

# ADVISORY SERVICES Weekly Digest



8<sup>th</sup> March 2023

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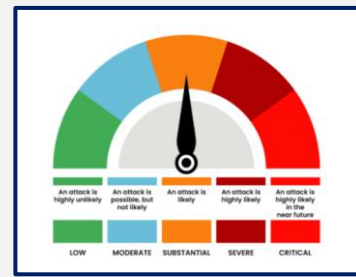
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# Terrorism and Threats

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).



## Volume Three of Manchester Arena Bombing Inquiry Published (ITV News 5<sup>th</sup> March) [1](#). [2](#). [3](#). [4](#).

After a three-and-a-half year long investigation, the Manchester Arena Bombing Inquiry has finally come to a conclusion. Publishing the last of three detailed reports into: the security failures on the day from the organisers, the response by emergency services and now the failings of the security services prior to the bombing, Sir John Saunders has concluded the investigation almost six years after the attack. The third report found security services missed opportunities to act on intelligence relating to Abedi prior to the bombing and didn't share intelligence or investigate the information thoroughly. MI5 director, Ken McCallun responded to chairman Sir John Saunders' report by apologising to the families of the victims stating he was 'profoundly sorry' they were unable to prevent the attack:

*"MI5 exists to stop atrocities. To all those whose lives were forever changed on that awful night, I am so sorry that MI5 did not prevent the attack at the Manchester Arena."*

## HMS Lancaster Intercepts Vessel Carrying Arms to Yemen (Independent 2<sup>nd</sup> March) [5](#).

The British Royal Navy intercepted a suspicious vessel off the coast of Iran last week suspecting them of ferrying arms to the Houthi rebels in Yemen. On-board they discovered Russian 9M133 Kornet anti-tank guided missiles and jet vanes for medium-range ballistic missiles. The raid on the boat (which attempted to return to Iran after being chased down by HMS Lancaster) is the seventh interception by naval forces (including French and the US) operating in the Gulf of Oman in three months. Yemen is a 'key hub' in the Eastern African arms trade and the Houthi rebels have held the capital Saana since 2014, the UN has a ban on the sale of any arms to the group. 150,000 people including 14,500 civilians have been killed in Yemen since the war began between the Iran-backed rebels and the Saudi Arabian backed government.

## UK Lost Access to Instant EU Criminal Intelligence Updates After BREXIT (Guardian 1<sup>st</sup> March) [5](#).

The UK's border force and frontline police lost access to the real time EU criminal database known as the Schengen Information System following Brexit it has been revealed. The database provides instant updates on crime records and warrants in relation to terror suspects, criminals and undocumented immigrants across Europe. SIS II is digital version of a governmental databased access by 31 EU countries and was used extensively by the UK in 2019 (603 million searches on the database performed by police and security services in that year alone) before having access restricted in 2020. The restrictions have the potential to impact the country's capability to search for information in a timely manner as a similar Interpol facilitated service is slower and used less frequently. The permanent replacement to the Schengen Information System is the anticipated International Law Enforcement Alerts Platform (I-LEAP). Already delayed and running at a current cost of GBP90 million, the system will take at least ten years to complete and is not expected until 2028. The UK Home Office have responded assuring there is 'no risk to public safety' and the temporary Interpol alternative 'is working well'.



Headline 1:  
[Manchester Arena Victims](#)  
(Telegraph 2021)



Headline 2:  
[Seized Weapons from Gulf of Oman](#) (France24 2023)

# Weather Warning for UK

## **Yellow Warnings in place UK Braces Itself for Coldest Night of the Year, (MetOffice.com 7<sup>th</sup> March)**

Yellow weather warnings continue for the UK over the next few days as snowfall is expected in both the North and the South. Warnings for snow and ice are in place, with frequent snow showers expected to continue in the North and Northeast and 'spells' of snow expected in the capital, South and Southwest of the country. The Met office warns of:

- Travel delays (road, rail and air travel).
- Possibility of some rural communities getting cut off.
- Danger of slips, trips and falls on icy surfaces.
- Chance of power cuts and disruption mobile phone coverage.

The Met advises planning any necessary journeys in advance and provides guidance on what to pack and what to do should you face adverse weather conditions, see [here](#) for further details.

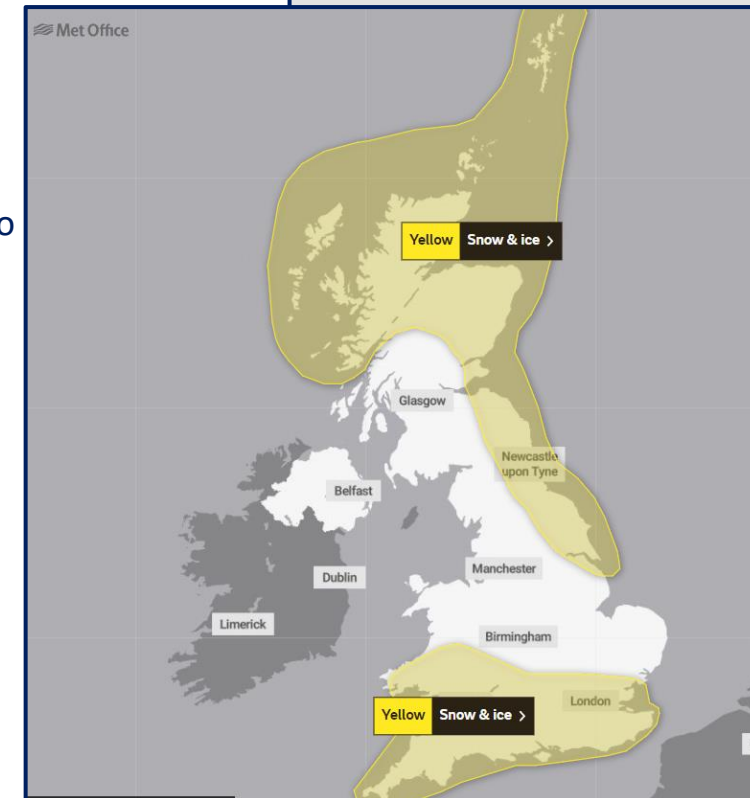
### **Should you find yourself driving in icy/snowy conditions use the following guidance:**

- Using dipped headlights.
- Accelerate gently, use low revs and change to higher gears as quickly as possible.
- Starting in second gear will help with wheel slip.
- Maintain a safe and steady speed. Keep your distance from other vehicles.
- Keep a constant speed up hills. Leave plenty of room between cars.
- Use a low gear to go downhill and try to avoid braking unless necessary.
- Steer into skids. Do not take your hands off the wheel or slam on the brakes.

### **Should you find yourself cut off in your home use the following guidance:**

- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature, both during the day and at night.
- Turn off electrical heaters and put out your fire before going to bed to avoid fire risk.
- Don't forget your pets. Create a place where they can be comfortable in severe winter weather.
- Prevent frozen pipes, open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing.
- Stay indoors wearing layers of loose fitting lightweight warm clothing rather than bulky clothing.
- Never use a hob or oven to heat your home, they can increase carbon monoxide levels.

[Yellow Warning for Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> \(MetOffice 2023\)](#)



# World News

## **DUP Decision on NI Protocol Unlikely Until April (Guardian 6<sup>th</sup> March) <sup>6.</sup>**

The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) has commenced a consultation process regarding the Windsor Framework amendments to the Northern Ireland (NI) Protocol and is unlikely to reach a decision to support or reject the new proposals until April. The consultation group, made up of Dame Arlene Foster, and Peter Robinson (both ex-first ministers of NI for the DUP) have until the end of March to scrutinise the framework before DUP leader Sir Jeffery Donaldson will announce their decision on 10<sup>th</sup> April (the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement).

## **Iranian Schoolgirls Poisoned to Stop Protests (Independent 6<sup>th</sup> March) <sup>7.</sup>**

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has expressed his outrage at reports of the poisoning of schoolgirls in schools across Iran. Over 1,000 female students are now believed to have become ill prompting the supreme leader's outrage. Ayatollah Khamenei has called for capital punishment sentences for those involved in the scandal that resulted in more protests across the religiously restrictive country. Addressing the nation on state TV the Ayatollah said:

*"If it is proven deliberate, those perpetrators of this unforgivable crime should be sentenced to capital punishment."*

It is understood 91 schools in 25 of Iran's 31 provinces have been affected by the poisonings with many girls not attending classes for fear of becoming ill. The attacks are believed by some to be in response to protests following the death in custody of Masha Amini who was arrested for wearing her hijab inappropriately in 2022. US based Iranian activist Masih Alinejad tweeted.

*"Now the girls of Iran are paying the price for fighting against the compulsory hijab (veil) and have been poisoned by the clerical establishment."*

Iran's President, Ebrahim Raisi acknowledged the crisis only this month (following the initial arrests of some parents) stating:

*"Following up and quickly investigating this matter is of utmost importance... We must get to the root of the issue as soon as possible."*

Some pro-Iranian commentators suggest the poisonings were Western backed, whilst locals in Qom (where the first outbreak was recorded in late November) suggest otherwise stating:

*"We believe it is groups that the government has no control over even if they know who they are."*



Headline 2:  
Ayatollah Ali Khamenei Oman  
(Reuters 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

### CROWD SAFETY/EVENTS

#### Two Dead and Eight Injured after Crush at US Rap Concert (Guardian 7th March) 8.

Two women aged 33 and 35-years-old died after a crowd crush at a venue in Rochester, New York State at the weekend that left eight others injured. Concert goers were at the event to see Grammy nominated Memphis rapper GloRilla and were thought to be exiting the building when the supposed sound of gun fire sparked a panic making patrons flee to the exits. Police responded advising:

*“We are hearing many reports of potential causes, including crowd size, shots fired, pepper spray and more...”*

*Preliminary reports from people at the scene indicate that these injuries were caused from being trampled. We do not have any evidence of gunshots being fired or anyone being shot or stabbed.”*

### WORKPLACE SAFETY/ENERGY

#### Nooses Found at Exxon US Site Considered Racially Motivated by EEOC (Independent 6<sup>th</sup> March)

The US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has filed a lawsuit against energy giant Exxon after failing to adequately deal with the discovery of a number of ‘nooses’ found at their Baton Rouge, Louisiana site. Five nooses in total were discovered at the refinery and the EEOC is claiming Exxon’s lack of appropriate and immediate action led to racially hostile work environment. Exxon disagrees with the EEOC claims and has stated

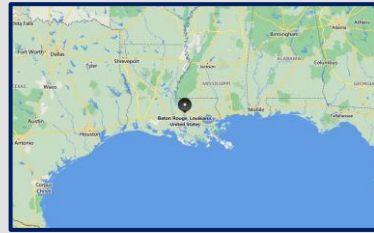
*“We have a zero-tolerance policy of any form of harassment or discrimination in the workplace by or towards employees, contractors, suppliers or customers.”*

This isn’t the first instance of a noose being used in a racially motivated manner in a US workplace. Eight nooses were found at a construction site for an Amazon warehouse in 2021 prompting the site to temporarily close while an investigation was carried out. The noose is seen as a symbol of racial violence and associated with the lynching of African Americans in the US.

### PASSENGER SAFETY/MARITIME

#### Engine Room Fire on Ferry Prompts Cross-Channel Cooperation (The National 4<sup>th</sup> March)

An engine-room fire onboard an English Channel passenger ferry prompted an international response as French and English coastguards deployed lifeboats and tugs to assist. Irish Ferries vessel, ‘the Isle of Innisfree’ was midway through the evening Dover to Calais crossing when the engine room fire broke out. Confirming the safe welfare of all 94 passengers and 89 crew members, Irish Ferries stated the lifeboats were deployed as a precaution and the ferry made it safely to harbour. An investigation is underway to establish the cause of the fire and further sailings were cancelled to complete repairs.



Headline 2  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA  
(Bing maps 2023)



Headline 3  
Isle of Innisfree Ferry  
(Irish Ferries 2023)



# Activism Updates

## ACTIVISM

### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Silver Voices UK

**Location:** Parliament Square, London@TBC

**Cause:** Pension and Retirement age protest.

**Details:** [SilverVoices.co.uk](https://silvervoices.co.uk)

### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Stop the Boats

**Location:** Suites Hotel, Kirby, Liverpool @19:00; Cannock Town Centre, Birmingham @Midday

**Cause:** Save our children, protect women, stop the boats protest.

**Details:** [TELEGRAM](#)

### Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Drag Storytime Protest

**Location:** Great Exhibition Pub, Peckham, London @11:00

**Cause:** Protest against drag acts performing for children.

**Details:** [TELEGRAM](#)

### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March – NHS 100 Protest

**Location:** Tottenham Court Road and Westminster, London @Midday

**Cause:** Meet at TCR and march to Westminster, support the NHS.

**Details:** [TELEGRAM](#)

### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Students against Tyranny

**Location:** Manchester University @13:00

**Cause:** Protest against discrimination of non-woke students

**Details:** [TELEGRAM](#)

### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March – 15 Minute City Protest

**Location:** St Pancras Renaissance Hotel, Euston @Midday

**Cause:** Rally against meeting of global mayors to talk about 15 minute cities globally.

**Details:** [TELEGRAM](#)

## WARNING REGARDING 'TYRE EXTINGUISHERS' ACTIVIST GROUP

A climate campaign group that seeks to deflate the tyres of SUV's across the globe has claimed they have deflated the tyres of over 10,000 SUVs worldwide since March 2022.

- The activists **unscrew the dust cap, drop in a lentil and re-screw the cap.**
- A **prolific group** is currently **active** in **Bristol** where they target quiet streets with little CCTV. They claimed to have **damaged 80 vehicles in one hour.**
- This group have expressed their **intent to escalate their tactics.** Insisting they **'will take their campaign to the net level'** using a **'diversity of tactics'** expected to include potentially **spray-painting SUV's .**
- SUV **owners** are advised to **use anti-theft dust caps** and **park in well lit areas,** preferably **with CCTV.**
- Alternatively, a **CCTV warning sign/label** or **fake camera** may be enough to **deter an activist.**

## STRIKES

### Monday 13 March

- **Junior doctors** in England represented by the British Medical Association (**BMA**) stage a 72-hour strike.
- **Hospital dental trainees** in England represented by the British Dental Association (**BDA**) begin a 72-hour strike at a number of trusts.
- **Junior doctor** members of the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association (**HCSA**) in England begin a 72-hour strike.

### Tuesday 14 March

- **Junior doctors** in England represented by the **BMA** continue strike action.
- **Hospital dental trainees** in England represented by the **BDA** continue to strike at a number of trusts across England.
- **HCSA junior doctor** members in England continue to strike.

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:Advisoryservices@wilsonjames.co.uk)