

9th March Weekly Digest



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Services
Newsletter



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The Migration [1.](#) [2.](#) [3.](#) [4.](#) [5.](#)

As the war in Ukraine enters its 14th day (24th Feb - 9th Mar) 'Humanitarian Corridors' and ceasefires have been set up in a number of cities across the country (Kyiv, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Sumy and Mariupol). These corridors will allow civilians to flee the besieged areas after an initial offer from the Kremlin, of corridors to only Belarus and Russia, was rejected as 'completely immoral' by the Ukrainian Government. Kyiv is yet to comment on the new proposals after claiming previous 'corridors' had been sabotaged by the Russian army with explosives set along the route. Further reports from the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry (Tuesday 8th) suggest a ceasefire in Mariupol has already been breached by Russia but by Wednesday AM reports were being received of successful evacuations from the Eastern city of Sumy.

The UN states that over 2 million people have fled the conflict in Ukraine since the outbreak of war. Over 200,000 of those have escaped to European countries further afield than their neighbours. The UK has received criticism for their strict visa entry application system and process that has meant issuing only 1,000 visas so far (Wednesday 9th) to Ukrainian refugees compared to Ireland's 2,500.

The Negotiation

The fourth round of negotiations between Russia and Ukraine are expected in Turkey on Thursday 10th Mar as Russia negotiators report nothing positive from the third round in Belarus on Monday. There is no anticipation the fourth round will bring a conclusion to the conflict as negotiators meet for hours long talks focussing on Ukraine's desire to join NATO and official recognition of annexed Crimea as Russian territory.

The Anti-Propaganda

A campaign has emerged by unknown threat actors to spread dis-information trivialising, dismissing or rejecting the events occurring in Ukraine.

- An image, widely circulated online is purported to be of Ukrainian actors pretending to be victims of the war. The footage is from a 2020 Ukrainian TV series. The video suggests the war is a hoax created by Ukraine and the West.
- One video claims to catch a moving Ukrainian body bag with a person emerging. The video is from a 'Fridays for Future' climate campaign in Vienna.

Other anti-propaganda include claims

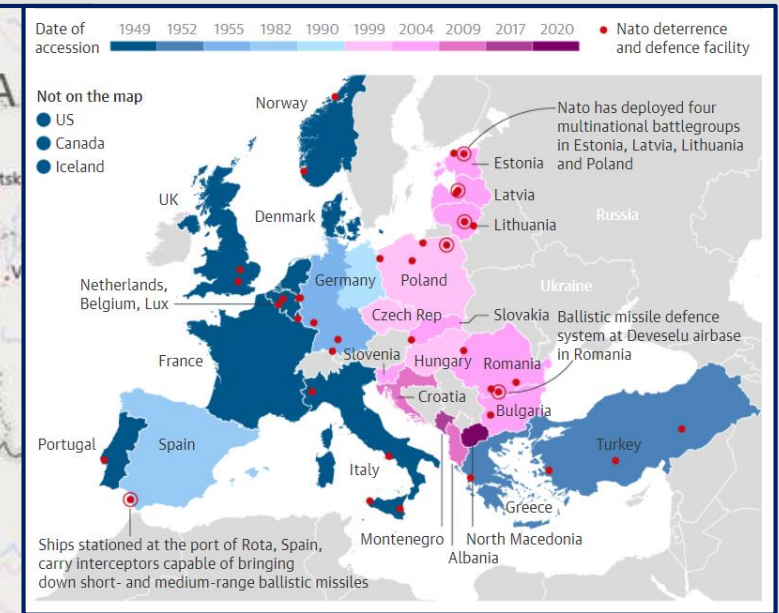
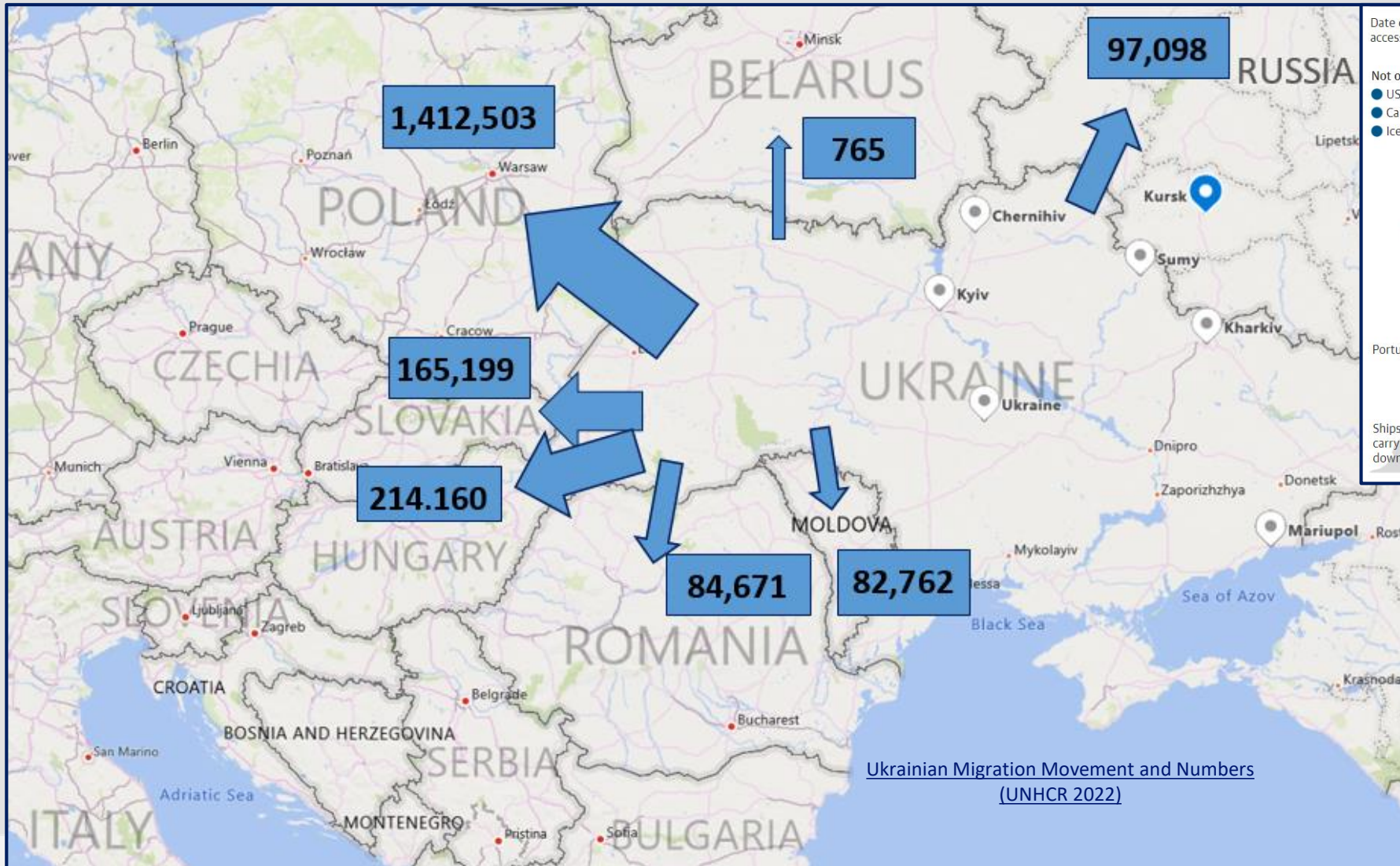
- Steven Segal fighting with the Russian forces in Ukraine. A tweet on CNN's official Twitter account suggested the actor had gone to fight, CNN confirmed the tweet had been faked.
- Photos from a far-right training course in February were used online to suggest the war was a hoax as the Ukraine soldiers carried wooden weapons.
- Ukraine does not have a vice-president and therefore reports online suggesting the wife of the VP has joined the Ukrainian army are also fake.

See our industry section for further reporting on Russia's cyber-war with the West.

Images from Ukrainian TV series 'Contamin' (Twitter 2022)



Invasion News – The Migrations (page 2 of 4)



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The DISSENT [6.](#) [7.](#) [8.](#) [9.](#) [10.](#) [11.](#)

Russian intelligence and media sources are reporting the emergence of captured Russian soldiers (and their families) claiming to be conscripts who had no knowledge they were going to war with Ukraine. When interviewed the soldiers maintain they were not aware of the intent to invade and 90% would return home if they could. The numerous interviews reflected a consensus of sentiment between the officers that is fear and demoralisation at being used as 'cannon fodder'. The lack of morale would appear to compound the difficulties facing the invading army.

The PROTESTS

More than 13,000 people protesting against the war in Ukraine have been arrested in Russia since the start of the conflict, reports [OVD-info](#) (a Russian human rights media project). More than 4,500 of those (13 of whom are journalists) were detained across 65 cities on Sunday alone with many tortured and then charged with offences such as vandalism and disseminating false information. Passer-byes have been detained by police and their phones searched for activist footage, facing arrest if they refuse. These totalitarian measures have been met with criticism from the UN's Human Rights Chief stating:

"I remain concerned about the use of repressive legislation that impedes the exercise of civil and political rights and criminalising non-violent behaviour."

Russia has recently passed two laws with penalties of up to fifteen years in prison criminalising war reporting and war protests, prompting a number of media organisations to withdraw their journalists from the country.

The CONVOY

The 40-mile long convoy of Russian military vehicles and troops en-route to Kyiv has stalled approximately fifteen miles outside of the Ukrainian capital. Reports suggest the head of the convoy has been attacked by Ukrainian forces taking advantage of its slow progress, and challenging logistics (moving the hundreds of tanks and thousands of troops). The convoy is over 250 miles from both logistical support in Belarus and their closest base in Kursk, Russia. Reports of low fuel supplies, lack of food, poor morale and the Ukrainian Rasputitsa (mud season) appear to have hampered Russia's efforts to reach the capital. Retired Lt. Col. Alex Vershinin, a former modelling and simulations officer for NATO and the U.S. Army suggested Putin will aim to utilise the Ukrainian railway system to transport reinforcements across the country but to control the railways he would need to "take major cities" which is also proving difficult. The following cities are reportedly under Russian control: Chernobyl; Konotop; Kherson; Melitopol and Donetsk in the separatist area.

[Anti-war protest, Moscow](#)
([DW.com 2022](#))



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ENERGY [12.](#) [13.](#) [14.](#) [15.](#) [16.](#) [17.](#)

Energy giant Shell faces criticism for its recent purchase of Russian crude oil after sanctions were imposed against Russia following its invasion of Ukraine. Admitting the decision was not made lightly Shell's Chief Executive Ben van Beurden said:

"We are acutely aware that our decision last week to purchase a cargo of Russian crude oil to be refined into products like petrol and diesel - despite being made with security of supplies at the forefront of our thinking - was not the right one and we are sorry."

Shell announced shortly after, all proceeds of the sale would go towards humanitarian aid in Ukraine. US President Joe Biden has implemented an immediate ban on all imports of gas and oil from Russia. The UK has confirmed it will follow suit aiming to implement their ban by year-end and the EU has committed to reducing Russian energy imports by two-thirds this year and eradicate energy dependence on Russian by 2030. The move is likely to further increase energy prices globally and questions remain over the UK's capacity to cope with the looming national energy crisis exasperated by the Ukrainian/Russian conflict. UK inflation is expected to rise to 8% and household incomes are expected to fall 4% (GBP 1,000), the biggest fall since the 1970s. Russia has responded to the import bans by threatening to cut off the Nord Stream 1 gas supply to Germany. Russia's deputy prime minister Alexander Novak said:

"A rejection of Russian oil would lead to catastrophic consequences for the global market."

CYBER-SECURITY [18.](#) [19.](#) [20.](#) [21.](#) [22.](#) [23.](#)

The UK's [National Cyber Security Centre](#) issued a high alert shortly before Russia invaded Ukraine, warning of the increased potential for cyber security attacks. 14 days in to the war however there appears to be limited sign of the sophisticated, debilitating Russian attacks previously witnessed, such as the Ukrainian power grid attack in 2015 and the NotPetya malware in 2017. Tech giants have now revealed the extent of the threat and the work involved in thwarting the attacks.

Google's [Threat Analysis Group](#) (TAG) has identified:

- Widespread phishing attacks targeting Ukrainian and Polish officials from Belarus.
- Malware attempts by Chinese threat actors on European entities assisting Ukraine. Significantly, threat Actor 'Mustang Panda' has shifted from their normal hacking MO of Southeast Asian targets.
- Amazon has noticed attempts to target charities, NGOs and aid organisations.
- [Resecurity Inc](#) identified a hacking campaign on US companies who supply natural gas.
- Microsoft has detected 'Wiper malware' similar to, but less sophisticated than the NotPetya malware, attempting to delete data from Ukrainian government agencies.
- . Anonymous is claiming their 'biggest campaign' yet and continue to disrupt Russian media by streaming footage of the war.

WILSON JAMES ADVISORY

Advisory Services repeats its reminder to staff of the importance of vigilance when online and our vulnerability to cyber-attack. Please review our guidance slide added to this week's digest.

Activism Updates

PROTESTS

Saturday 12TH March – Sisters Uncut (KtB & NABB)

Location: **New Scotland Yard**, London @ 17:00

Cause: Vigil against PCSCS Bill and NAB Bill

Details: <https://www.sistersuncut.org/>

Sunday 13TH March – Climate Camp Scotland

Location: **Glasgow autonomous space** @14:00

Cause: Climate change protest

Details: [Climate Camp Scotland Twitter](#)

Sunday 13TH March – No to Ukraine war

Location: **Parliament Square** @14:00

Cause: Russians against Putin

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

Sunday 13TH March – Anti-Vaccine Protest

Location: BAFTA Awards, **Royal Albert Hall** @17:00

Cause: Let the UK Live/Stop the new Normal

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

Monday 14th March – Climate Con Protest

Location: Outside Energy Transitions Conference,

Chatham House, **St James Square**, London @Midday

Cause: Let the UK Live/Stop the new Normal

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

[London Anti-Ukraine war protest \(AFP 2022\)](#)



[Glasgow Anti-Ukraine war protest \(Glasgow Live 2022\)](#)



[Belfast Anti-Ukraine war protest \(Belfast Live 2022\)](#)



Ukrainian Donations Information

For those wishing to donate to the war effort in Ukraine or to support the Ukrainian refugees please see the following sites for advice and guidance on how best to do so.

Cash donations:

A cash donation means charities can help with whatever is needed, source things locally, and transport items quickly. It also means volunteers can concentrate on the response, rather than sorting and transporting donations.

[Red cross Donations](#)

[UNHCR Donations](#)

[UNICEF Donations](#)

Helping a Ukrainian friend or family member:

Please contact the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office:

email fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk

calling: **020 7008 5000**

British nationals who need assistance:

Consular support is available through the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office 24-hour helpline:

+380 44 490 3660 (from Ukraine)

+44 (0) 1908 516666 (from the UK).

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 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
Advisoryservices@wilsonjames.co.uk