

ADVISORY SERVICES Weekly Digest



15th February 2023

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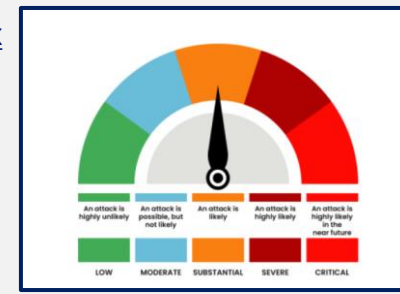
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SOP Guidance
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Terrorism and Threats

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 Fourth Flying Object Over US (Independent 14th February) [1.](#) [2.](#) [3.](#)

Another 'flying object' has been shot down over the US/Canadian border this week after posing a potential threat to civil air travel, making it the fourth object shot out of the sky across the US this month. The first object (a 200ft tall high-altitude balloon), highlighted in last week's digest, was spotted floating across the US in January, before being shot down off the South Carolina coast on the 4th of February. It has been described as a 'spycraft' after 'sensors and electrical components' were discovered in the recovered debris. China has claimed this was a weather research balloon that had gone off course. The second, shot down on the 10th of February over North Alaska was smaller and did not appear to have any controls or propulsion. The third shot down over the Yukon Territory, North Canada on the 11th of February was another high-altitude balloon the size of a small car. The latest octagonal shaped object was shot down on the 12th of February. US officials report four balloons were spotted near the US over the last six years, but none had entered US territory before now. White House sources claim the objects shot down in the latest incursions do not appear to be carrying 'espionage devices' nor are they similar to the spycraft shot down earlier in the month. China has taken exception to accusations of their involvement and retaliatory measures taken by the US (including blacklisting six Chinese companies with links to Beijing's aerospace programme). They claim the US has deployed 10 high-altitude balloons over China in the last 13 months, White House officials deny the accusations calling them false.

Headline 1:
Flying Object Downed locations
(Aljazeera2023)



UK to Perform Security Review to Mitigate Against Balloon Threat (The Guardian 13th February)

In response to the growing threat of flying objects seen in US and Canadian airspace this month, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has confirmed Typhoon fighter jets, part of the 'quick reaction alert force', are on stand-by in the UK 24/7 to shoot down any unidentified objects floating across the UK skies. Sunak also confirmed the UK will undertake a security review to help mitigate against any UK threats.

Tensions Increase with Russia as the US Warn Travellers to Stay Away (Reuters 13th February) [4.](#) [5.](#)

The US has issued a warning to all its citizens in Russia urging them to 'leave immediately' following heightened tensions with the country. Travellers have also been warned not to visit Russia and those in-country are to "exercise increased caution due to the risk of wrongful detentions." The warnings come days after Russia warned the UK government of retaliatory measures should they send fighter jets to the Ukraine and amid news announced today that Moldova had temporarily closed its air space to Russia after a security alert when a drone entered their airspace and following reports missiles used in strikes against Ukraine violated the airspace of both Moldova and Romania after being purportedly launched from the Black Sea.

World News

73rd Mass Shooting in the US this Year Leaves Four Dead (The Independent 14th February)

At least four people are dead and five have been wounded in yet another shooting incident in the US on Monday evening. The suspect who has not yet been named is believed to have shot himself following a manhunt after a shooting spree at Michigan State University. The shooting started just before 20:30 hours local time on Monday evening, with a shelter in place order being issued to local residents. A police press conference update at midnight announced the suspect killed himself and the threat was over. The suspect is not thought to have any affiliation with the university but opened fire in at least two Publicly Accessed Locations on campus. There have been 73 mass shootings in the US so far this year.

20 IS Fighters at Large Following Syrian Prison Break after Earthquakes (Independent 7th February) 6. 7. 8.

At least 20 'Islamic State' prisoners are believed to have escaped from a Syrian prison after the devastating earthquakes that struck both Turkey and Syria earlier this month. Prisoners rioted at the high security prison near Rajo (approx. 70km North of Aleppo) due to the conditions following the earthquakes, taking control of the complex and allowing at least 20 IS fighters to escape. Of the 2,000 prisoners detained at the "Black Prison", 1,300 are believed to be IS affiliated. At least 37,000 people (as of Tuesday) are believed to have perished as a result of the quakes and it is thought over 8,000 people were freed from the rubble following extensive and dramatic searches over the past week. Turkish officials have started to act on accusations of poorly constructing buildings adding to the impact of the quakes and increasing the death toll exponentially. They have issued 113 arrests warrants and arrested at least 12 individuals including two who removed supporting columns to make extra space in a building that collapsed during the quakes.

Misinformation Suggested to be Cause of Riot Outside Migrant Hotel (Guardian 10th February) 9. 10.

Merseyside police have confirmed the arrests of 15 people (13 men and two women, aged between 13 and 54) relating to the riot that took place on Friday evening outside Suites Hotel, Kirby near Liverpool, a SERCO run hotel housing asylum seekers. Protestors gathered at the hotel to demonstrate after a video circulated online purportedly highlighting harassment between an asylum seeker and a schoolgirl. The video was widely promoted in far-right circles fuelling an already existing anti-propaganda campaign by far-right groups against asylum seeker hotels. Groups have leaflet dropped and protested against the hotel in recent weeks together with posting a list online of 90 hotels in England housing migrants (including Suites Hotel). The planned protest on Friday was met by a counter protest from groups such as Care4Calais and took a violent turn with missiles (such as fireworks and bottles) thrown at police officers and a police van set alight. Merseyside Chief Constable Serena Kennedy warned of the dangers of misinformation circulating online adding police had arrested someone in connection with the video in another part of the country who was subsequently released after Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) advice.

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



Headline 3:
[Aftermath of Riot](#)
(Dailymail 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

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Confectionery Giant Fined After Workers Fell into Vat of Chocolate (Metro 13th February)

Food giant Mars/Wrigley has been fined USD 12,000 by the US' Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) after being found in breach of health and safety regulations following an accident involving two untrained employees falling into a vat of melted chocolate. Two agency workers at an M&M factory in Pennsylvania were carrying out maintenance work on a piece of equipment without appropriate training and fell into the melting chocolate which had a temperature of approx. 45oC and were unable to climb back out. The vat was only partially filled and both men are not thought to have been injured but were taken to hospital as a precaution.

TRANSPORT

Passengers Don Life Jackets and Prepare to Evacuate During Stena Ferry Fire (BBC 12th February) ^{11.}

Passengers on board a late-night ferry from Rosslare (South Ireland) to Fishguard (Southwest Wales) had to prepare to evacuate on Saturday after a fire broke out in the engine room. Passengers were handed life jackets as smoke filled the vessel shortly before the fire was extinguished by on-board staff. Emergency services were deployed to the vessel and staff were praised for their prompt and calm actions. This is second fire to hit the Stena fleet in as many years. In 2021 passengers were put on alert after an engine room fire broke out onboard a Larne (Northern Ireland) Cairnryan (Southwest Scotland) ferry. No passengers or crew were injured in either incident, the ferry has been removed from the fleet until investigations into the cause are completed.

AVIATION

Luton Airport Hosts Accessibility Day Supported by Wilson James (Luton Airport 9th February)

Wilson James client, London Luton Airport, hosted an 'Accessibility Day' for passengers last week, inviting those with hidden or visual disabilities and anyone with mobility issues to visit with airport, take a tour of the facilities and meet with staff. Special Assistance Provider, Wilson James, together with LLA teams from Guest Experience, Operations and Security meet with over 40 guests to tour the facility and familiarise themselves with check-in, security, departure and boarding facilities. Special needs teacher and parent Sally-Anne Lonsdale commented on the impact the accessibility day had on her family stating:

To have the experience she did today means the world to us as her parents and Eva just couldn't stop smiling the whole way around. I can't express how events like this truly help families like ours."



Headline 3:
[WJ Officer Assists
Passenger \(AT Today
2023\)](#)



Activism Updates

ACTIVISM

Friday 17th Feb – End Apartheid Student Day of Action

Location: Universities Nationwide

Cause: Apartheid off campus in support of Palestine

Details: [Palestine Solidarity Campaign](#)

Saturday 18th Feb – Drop BP

Location: British Museum, London @Midday

Cause: Protest against BP Sponsorship

Details: [Facebook](#)

Saturday 18th Feb – World Wide Rally for Freedom

Location: Manchester & other cities across the UK @13:00

Cause: Global Freedom Rally in cities across the UK

Details: [Telegram](#)

Saturday 18th Feb – Merseyside Anti-Racists Unite

Location: St Georges Hall, Liverpool @Midday

Cause: Anti-racist protest after riot outside migrant hotel

Details: [Twitter](#)

Saturday 18th Feb – Our Community Our Choice

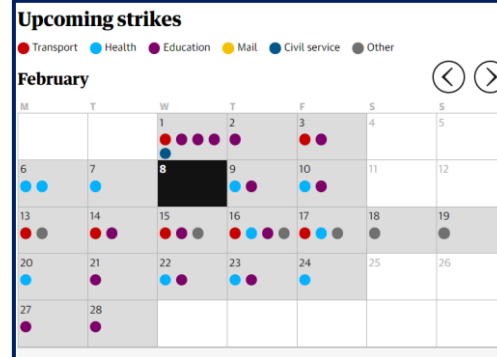
Location: Broad Street, Oxford @13:00

Cause: Unite for Freedom community event.

Details: [Telegram](#)

STRIKES

[Guardian 2023](#)



Friday 17 February

Transport DVLA (1 strike) - PCS Workers at the DVLA in Swansea continue industrial action.

Health NHS (1 strike) - Unite Ambulance workers who are members of Unite in Northern Ireland ambulance trust continue to strike, along with workers in West Midlands ambulance trust.

Culture British Museum (1 strike) - PCS Staff at the British Museum who are members of the PCS continue strike action.

Sunday 19 February

Culture British Museum (1 strike) - PCS Staff at the British Museum who are members of the PCS continue strike action.

Saturday 18 February

Culture British Museum (1 strike) - PCS Staff at the British Museum who are members of the PCS continue strike action.

Monday 20 February

Health NHS (1 strike) - Unite Ambulance workers who are members of Unite in North-east ambulance trust strike and East Midlands continue to strike, along with workers in Wales ambulance trust.

Tuesday 21 February

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

Wednesday 22 February

Health NHS (1 strike) - Unite Ambulance workers who are members of Unite in North-west ambulance trust continue industrial action.

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



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