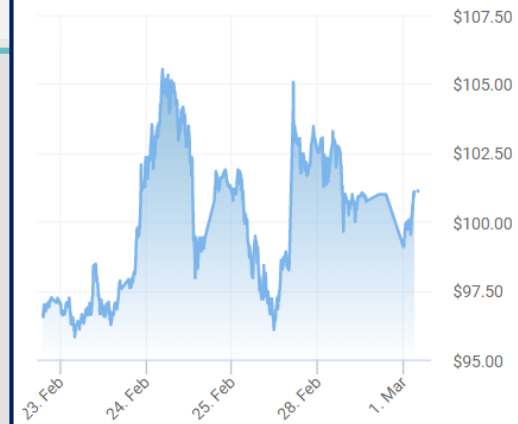
The **average price** of both **petrol** and **diesel** has risen to over **£1.50/litre** in the UK as the price of oil rose in the wake of the Russian assault on Ukraine last week. Investment bank **Goldman Sachs** has announced they expect the price of oil per barrel to rise to USD115 within the month and prices continue to rise as energy sanctions and worries about military escalation continues. Although the **UK relies on Russia to supply only 6% of its oil** the uncertainty in Ukraine and its impact on the global oil market will invariably affect domestic markets. There have been calls for UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak to reduce VAT or fuel duty as the cost of filling up a car's fuel tank will exasperate the current cost of living crisis. [20.](#) [21.](#)

NPG and Scottish Ballet Drop BP Sponsorship (BP or not BP 23rd February)

Both the **National Portrait Gallery** and the **Scottish Ballet** have **dropped BP** sponsorship from their institutions. After 30 years of sponsoring the 'BP Portrait Award' the Portrait gallery announced it would no longer partner with BP after their association became too controversial. The Scottish ballet echoed the sentiment stating their partnership with BP no longer 'aligns with the company's green action plan'. A spokesperson for BP or not BP stated:

*'We're delighted that the National Portrait Gallery has finally seen the bigger picture and dropped BP. There is no way that our national cultural institutions should be legitimising oil companies in the midst of a climate crisis. This is the latest huge win for the movement against fossil fuel sponsorship, and leaves the **British Museum and Science Museum looking isolated** and out of touch.'* [22.](#)

101.13 +3.19%



Headline 2 –Brent Crude oil market prices (OilPrice 2022)



Headline 3 - NPG Protest (BPORNOTBP 2022)



Activism Updates

ACTIVISM RELATED ACTIVITY

Thursday 3rd March – No to Climate/Energy crisis, No to War

Location: Downing Street, London @16:00
Cause: No to Climate/Energy crisis, No to War
Details: <https://twitter.com/InsulateLove>

Thursday 3rd March – No to Climate/Energy crisis, No to War

Location: Outside GAZPROM HQ, Triton Street, London @ 17:00
Cause: No to Climate/Energy crisis, No to War
Details: <https://twitter.com/InsulateLove>

Saturday 5th March – Youth Climate Swarm

Location: Trafalgar Square, London @13:00
Cause: Just Stop Oil
Details: <https://juststopoil.org/>

Saturday 5th March – Shut Down Shell

Location: Shell Petrol Station, Newport Rd, Cardiff @14:00
Cause: Cost of Living Protest
Details: <https://juststopoil.org/>

Saturday 5th March – Rise for Fife

Location: The Prom, Kirkcaldy, Fife @13:00
Cause: Freedom/Anti-Vaccine protest.
Details: <https://t.me/SCOTLANDTGR>

Monday 7th March – CEPI Conference

Location: CEPI HQ, Euston Road, London @TBC
Cause: Anti-Vaccine
Details: <https://t.me/Pierscorbyn>

Tuesday 8th March – Nationality and Borders Bill protest

Location: Parliament Square, London
Cause: Vigil for NABB during vote in House of Lords.
Details: <https://t.me/joinchat/40SbMWFwfl8yMTg0>



(Just Stop Oil 2022)



Insider Threat Guidance

USING DEVICES AT WORK

Managers - Ensure that any team members' systems/information access is appropriate for their role.

- Particularly where there is a change in position or when a team member leaves the business.
- Provide staff with personal account access.
(Not one account username with multiple users.)

All Staff - Only share information when it is appropriate.

- Do not borrow colleagues' logons or passwords.
- Only click on links from trusted sources.
- Be aware of the company policy surrounding data sharing for both Wilson James and the client you are working for.
- Notify the appropriate Information Security Officer if you suspect inappropriate behaviour.
 - Who is the ISO when using a client system.
 - Who is the ISO when using a WJ system.

USING WORK DEVICES AT HOME

- Use the VPN provided by the business
- Ensure you shut down your device fully at the end of a day to enable updates to take place as required
- Do not use the same password for all devices linked to Wi-Fi
 - For example: Doorbell cameras or Virtual Assistance Devices

Sharing Data

- Do not send work emails to your personal email accounts.
- Do not download personal data from private email accounts on a works system.
- Only click on links from trusted sources.
- If required to share personal data ensure your using a registered and approved process as directed by your Information Security Team.

Reporting

- Notify the appropriate Information Security Officer if you suspect any phishing emails have arrived in your inbox.
- Notify the appropriate Information Security Officer if you suspect your system has become subject to a cyber attack.

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 activism related activity 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 demonstrations 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 activist 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 activism related activity 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 suspicions 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
Advisoryservices@wilsonjames.co.uk