

ADVISORY SERVICES Weekly Digest



22nd February 2023

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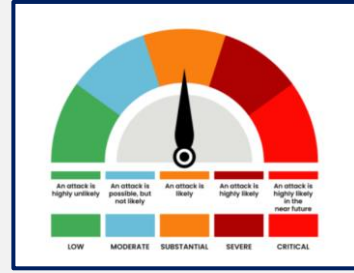
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Terrorism and Threats

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).



“Coherent Strategy” Needed to Mitigate Against Incel Sub-culture says MP (Independent 21st February)

Met Police Assistant Commissioner Matt Jukes has said lessons must be learnt about the emergence of the incel sub-culture after the 2021 Plymouth shooting that left six dead, including shooter 22-year-old Jake Davidson. Davidson killed a three-year-old girl and her father along with two other members of the public and his mother before killing himself in Plymouth, Devon 2021. The shooter has been described as an ‘incel,’ (involuntary celibate) after trolling websites and discussion groups on the subject and posting about the sub-culture on social media sites such as Reddit, where he also expressed his desire to kill his mother. He had also researched previous incel spree shootings and how to reload a firearm. Despite 77 incel referrals to PREVENT in 2022-2023 (23 of whom went on to receive ideological mentoring), it is not considered a terrorist ideology and this spree shooting incident has not been classified as terrorism by police, instead, describing it as a hate crime driven by mental health issues. Devon MP Luke Pollard agrees with the decision but warns they are unable to properly classify offences of this nature and need a “coherent strategy” to deal with the sub-culture, adding: *“[Incelism] has to fit somewhere else and it doesn’t fit anywhere else at the moment...It’s happening in all our communities behind closed bedroom doors on toxic parts of the internet.”* It was also revealed Davidson was given back his firearm shortly before the shooting after it was confiscated and his licence revoked due to a previous incident.

Two Men Arrested on Terror offences at Heathrow Before Boarding Plane (Evening Standard 19th February) ^{1. 2.}

A 30-year-old man and a 66-year-old man were arrested at Heathrow airport on Thursday (16th February) on terrorism charges, as they were about to board a plane out of the country. The two men, from the Birmingham area, are the latest in a number of counter terror arrests by West Midlands police. Three weeks ago, two men were arrested for engaging in conduct in preparation for terrorism under section 5 of the Terrorism Act 2006 and days later a woman and man were arrested on suspicion of funding terrorism under section 15 of the Terrorism Act 2000. Three of the suspects were later released without charge, remaining suspect, 26-year-old Mohamad Al Bared, appeared in court last week for a preliminary hearing. The two latest men have been charged with the commission, instigation and preparation of terrorism under section five of the Terrorism Act 2006.

White Supremist Sentenced to Life for US Supermarket Killings (Counter Terror Business 16th February)

White, 19-year-old Payton Gendron, who killed 10 black people (and injured three) in a supermarket in Buffalo, New York in May last year, was sentenced this week after pleading guilty to murder and domestic terrorism charges. The teenager was given eleven consecutive life sentences without the possibility of parole. Gendron attempted to livestream the attack on social media streaming platform ‘Twitch’ (who suspended the account within minutes) and travelled ‘hundreds of miles’ to his target location. His actions and extensive weaponry prompted an immediate ban of almost all semi-automatic weapons in the state of New York. Police believe the attacks were motivated by hate noting Gendron had researched previous hate-related attacks, had written a 180-page manifesto and had carried out hostile reconnaissance on the supermarket the day before.

Headline 1:

Incel Spree Shooter Jake Davidson (Independent 2023)



World News

Begum Citizenship Appeal Dismissed (Telegraph 22nd February)

Shamima Begum, who left the UK in 2015 and travelled to Syria to join ISIS, has had her appeal dismissed on all grounds. Begum attempted to appeal the decision to strip her of her British Citizenship, insisting she was groomed and trafficked to Syria and regrets her decision to leave the UK. Her appeal was refused after MI5 successfully argued she continued to pose a threat to national security.

One Year On, Biden Visits Ukraine and Putin Addresses Nation (Aljazeera 22nd February) ^{3. 4.}

Friday 24th of February will mark a year since Russia's war with Ukraine began, ahead of the anniversary Vladimir Putin delivered state of the nation address and Kyiv received a surprise visit from US President Joe Biden. President Biden travelled to Kyiv via train from Poland during an official visit to the country with only close staff aware of the off-itinerary ten-hour detour. The US state department has so far given USD 24.9billion in military assistance to Ukraine. The visit by the US President to the Ukrainian capital has been described as monumental and was to impress upon the world the US'

"unwavering commitment to Ukraine's democracy, sovereignty, and territorial integrity".

Putin meanwhile delivered what has been described as a 'dull' two-hour long speech where he blamed the West for the war on Ukraine, suspended Russia's participation in The New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), accused the US of blowing up both Nordstream pipelines, blamed the West for their own energy crisis, promised presidential elections next year and announced a fund to support unpaid Russian soldiers. As the year anniversary approaches, The Wall Street Journal suggests China is pushing for peace talks, reporting on a potential trip to Russia by Chinese Communist Party Leader Xi Jinping as "part of Chinese efforts to push for multi-party peace talks". China's UN ambassador Zhang Jun stated the START treaty was important for 'global security architecture' adding: "the parties concerned should continue to negotiate with each other in finding a good solution". Kyiv and many other cities in Ukraine continue to suffer bombardments (an air raid siren sounded in the capital during Biden's visit) with 59 attacks launched from Russia in the last 24 hours.

Two More Quakes Hit Devasted Region as Death Toll Rises Further (Aljazeera 20th February)

Two more significant earthquakes rocked the Turkey/Syria border this week, with tremors registering as far away as Egypt. The quakes struck around 8pm local time and registered 6.3 and 5.8 on the Richter scale. Six people are believed to have died as a result of the latest quakes that wounded almost 300 people. The death toll from the devastating quakes that struck nearby at the beginning of the month has now reached over 47,000. Over 385,000 apartments were destroyed in the massive quakes and the death toll is expected to rise further. There have been 5,000 aftershocks since the 6th of February with more expected.



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

AVIATION

[Smuggler Sentenced to Over Two Years for Heathrow Smuggling Plot \(Evening Standard 18th February\)](#) ^{5. 6.}

26-year-old American Zered Akolo was arrested during a customs search at Heathrow airport on 16th of January and found to be carrying 47 kilos of cannabis smuggled from California. Akolo was one of 20 people (19 Americans, 1 Canadian) stopped over a number of days in February and January on suspicion of smuggling over 400kg of cannabis in a plot worth approximately GBP 5.5Million. The UK's National Crime Agency has confirmed 20 foreign nationals from the US and Canada have been charged with the smuggling offences that prompted a number of security alerts and extra security screening at Heathrow and airports Nationwide. Akolo was the first of the group to appear in court and was sentenced to 32 months.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

[Scottish Oil-rig Worker to Face Doha Court Accused of Killing Colleague \(Energy Voice 15th February\)](#) ^{7. 8.}

43-year-old Scott Forrest from Aberdeenshire, Scotland will appear in court in Doha, Qatar this week on charges of murdering his oil rig co-worker in their sleeping quarters on the Seafox Burj accommodation platform in the Persian Gulf. Forrest allegedly attacked his roommate on 12th December last year with an oxygen tank in a fit of rage, killing Robert Robson and injuring another colleague, Christopher Bigely, who tried to intervene. All three men were contractors working for Scottish company Film-Ocean and French company Stapem Offshore. Accommodation on the platform and the welfare of residents has been heavily criticised of late, one worker said:

*"They're all two-man or four-man cabins on the Seafox. All lads in the cabins are typically all on the same shift. The place is an absolute s***hole, food is s***e and so are any facilities. Oh yeah and let's not forget it's riddled with bed bugs."*

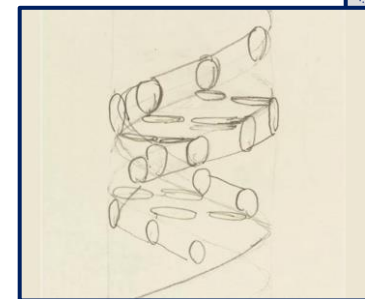
LIFE SCIENCES

[70th Anniversary of the Discovery of DNA Double Helix Structure this Week \(nlm.nih.gov 9th February\)](#) ^{9.}

Saturday 25th of February marks DNA Day (DeoxyriboNucleic Acid) in recognition of the 70th Anniversary when Crick, Watson and Franklin identified the 'double helix' structure of DNA and published their findings in an article entitled: *"Molecular Structure of Nucleic Acids: A Structure for Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid"*. Considered to be one of the most important discoveries of the 20th Century, the accomplishment earned two of them (Crick and Watson) the 1962 Nobel Peace Prize in Physiology or Medicine and is responsible for advancements in science such as human genome mapping, genetic fingerprinting and modern forensics. Wilson James client, the Francis Crick Institute is celebrating the advancement in genome editing (as a result of DNA) with their free, eleven month exhibition *"Cut and Paste – Discover the building blocks of life"*. More information on the exhibit can be found [here](#).

Headline 3: Double Helix Sketch Facebook 2023

Headline 2:
Seafox Burj Platform
and
Accommodation
(Seafox.com 2023)



Activism Updates

ACTIVISM

Saturday 25th Feb – Stop the War in Ukraine

Location: Outside BBC, Portland Place, London @Midday

Cause: Protest to demand peace talks

Details: Stopthewar.org

Saturday 25th Feb – Citizens Assembly

Location: Central London @Midday

Cause: Reform UK Governance

Details: [TWITTER](https://twitter.com)

Saturday 25th Feb – Enough is Enough

Location: Clock Tower, Skegness @Midday

Cause: March from Train Station to tower to protest in support of 'Veterans before illegals'.

Details: [TELEGRAM](https://t.me)

Sunday 26th Feb – No to the Congestion Charge

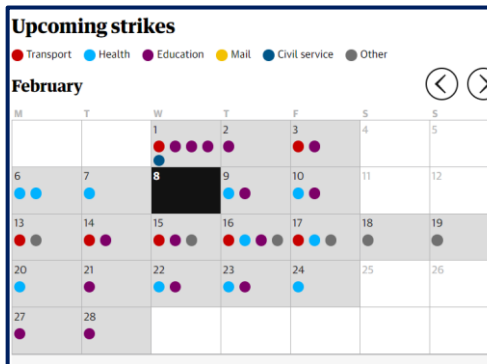
Location: Parker's Piece, Cambridge @13:00

Cause: March to a rally against introduction of congestion charge.

Details: [TELEGRAM](https://t.me)

STRIKES

[Guardian 2023](https://www.theguardian.com)



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.

Thursday 23 February

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

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

Friday 24 February

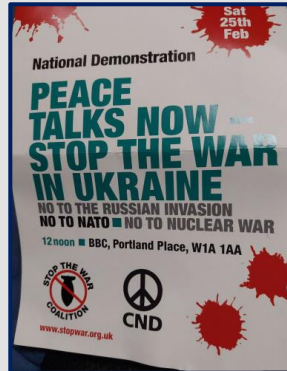
Health NHS (1 strike) - **Unite** Ambulance workers who are members of Unite in Northern Ireland ambulance trust continue industrial action.

Monday 27 February

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

Tuesday 28 February

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