

ADVISORY SERVICES Weekly Digest



8th February 2023

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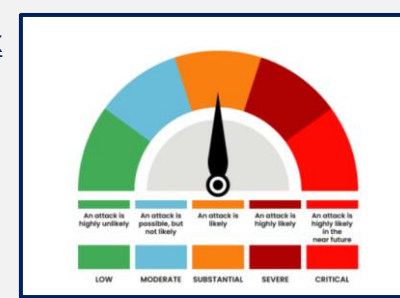
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SOP Guidance
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Terrorism and Threats

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).



US Shoots Down Chinese 'Weather Balloon' that Drifted Off Course (Independent 7th February) ^{1. 2. 3.}

The large white, high-altitude balloon seen flying over the US last week, is a weather balloon that drifted off course say Chinese sources in Beijing as they complain of unnecessary aggressive tactics taken after the balloon was shot down by the US. The object was shot down on Saturday just off the South Carolina coast after it cleared land and pentagon sources suggest it was 200ft tall and could carry a payload similar to that of a passenger jet. The spy balloon (carrying photographic equipment) drifted across the US for seven days and was spotted close to a nuclear missile site in Montana. President Joe Biden received criticism for not issuing instructions to shoot it down earlier, however it was not deemed an immediate threat and safer to destroy over water. Its not the first time the balloons have been spotted. At least three were spotted over the US during Trump's presidency and one is purported to have circumnavigated the globe during 2019. The US Government has refused to confirm if the balloon was carrying explosives.

'Jihadi Paul' Aine Davis to face trial at End of February (Counter Terror Business 7th February)

ISIS Beatle member Aine Davis will face Trial in February on charges of providing money for terrorist purposes and one of possessing a firearm for a purpose connected to terrorism. Davis, known as Jihadi Paul, was part of the infamous ISIS Beatles gang active in Syria between 2012-2015 where they abducted over 24 journalists and aid workers. He was deported from Turkey last summer after serving a seven year sentence for ISIS membership and arrested upon arrival in the UK. He was remanded in custody and his trial will take place on 27th February.

Travel Warnings for Turkey as Retaliation Expected after Europe Koran Burnings (Reuters 30th January) ^{4.}

Last week, countries such as the US, Germany, France and Italy issued alerts for anyone wishing to travel to Turkey, advising on the possibility of a terrorist attack. The alerts were prompted following retaliation fears after the burning of the Koran (Islam's Holy Book) in demonstrations across parts of Europe including Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands. In response Turkey warned its own travellers of "possible Islamophobic, xenophobic and racist attacks" should they travel to Europe or the US. Protests were expected in Istanbul and Ankara in the coming days however these are likely to be delayed as Turkey comes to terms with the destruction and death toll from the recent earthquakes that have devastated the region (see our World News section). The UK foreign office suggest terror attacks in Turkey are very likely with a heightened threat against churches, synagogues, Embassies/Consulates and other Western hangouts. The British Consulate in Istanbul is currently not open to the public as a precaution.

Headline 1:
[Spy Balloon \(Dailymail 2023\)](#)



World News

Turkey and Syria in Race Against Time to Rescue Survivors in Freezing Weather (Independent 7th February) ⁵.

The World Health Organisation has warned the death toll in the Turkey/Syria earthquakes this week could rise to over 20,000 as rescuers struggle with inclement weather hampering search efforts. Two devastating earthquakes struck near the cities of Gaziantep and Ekinozu in Turkey and Aleppo in Syria on Monday. The first quake registered 7.8 and the second 7.5 on the Richter Scale with tremors being felt as far away as Cairo, Egypt, the first of the two earthquakes was the largest Turkey has experienced in over 80 years. The border area between Turkey and Syria sits on one of the world's most active earthquake zones, on a transforming fault line. Similar to the San Andreas Fault line these tectonic plates move in opposite directions alongside each other (as opposed to moving under - converging plates, or away - diverging plates), transforming plates tend to have more violent tremors as geological formations catch against each other. Reports are being received of over 70 aftershocks felt, some registering 5.7-6.6 on the Richter scale. Total official casualties have currently reached almost 11,000 across both countries. But with almost 6,000 buildings feared destroyed the death toll is expected to rise dramatically (although unofficial reports suggest the number of destroyed buildings could be double this). The last earthquake of this magnitude to hit Turkey killed 30,000 in 1939. Rescue efforts have been thwarted by freezing temperatures and no access to basic amenities (particularly in Syria).

Almost 30 Royal Navy Sailors Hospitalised from Contaminated Water (Guardian 7th February)

Almost 30 sailors from HMS Portland were hospitalised last week due to drinking contaminated water. The Royal Navy ship was on exercise in the North Sea and was forced to return to port at Portsmouth due to the contamination of the on-board water filtering system. The system, which converts sea water to drinking water, was contaminated due to human error where a sailor inadvertently introduced the wrong chemical to the process, hospitalising almost 30 sailors. An investigation is underway to discover how the error was made and the sailor is thought to have alerted officers as soon as they realised the error. Almost all hospitalised sailors have been released and expected to make a full recovery.

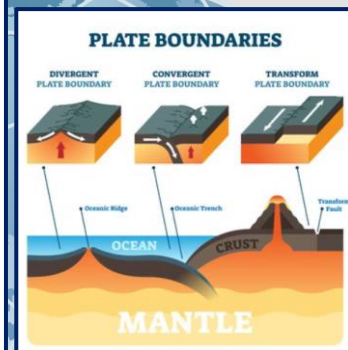
Nigerian Diplomat and Family in Court Over Organ Harvesting Charges (The Independent 6th February)

A Nigerian senator, his wife, daughter and a Nigerian doctor are on trial at the Old Bailey this week on charges of organ-harvesting. 60-year-old Ike Ekweremadu and his family, together with doctor Obinna Obeta conspired to arrange for a donor to travel to the UK with the family under the guise of a cousin offering their kidney for transplant. The donor however was unaware they were travelling for a private medical procedure and was told he was going to England for a job. He discovered their real intent during a consultation at the Royal Free Hospital in London. The plot was orchestrated by Ike's brother and the doctor (a family friend), after the doctor had previously travelled to England for a kidney transplant himself, with his donor purporting to be his cousin. The doctor's donor then recruited a number of donors in Nigeria for Ekweremadu's daughter's procedure with the successful candidate (a street trader) travelling to England with the family. The trail continues.



Headline 1:
Earthquake Zone – Syria/Turkey
(INews 2023)

Headline 1:
Tectonic Plates (Study.com 2023)



The Wilson James Health and Safety team have asked all WJ colleagues to view the attached QR link to their Behavioural Safety video and to register their details on completion.



Industry News

SUPPLY CHAIN

Continued Woes for World's Pharmacy as CDC Issues Warning on Eye Drops (Independent 2nd February) ⁶.

The US' Centre for Disease Control (CDC) has issued a warning against an over-the-counter eye drop solution that could be linked to a drug resistant bacterial infection killing at least one person in the US and leaving five others with permanent vision loss. The CDC states 55 people (across 12 states) have contracted an infection (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*) resistant to most types of antibiotics. EzriCare Artificial Tears has not been directly linked to the infection, but the majority of sufferers reported using the same product prompting the CDC to order its removal from pharmacy shelves. However, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has said the preservative-free product could have been contaminated during the manufacturing process and listed numerous failings in that process. The product is manufactured in India by Global Pharma Healthcare PVT Limited; they have initiated a recall of the product in the US only. Global Pharma is yet another Indian company whose manufacturing process has been called into question after deaths in the Gambia, Uzbekistan and potentially Indonesia prompted an investigation into contaminated cough syrups last year.



[Ezri TearsProduct](#)
[\(CBS News](#)
[2023\)](#)

SECURITY

Intelligence Thwarts Silvertown Tunnel Protestors Who Complain of Spying (OpenDemocracy 2nd February) ⁷.

Independent international media platform Open Democracy has accused London Mayor, Sadiq Khan, of spying on anti-Silvertown tunnel campaigners after protestors claimed they were turned away by security from a public State of London Debate (SOLD). ISG Security manage security at the O2 arena in London and turned away a number of protesters before the June 2022 debate after identifying them by name. When questioned how they were able to identify specific persons, security informed them they had received 'intelligence'. Protestors intended to speak out at the event, disrupt the debate and unfurl a banner during the proceedings however security were ready having received specific intelligence regarding their intent and that someone would attempt to smuggle a banner in under their coat. The source of the intelligence is unclear, but some campaigners suspect a What's App group had been breached. Shared intelligence from police, journalists and other security groups is common in activist defence. Just Stop Oil's Roger Hallam was arrested last year in a pre-emptive move by police after receiving intelligence from journalists who had infiltrated JSO meetings and warned of another traffic disrupting plot.

MUSEUMS

Residents Win Against Tate Modern in Privacy Ruling (Museum Association 3rd February)

Last week the UK Supreme Court ruled in favour of residents who live opposite the Tate Modern Gallery in a move that is expected to prompt other cases from residents who similarly feel their privacy has been breached. Residents in a block of flats (Neo Bankside) opposite the controversial viewing platform installed by the museum, claimed they were being overlooked by thousands of visitors a day and felt like they were 'on display in a zoo'. The five year long case eventually concluded in favour of the residents and has paved the way for 'copy-cat' cases from residents living next to institutions in built up areas.



Activism Updates

ACTIVISM

Thursday 9th Feb – No Males in Female Jails

Location: Scottish Parliament, Holyrood @11:30

Cause: For Women Scotland demo

Details: [Telegram](#)

Saturday 11th Feb – The BBC is the Virus

Location: Nationwide outside BBC studios @13:00

Cause: Protest against bias reporting by the BBC

Details: [Telegram](#)

Saturday 11th Feb – ITV is the Virus

Location: ITV Studios, Grays Inn Road @13:00

Cause: Protest against bias reporting by the BBC and ITV

Details: [Telegram](#)

Saturday 11th Feb – Free Assange Rally

Location: Marsham Street, Westminster @18:00

Cause: Free Julian Assange

Details: [Telegram](#)

Tuesday 14th Feb – National Strike and Solidarity Day

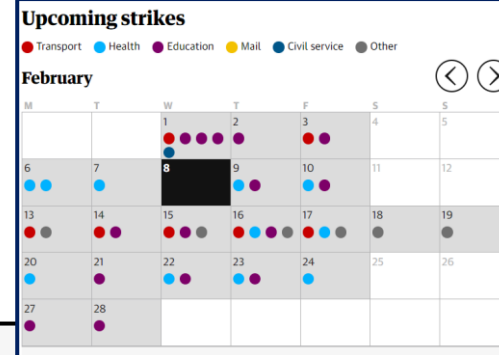
Location: Nationwide, Local Town Halls and Government offices @Midday

Cause: Local strike solidarity action, planned for the 14th of every month

Details: [Telegram](#)

STRIKES

[Guardian 2023](#)



Thursday 9 February

Health NHS (1 strike) - **CSP** More than 4,200 NHS physiotherapy staff employed across 100 trusts will strike over pay in England.

Higher education Universities (1 strike) - **UCU** University staff at more than 150 universities across the UK continue strike action.

Friday 10 February

Health NHS (1 strike) - **Unison** Ambulance workers who are Unison members in London, Yorkshire, the South West, North East and North West stage walkout.

Higher education Universities (1 strike) - **UCU** University staff at more than 150 universities across the UK continue strike action.

Monday 13 February

Transport DVLA (1 strike) - **PCS** Workers at the DVLA in Swansea stage a five day walkout.

Culture British Museum (1 strike) - **PCS** Staff at the British Museum who are members of the PCS, including members of the museum's visitor services and security teams, begin seven day industrial action in February's half-term school holiday.



[Telegram](#)

Julie Power Reply

Poster for 'ITV is the Virus London'. It features the ITV logo at the top, followed by the text 'is the virus' in a stylized font. Below that, it says 'LONDON' in large letters, and 'Sat 11th Feb, 1pm'. There are two small images: one of a building and one of a map. At the bottom, it says '200 Grays Inn Road, London WC1' and 'Telegram: t.me/BBCisTheVirus'.

[Telegram](#)



PROTECT DUTY

KNOW YOUR THREAT/KNOW YOUR RESPONSE

KNOW YOUR THREAT

Know how to spot suspicious behaviour, engage regularly with [PROTECTUK](#) where you can keep up to date on the latest training and guidance.

KNOW YOUR RESPONSE

Provide updated and regular threat briefings. Maintain an effective risk assessment. Maintain training and engagement with **PROTECT UK**.

MARAUDING TERRORIST ATTACK

GUIDE

- Know your evacuation routes.
 - Ensure you familiarise yourself with alternative routes should paths become blocked.
- Be able to inform and guide people with clear instructions.

SHELTER

- Know your first aid plans and RVPs.
- Lock/barricade yourself in.
- Move away from the door.

COMMUNICATE

- Know who to tell - Ensure incident escalations are fully updated with correct contact details and shared appropriately.
- Location, Suspects, Directions, Descriptions.

SUSPICIOUS ITEMS

CONFIRM

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

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.

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

Please feel free to engage with Wilson James Advisory Services to further connect to the Protect Duty Program

Reach out to us by emailing Advisoryservices@wilsonjames.co.uk

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.



Contact
Advisoryservices@wilsonjames.co.uk