

ADVISORY SERVICES Weekly Digest



15th March 2023

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and Threats

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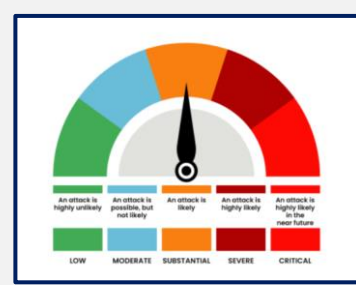
Activism

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SOP Guidance
-Protect Duty
-Protests

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).



Stabbing Changed to Terror Offence after Victim Revealed as American Spy (Daily mail 15th March) [1.](#) [2.](#)

Gloucester Police have confirmed Counter Terrorism Policing South East have taken over the investigation into a stabbing outside a leisure centre in Cheltenham last week after further information came to light. The incident occurred outside The 'Leisure at Cheltenham' leisure centre late last Thursday evening when a 29-year-old man stabbed a woman sat in her car outside the venue. The suspect was originally arrested on attempted murder charges before police escalated the offence to terror related. CTPSE have confirmed the incident appears to be isolated with no wider threat to the community and the suspect has been further arrested on suspicion of 'the commission, preparation or instigation of terrorism as well as on suspicion of preparing acts of terrorism'. It was revealed on Wednesday, the unnamed victim was an American spy working for GCHQ and was targeted specifically. The incident occurred within a few miles of the GCHQ campus. The suspect was arrested on scene and continues to be questioned by counter terror police, the victim was taken to hospital and is in a stable condition.

RaaS Attack Illustrates Escalation in Tactics with Victim Shaming to Secure Pay Outs (Wired 13th March) [3.](#) [4.](#)

The latest escalation in Ransomware as a Services (RaaS) methodology has seen the release of naked photos of medical patients after a US Health company was hacked and refused to pay the ransom. Pennsylvania's Leigh Valley Health Network's (LVHN) computer system was hacked via an attack on the system of a medical practice within the network in February this year. Whilst LVHN were still able to operate normally, some cancer patients' records and photos were stolen. The threat actors responsible for the hack are Russian ransomware group BlackCat who issued a threat prior to releasing the sensitive photos stating:

"Our blog is followed by a lot of world media, the case will be widely publicized and will cause significant damage to your business...Your time is running out. We are ready to unleash our full power on you!"

LVHN refused to acquiesce to the demand stating they wouldn't be paying the 'criminal enterprise'. The escalation in tactics is believed to be in response to less and less companies paying ransom demands and criminal groups resorting to stronger threat tactics to force subjugation. In February this year the Minneapolis Public Schools system (MPS) was hacked by RaaS group Medusa who released sensitive documents including screenshots of sexual assault complaints by students after the MPS refused to pay the ransom. This latest shift in tactics, some suggest, show that cyber defence methods are working against Raas however the change in methodology from exposing consumer details to posting naked photos of cancer patients and sexual assault complaints by children sets a worrying precedent and companies holding such data should be on high alert.

Man Set on Fire Outside London Mosque (Independent 10th March) [5.](#)

London's Met Police have released an image of a man they would like to question in relation to a an 82-year-old man being set on fire outside a mosque after attending prayers last month. The Octogenarian was leaving the West London Islamic Centre in Ealing on a Monday evening when, whilst engaged in a conversation with the suspect, he was doused in petrol and set alight. The victim suffered severe burns to his face, hands and arms and was treated at hospital. Police patrols have been increased in the area and they have not yet determined a motive for the attack.



Headline 3:
[Ealing Mosque Suspect](#)
(Independent 2023)

World News

Gary Glitter Recalled to Prison for Breaching Parole Conditions (Independent 13th March)

Convicted Paedophile Gary Glitter was recalled to prison this week for breaching the terms of his parole in relation to his release halfway through a sixteen-year sentence for the sexual assault of three school girls. Glitter had been released in February to a bail hostel in Hampshire but was videoed by another client showing him breaching his bail conditions by discussing an online search engine that protects privacy and attempting to find the 'dark web' on a mobile device.

Sushi Terrorism Grips Japan (Independent 9th March) [6.](#)

Reports from Japan suggest the country is amidst the grip of a social media craze that has people carrying out intentional unhygienic acts of sabotage on sushi outlets. Three people have already been arrested for the internet 'pranks' that see them handling sushi immediately after licking their fingers and then placing the food back on the conveyor belt for other diners to consume. Other acts include licking the open top of a communal bottle of soy sauce and placing it back for other customers. The footage, uploaded to Twitter and TikTok has outraged Japanese citizens and is believed to be the first-time food tampering of this nature has been reported in the country. Stocks in sushi restaurants plummeted after the videos were uploaded online and affected restaurants have had to order immediate emergency cleaning. A spokesperson for affected restaurants Kura Sushi stated:

"We sincerely hope the arrests will spread awareness in society that these pranks, which fundamentally undermine our system based on a relationship of trust with customers, are a crime, and that there will be no copycat acts in future."

Activists (with Foreign-based Media Ties) Arrested for Iran Poisonings (Independent 9th March)

Iran's Interior Ministry confirmed the arrest of four men in relation to the schoolgirl poisonings from last year that affected over 91 schools and poisoned over 1,000 girls. Official reports from the country's Interior Ministry state the suspects were 'anti-regime activists with ties to "foreign-based" media' in an attempt to spread 'fear and horror' amongst Iranians. However other 'official' statements from elsewhere within the regime suggest otherwise with one official stating 'non-hostile individuals' were responsible and had been "offered guidance". The poisonings have sparked another wave of protests in the religiously restrictive country which prompted arrests last week and the regime is refusing to provide any details, or the total number arrested in relation to the poisoning offences. A spokesperson for the UN said they were continuing to monitor the situation calling for a "credible, independent investigation and accountability." They maintain if it's found the poisonings are related to the recent protests then it falls within the UN mandate to investigate.



Headline 2:
Saboteurs at Sushi Restaurant
(New York Post 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 CHAINS

UK Cough Syrups Recalled Due to Allergic Reaction During Surgery Fears (BBC News 14th March) ⁷.

The below lists of cough medicines have been removed from pharmacist shelves due to a health and safety risk should the user have surgery in the months following consumption. A very rare (<1 in 10,000) allergic reaction may occur and therefore the decision to remove them from shelves as a precaution was made. Royal Pharmaceutical Society Professor Claire Anderson confirmed the risk was small but stated:

"Following a thorough scientific safety review of all the available evidence on pholcodine, together with advice from the independent Commission on Human Medicines, it has been recommended, as a precautionary measure, that these products should no longer be used."

REMOVED MEDICINES: Boots Night Cough Relief Oral Solution, PL 00014/0230; Boots Dry Cough Syrup 6 Years+; Boots Day Cold & Flu Relief Oral Solution; Cofsed Linctus; Care Pholcodine 5mg/5ml Oral Solution Sugar Free; Galenphol Linctus; Galenphol Paediatric Linctus; Galenphol Strong Linctus; Covonia Dry Cough Sugar Free Formula; Pholcodine Linctus Bells Healthcare 5mg Per 5ml Oral Solution; Numark Pholcodine 5mg per 5ml Oral Solution; Well Pharmaceuticals Pholcodine 5mg per 5ml Oral Solution; Superdrug Pholcodine Linctus BP; Pholcodine Linctus BP; Strong Pholcodine Linctus BP; Haleon Day & Night Nurse Capsules; Haleon Day Nurse Capsules; Haleon Day Nurse.

AVIATION/SECURITY

Heathrow's Cannabis Smugglers Receive Sentences (National Crime Agency 13th March) ⁸.

Sentencing has begun in the cases of 25 US nationals caught smuggling large quantities of cannabis into UK airports over a two-month period earlier this year. Last week Massa Momolu Talery from Pennsylvania was given eight months for the importation of Class B drugs and Gerard Jean-Leger from Massachusetts received a ten-month sentence for the same offence. Jean-Leger was caught attempting to smuggle 27 kilos of cannabis, Talery was caught with 20 kilos. Heathrow's National Crime Agency Commander, Andy Noyes, stated:

Organised crime gangs need couriers like Talery and Jean-Leger to bring their illicit substances into the UK...Couriers are often recruited with promises of payment or free holidays... "But in reality these attempts just end in jail sentences"

SECURITY/PRISONS

Open Day for Business Owners to Help Improve Prisoner Reintegration (Leicester Mercury 8th March)

The New HMP Fosse Way prison in Leicester (previously known as HMP Glen Parva) is encouraging business owners to offer training and employment to its inmates in a bid to improve the reintegration and rehabilitation of prisoners when they leave the facility. Security group SERCO together with the local council held an open day last week to encourage local businesses to support the offenders and 'break the circle of crime'. The prison is hoping to get interest from employers able to recruit for barista training, cycle maintenance, air conditioning and duct cleaning, waste management, kitchens and catering, construction, call centres, barbers, painting and decorating, and woodwork and carpentry.



Headline 2:
Heathrow Cannabis Smugglers
NCA (2023)



Activism Updates

ACTIVISM

Wednesday 15th March – Wages not Weapons

Location: Hyde park, London marching to Trafalgar Square @Midday

Cause: Solidarity march with striking teachers, budget day protest

Details: [CND](#)

Wednesday 15th March – Healthy Cities Conference Rally

Location: St Pancras Renaissance Hotel, London @Midday

Cause: Rally against global mayors meeting re [15 minute cities](#)

Details:

Saturday 18th March – Stop the ULEZ

Location: Trafalgar Square, London @Midday

Cause: Protest against ULEZ charges

Details: [Telegram](#)

Saturday 18th March – Media is the Virus

Location: Birmingham, Cambridge, Newcastle, Manchester, Cardiff, London, Liverpool @13:00

Cause: Anti-media protest

Details: [Telegram](#)

Tuesday 21st March – NO US Nukes in Britain

Location: US Embassy, London @17:30

Cause: 'No to weapons of mass and indiscriminate destruction stationed on UK soil.'

Details: [CND](#)

Monday 20th – 26th March – Israel Apartheid Week

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 next 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

Thursday 16 March

Transport Network Rail (1 strike) - RMT RMT union members from 14 train operators will strike after rejecting pay offers from both train operators and Network Rail.

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

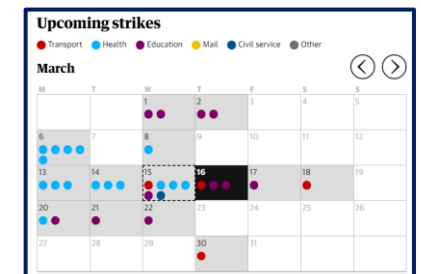
Education Schools (1 strike) - NEU Teachers represented by NEU continue strike action across England and Wales.

Friday 17 March

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

Saturday 18 March

Transport Network Rail (1 strike) - RMT RMT union members from 14 train operators continue strike action after rejecting offers from both train operators and Network Rail last week.



Monday 20 March

Health NHS (1 strike) - Unite Ambulance workers in the West Midlands ambulance trust, north-east ambulance trust, east Midlands ambulance trust, wales ambulance trust and the north-west ambulance trust continue strike action.

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

Tuesday 21 March

Higher education Universities (1 strike) - UCU 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