

# ADVISORY SERVICES Weekly Digest



22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

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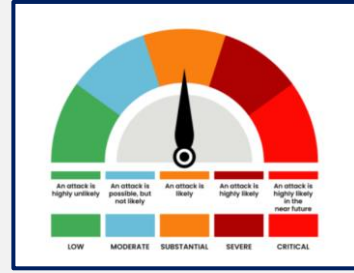
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# Terrorism and Threats

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).



## Pensioner Set Alight at Second Mosque in as Many Months (BBC News 21<sup>st</sup> March) <sup>1.</sup>

Counter terror police are investigating after a man in his 70s was set alight outside a mosque in Birmingham after evening prayers on Monday. The victim was walking home when the suspect approached him and had a brief conversation before spraying him with a substance and setting him on fire. The victim was taken to hospital and is being treated for burns to his face, his condition is not thought to be life-threatening. The suspect was arrested the following day close to the mosque and members of the congregation noted a man acting suspiciously at the mosque on Monday prior to the attack. The incident is similar to an attack outside a London mosque last month which this [digest](#) reported on. An 82-year-old man was set alight outside a mosque in Ealing, also on a Monday evening, after a suspect engaged him in a conversation before pouring petrol over him. CT police are investigating if the two are linked.

## Exercise Spring Resolve Tests CT Preparedness at PALs (Counter Terror Business 17<sup>th</sup> March)

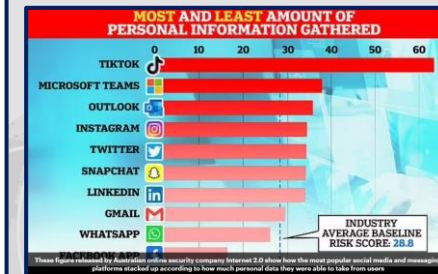
The UK cities of London and York hosted the regular response testing for a large-scale terror attack last week. The exercise, Spring Resolve, tested the effectiveness of a multi-agency response in light of a terrorist attack at a publicly accessed location (PAL) and included services such as British Transport Police, Metropolitan Police, North Yorkshire Police, Counter Terrorism Policing North-East, London Fire Brigade, London Ambulance Service, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and Yorkshire Ambulance Service. London tested multiple, rapid attacks on the transport network and other PALs whilst York tested a no-notice attack on a city centre PAL. Superintendent Jason Dickson of North Yorkshire Police said:

*"It provided an opportunity to test our joint working in dealing with a no-notice violent attack... We tested the strategic prioritisation and decision-making for the safe and effective deployment of specialist and non-specialist resources to scenes and the early consideration of recovery measures."*

## Five Eyes to Ban TikTok on Phones After Firm 'Cracks' App's Source Code (Guardian 17<sup>th</sup> March) <sup>2.</sup> <sup>3.</sup> <sup>4.</sup>

Australia is set to join its FIVE EYES counterparts (together with EU Commission) in banning Chinese-owned app TikTok. The Intelligence alliance of the US, UK, Canada, New Zealand and Australia have all expressed concerns about the integrity of the app and all but Australia have officially confirmed their intent to ban it on government issued phones. Australia is expected to follow suit after their government initiated a security report into concerns the app was spying on users last year. Internet 2.0, an Australian online security firm examined the app claiming they discovered 'an unusually high number of trackers in the source code'. The app accesses calendars, contact lists (even if access is denied) and monitors other installed apps. They also claim it checks the phone's location hourly and Apple phones connect with servers in China. TikTok responded to the accusations stating:

*"The IP address is in Singapore; the network traffic does not leave the region and it is categorically untrue to imply there is communication with China"*



Headline 3:

[Top Ten Data Harvesting Apps](#)  
[DailyMail \(2023\)](#)



# World News

## Ulster Says No Again as DUP Set to Reject Windsor Framework (Independent 20<sup>th</sup> March)

The DUP (Democratic Unionist Party) has confirmed it intends to vote against the first part of the Windsor Framework after stating there were fundamental issues still outstanding as the Northern Ireland power sharing executive's challenges continue. The introduction of a 'Stormont Brake' is being addressed this week which aims to allow Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) to raise concerns with the UK government over EU laws impacting Northern Ireland, with the UK government given the option to veto the law. Leader of the DUP Sir Jeffery Donaldson said of 'The Brake',

*"Whilst representing real progress, the 'brake' does not deal with the fundamental issue which is the imposition of EU law by the protocol".*

Downing Street responded stating: "We remain confident that this is the best deal for Northern Ireland". The DUP vote is expected tomorrow.

## Dates and UK Fasting Times for Ramadan (Aljazeera 20<sup>th</sup> March) <sup>5</sup>.

The holy month of Ramadan is expected to start on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> this week depending on the first sighting of the new crescent moon expected on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ramadan celebrates the first verses of the Quran being revealed to the Prophet Muhammed over 1,400 years ago and requires a religious observance of fasting just before sunrise until sunset each day for a lunar month. Fasting includes further abstinences such as no smoking, alcohol or sexual relations to 'achieve a greater consciousness of God' and its completion is celebrated with Eid al-Fitr, 'festival of breaking the fast' at the end of the month. The duration of time spent fasting differs from country to country with those in the Southern hemisphere fasting a minimum of 12 hours a day and those in the Northern hemisphere fasting for maximum of 17+ hours. Scotland's 2023 fasting hours will last a duration of approximately 17 hours with the longest day of fasting being Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 17 hours and 21 minutes long. England's fasting will last 16 hours.

## Nationwide Test of Public Emergency Alert Expected in April (BBC News 19<sup>th</sup> March)

There will be a nationwide testing of the Public Emergency Alert system next month that will see a ten second 'siren-like' alert sent to every mobile phone in the UK in the early **evening of Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> of April**. The sound will come through even if the phone is on silent and is also expected to vibrate as the government test the warning system which went live last Sunday. The system will alert users to a severe 'weather related event' in their local area and will consider the possibility of including terror incident alerts after appropriate consultation. The service will not collect personal data and will have an opt out option. Further details and an example of the 'siren' sound are available [here](#).



Headline 2:  
[Ramadan Greetings](#)  
[Aljazeera \(2023\)](#)

Headline 3:  
[Emergency Alert](#)  
[YouTube \(2023\)](#)



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

### ENERGY

#### **Oil Rig Workers to Strike Between March and June After Operators' Profits Revealed (Guardian 20<sup>th</sup> March) <sup>6</sup>.**

Unite the Union has announced it expects approximately 1,400 oil rig workers to strike in the coming months after research showed the operators made a combined profit of GBP 146Billion last year. Workers for contractors Bilfinger UK, Stork, Petrofac, Wood and Sparrows Group are expected to take part in the action after members voted in favour of strikes over pay and working conditions and numbers are expected to increase as other workers ballot this week. A spokesperson for Wood Group said:

*"Personnel and operational safety remain our top priority and operations are unaffected at this time"*

The industrial action is expected to include electrical, production and mechanical technicians, deck crew, pipefitters and crane operators. Affected energy operators include BP, CNRI, EnQuest, Harbour, Ithaca, Shell and Total.

### ACTIVISM

#### **Security Officers Injured in Protest Outside India's High Commission (Metro 19<sup>th</sup> March) <sup>7</sup>.**

India has summoned a senior UK diplomat to Delhi after a protest outside India's High Commission in London escalated into violence and vandalism at the weekend. A group of protestors representing the Sikh separatist Khalistan movement scaled the building on Sunday removing the Indian flag, replacing it with their own banner and clashing with security officers protecting the building. Two officers were wounded, and a number of windows were smashed before police dispersed the protest, making one arrest. The Khalistan movement is considered a security threat and outlawed in India. The High Commission released a statement criticising the UK government response saying:

*"India finds unacceptable the indifference of the UK government to the security of Indian diplomatic premises and personnel in the UK."*

Another protest is scheduled for Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 14:00 hours.

### AVIATION

#### **Heathrow T5 Security Officers to Strike Over Easter Holidays (Guardian 18<sup>th</sup> March) <sup>8</sup>.**

Unite the Union has announced over 1,400 airport security staff at Heathrow will strike over pay for ten days from the 31<sup>st</sup> of March. Heathrow Airports Ltd (HAL) security officers at Terminal Five will strike over the Easter period potentially bringing travel chaos to the school holidays and British Airways flights. A spokesperson on behalf of Heathrow reassured travellers however stating:

*"Passengers can be reassured that we have contingency plans which will keep the airport open and operational despite unnecessary threats of strike action by Unite."*

The confirmation comes after the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) union announced passport workers across the UK will also engage in strike action for a month at the beginning of April.



# Activism Updates

## ACTIVISM

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> March – Israel Apartheid Week**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Divest From Crisis Day of Action**

(please refer to our latest pro-Palestine social media monitoring profile available on request).

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Divest From Strathclyde**

**Location:** George's Square, Glasgow @11:00

**Cause:** Strathclyde Pension Fund to commit to full divestment from fossil fuels.

**Details:** [Divest.org](https://divest.org)

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Anti-ULEZ Rally**

**Location:** Trafalgar Square, London @Midday

**Cause:** Monthly event to protest introduction of ULEZ

**Details:** [Telegram](https://t.me)

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Truth be Told**

**Location:** Parliament, London @13:00

**Cause:** Protest against government and complicit media.

**Details:** [Telegram](https://t.me)

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Stop Discriminating Against Non-woke Students**

**Location:** Manchester Uni, Manchester @13:00

**Cause:** Protest delayed from 11/3

**Details:** [Telegram](https://t.me)

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Barclays Still Banking on Apartheid**

**Location:** Barclays branches nationwide

**Cause:** Protest against Barclays funding companies who provide weapons to Israel.

**Details:** [PSC](https://psc.org)

## 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.**



# 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**  
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