



# Monthly Threat in Focus March - Auditors



# March-Auditors



# Advisory Services Monthly Threat In Focus: Auditors – WHAT, WHO, WHY, HOW [1.](#)

## WHAT

The YouTube and TikTok trend of Auditing has seen growing numbers of locations across the UK targeted by individuals simply standing in a public space filming or photographing places or persons of interest and posting the videos on social media platforms. Originating in the US, the auditors, when approached by site personnel typically refuse to identify themselves or explain their presence.

## WHO

There are four prominent UK Auditors who target locations across the UK such as: large construction sites (including mega prison sites), police stations, National Crime Agency, vaccination centres, Nightingale hospitals, Industrial estates and distribution centres. These auditors have thousands of followers with subscriber numbers ranging from 168,000 to 24,000.

## WHY

The Auditor's intent is to garner an inappropriate response from the security officer/police officer/staff on duty and expose their behaviour on their blog.

## HOW

**The choice of location is determined somewhat randomly by a number of factors including:**

- Vastness of site (any large construction site)
- Current/topical locations (such as vaccination centres)
- Any site capable of perpetuating conspiracy theorists (such as large prison developments with incinerators in their proximity)
  - Any company/site seen to criticise or focus on Auditors (such as security agency MITIE). [2.](#) [3.](#)

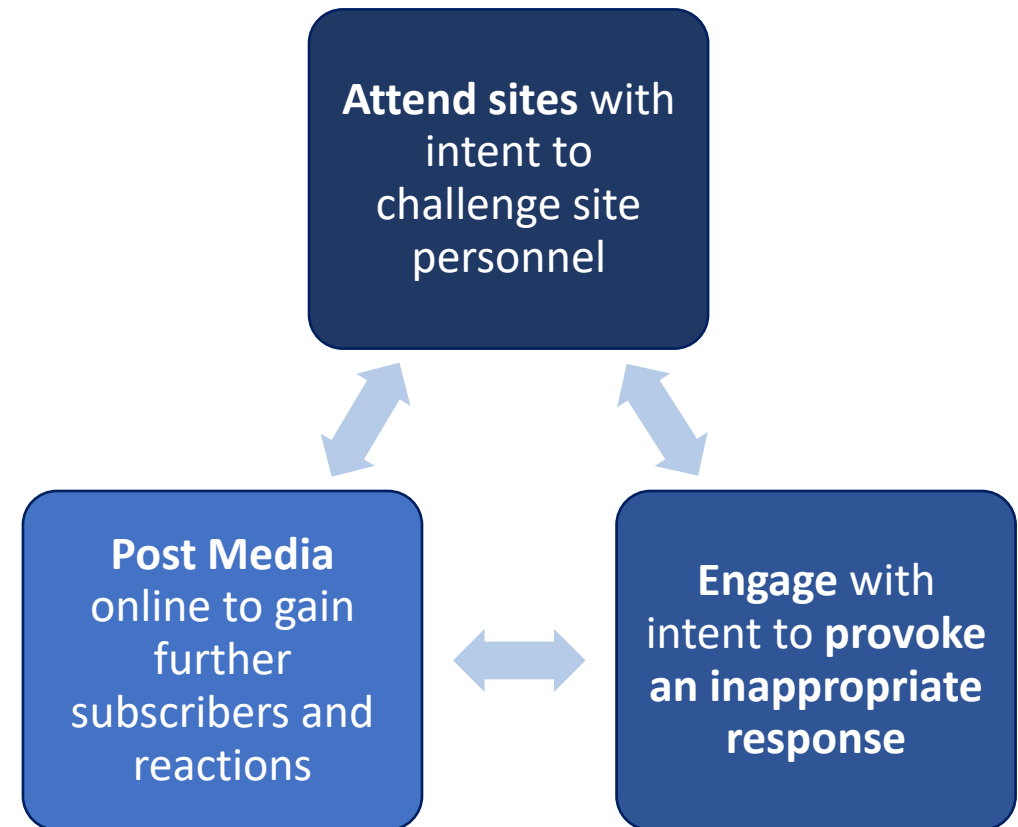
# Advisory Services Monthly Threat In Focus: Auditors – Impact and Methodology

## THE SECTORS MOST LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE AUDITOR INCIDENTS ARE:

- Local Government
- Police Stations
- Military bases
- Hospitals, Vaccination Centres and Nightingale Hospitals
- Prisons
- **SECURITY AGENCIES** (see next slide for example)
- **INDUSTRIAL ESTATES** (see next slide for example)

## THE IMPACT OF A TARGETED AUDITOR VISIT IS:

- BAU disruption
- Staff distress
- Brand reputation
- Escalating conflict
- Confrontations from individuals or groups
- Bullying and harassment



# Advisory Services Monthly Threat In Focus: Auditors – Case Studies

## Parcel Distribution centre



**ACTION Feb 2022** - Auditor attends parcel distribution centre to document site and refers to reviews of the site whilst filming.

### DIALOGUE 1

Challenges the security officer:

- Asking him to pick up the rubbish strewn across the site (spends quite some time discussing the rubbish seen in the image).
- When the officer advises he needs permission to film after walking up to security hut (now on private property).

**ASSESSMENT** – It is likely the Auditor was attempting to provoke a negative reaction by suggesting the officer needed to clear the rubbish. The Officer responded calmly and informed the Auditor the site has a custodian contractor for the cleaning. It is highly likely the officer’s reaction facilitated the de-escalation of the engagement and reduced the opportunity for a negative impact.

**ACTION – Feb 2022** - Auditor attends Mitie security after Mitie named auditors on their YouTube Auditor guidance report.

### DIALOGUE 2

The Auditor is ignored by Mitie personnel after a previous, recent visit by another auditor.

- The Auditor accesses the external part of the site ‘looking for anything dodgy’.
- The Auditor shows images of the property’s title deeds from land registry, highlights a damaged fence on their land and suggests an open gate is an implied right of access.
- Examines staff number plates, lack of signage on site and the state of the bin area.
- Challenges police when they approach him whilst he is operating a drone.

**ASSESSMENT** – It is likely the lack of engagement from staff caused the Auditor to resort to criticism and observations on the health & safety and signage around the exterior of the building. It is uncertain if this lack of engagement reduces the impact to the site should the Auditor focus on something more defamatory.

## Mitie Security Operations



# Advisory Services Monthly Threat In Focus: Auditors– Management Advice 4.

## ADVICE FOR MANAGERS WHEN STAFF ENCOUNTER AUDITORS

- Sites should **Educate**:
  - Employees about the common tactics used by auditors.
  - The difference to staff between hostile reconnaissance and auditors.
  - Staff on assigning a security classification for auditors.
  - Staff on section 33 of the 1972 Criminal Justice Act which is regularly quoted by Auditors for access (see below).
  - Staff and ensure they are aware there are no powers prohibiting the taking of photographs, film or digital images in a public place.
- Sites should **Discuss**:
  - Appropriate responses if questioned by Auditors.
  - Appropriate reasons for challenging suspicious behaviour.
  - It is acceptable to question people acting suspiciously until you are satisfied, they are not a threat.
  - Staying calm and professional as officers.
  - How fruitless engaging in their narrative is, as Auditors have pre-determined responses to all questions.
  - It is acceptable for staff to ask them
    - **What** they are doing.
    - **Why** they are recording.
    - **What** their purpose is for recording such activities.
- Sites should consider the impact of **Intervention Vs Interaction**
  - A recent interaction with an auditor at a police station received positive comments on-line towards the officer who invited the auditor for a tour of the grounds.
  - The auditor was deemed to not be a threat and the officer choose to engage rather than confront him.
  - Please see [here](#) for a link to the YouTube video.
  - Please see [here](#) for a link to the story in the Worcester News
- Instruct staff not to respond to social media posts as an individual or on behalf of Wilson James or client.

### Section 33 Criminal Justice Act 1972

“Public place” includes any highway and any other premises or place to which at the material time the public have or are permitted to have access, whether on payment or otherwise ”.

# Advisory Services Monthly Threat In Focus: Auditor Response Guidance for Officers [5.](#) [6.](#) [7.](#)

## CHALLENGE

## RESPONSE

## THE LAW

AUDITOR  
SUGGESTS HE IS  
BEING DETAINED

YOU ARE NOT BEING DETAINED

YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE AT ANY TIME

YOU ARE FREE TO CONTINUE WITH YOUR ACTIVITIES

There are no powers prohibiting the taking of photographs, film or digital images in a public place.

AUDITOR  
SUGGESTS YOU  
ARE THREATENING  
OR INTIMIDATING  
HIM

HOW IS MY PRESENCE THREATENING YOU

EXPLAIN WHAT I AM DOING TO MAKE YOU FEEL THREATENED

I AM SIMPLY ASKING YOU QUESTIONS, THEY ARE NOT BEING DETAINED

No legal requirement to obtain the details of the auditor.

AUDITOR  
QUESTIONS WHY  
HIS BEHAVIOUR IS  
SUSPICIOUS

SOMEONE CALLED REGARDING YOUR ACTIVITY

I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING

YOU ARE NOT BEING DETAINED, AND ARE FREE TO LEAVE AT ANY TIME.

SOME PEOPLE FIND IT SUSPICIOUS THAT YOU'RE RECORDING OUR SITE AND STAFF

I'D SIMPLY LIKE TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING

You can be filmed in a public place without consent and have it posted online as there is no expectation of privacy. You cannot be filmed secretly on public property and have it posted online.

# Monthly Themes for 2022

**1**

**Event Security-  
Crowd  
Management  
(January)**

**2**

**Insider Threat  
(February)**

**3**

**Social  
Media  
Auditors  
(March)**

**4**

**Activism  
(April)**

**5**

**Trespassing  
(May)**

**6**

**Fly-tipping  
(June)**

**7**

**Lone Working  
(July)**

**8**

**Scams  
(August)**

**9**

**Data  
Privacy  
(September)**

**10**

**Theft Property  
(October)**

**11**

**Terrorism  
(November)**

**12**

**Travel safely  
(December)**



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