

# ADVISORY SERVICES Weekly Digest



29<sup>th</sup> March 2023

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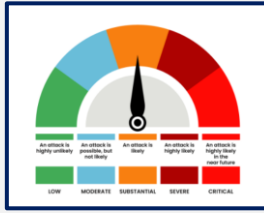
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# Terrorism and Threats

PROTECT UK



The current threat level for the UK MAINLAND is 'SUBSTANTIAL', meaning a terror attack is 'likely'  
The current threat level for Northern Ireland is 'SEVERE', meaning a terror attack is 'highly likely'  
For further information see GOV.UK.

## Remain Vigilant says Heaton-Harris as NI Threat Level Raised (Independent 28<sup>th</sup> March)

Northern Ireland secretary Chris Heaton-Harris announced on Tuesday the terror threat level has been raised to severe in the province, meaning an attack is highly likely, as a resurgence in New IRA activity gave MI5 cause for concern. Mr Heaton-Harris stated:

*"In recent months, we have seen an increase in levels of activity relating to Northern Ireland related terrorism, which has targeted police officers serving their communities and also put at risk the lives of children and other members of the public."*

## Man Charged with Attempted Murder for Both Mosque Attacks (BBC News 27<sup>th</sup> March) <sup>1</sup>.

28-year-old Mohammed Abbkr appeared at Birmingham Magistrates Courts last week charged with the attempted murder of two elderly worshippers outside Mosques in Birmingham and London in separate attacks. 82-year-old Hashi Odowa from London and 70-year-old Mohammed Rayaz from Birmingham were both set alight in February and March this year by Abbkr after leaving Monday evening prayers at their local mosques. Both men suffered serious but non-life-threatening injuries. Appearing in court, Abbkr did not enter a plea for either charge and was remanded in custody until 20<sup>th</sup> April when he will appear at Birmingham Crown Court.

## Multi-Agencies Attend Maritime CT Preparedness Exercise (Counter Terror Business 27<sup>th</sup> March)

Merseyside hosted a no-notice maritime preparedness exercise last week involving Counter Terrorism Policing North West (CTPNW), Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire & Rescue, North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) and the Coast Guard. The pre-planned event involved a 'staged road-traffic collision, after which the 'suspect' fled the scene and took 'hostages' on board a Royal Fleet Auxiliary Ship.' Merseyside Police Assistant Chief Constable Paul White stated:

*"Multi-agency exercises such this are absolutely vital for us to demonstrate how successfully the emergency services work together in the event of a major incident...Merseyside Police has a comprehensive plan in place and a highly skilled and prepared workforce of officers and staff across the Force ready to respond should it ever be required...Regularly testing our planning is essential to allow us to adapt, learn and constantly improve our plan so that we have the most effective staff and resources in place at all times."*



Headline 2:  
Artist Impression of Mohammed  
Abbkr in court  
(BBC News 2023)



# World News

## Protests Continue in France as Tensions Mount Over Pension Age Rise (Guardian 28<sup>th</sup> March) 2. 3.

France braced itself for yet more protests on Tuesday evening as hundreds of thousands of people were expected to take to the streets to protest against raising the state pension age from 62 to 64 (it is currently 66 in the UK). Cities across the country were expecting clashes between protestors and police as recent demonstrations had escalated into violence. Last week's protests saw multiple fires started and property vandalised. French intelligence initially suggested attendance could be two or three times greater this week but fewer people attended last night's demonstrations (740,000 across the country compared to one million the week before). Tuesday's demonstrations remained relatively peaceful with only a few pockets of criminality (which included looting) and at least 22 arrests. Overnight it is reported officers in major cities used water cannons and tear gas to disperse groups at the front of marches who were described by Gérald Darmanin, the interior minister as 'radical troublemakers' from overseas. Those affected by the nationwide regular strike action include oil refineries, bin collections, rail transport, air travel and schools. Reports suggest the French police response to the protests has been heavy-handed prompting 30 lawyers to write an open letter expressing their 'great concern'. The French police internal affairs department is currently investigating several allegations regarding their behaviour during the clashes, but the interior minister has stated all arrests were justified and several officers were injured in the demonstrations.

## Humza Yousef to be Sworn in Today as First Minister of Scotland (Scotsman 28<sup>th</sup> March) 4. 5.

Scotland's new First Minister, 37-year-old Humza Yousef will be sworn in today (Wednesday) when he attends the Court of Session (senior civil court) in Edinburgh after officially receiving the backing of MPs in Holyrood on Tuesday afternoon. First Minister Yousef is the first practising Muslim to lead a devolved government in Western Europe and won with 52% of the overall votes compared to second place candidate Kate Forbe's 48%. First Minister Yousef's grandparents emigrated to Scotland from the Punjab 60 years ago, mentioning them in his acceptance speech he said:

*"As immigrants to this country, who knew barely a word of English, they could not have imagined in their wildest dreams that their grandson would one day be on the cusp of being the next first minister of Scotland."*

Addressing the people of Scotland he said: *"I will work every minute of every day to earn and re-earn your respect and your trust."*

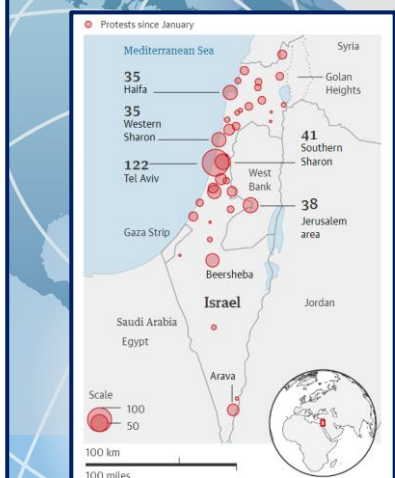
## Violence Continues in Israel as Passover Approaches (The Guardian 27<sup>th</sup> March)

Protests continue to escalate into violence in Israel as the country expresses their anger at prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to overhaul Israel's judicial system, particularly following the sacking of the defence minister for suggesting the plans be paused for further consideration. Controversial amendments to the judicial system, critics say, "will result in an erosion of democratic norms and the rule of law" and the dissent has created the largest protest movement 'in Israeli history'. Prime minister Netanyahu appears stuck between compromise and the far-right hardliners who could bring down his government, reports the Guardian. Tensions are expected to escalate as the religious holiday of the Passover (2<sup>nd</sup> April) approaches when some of the laws will be ratified.

Headline 2:  
Scotland's First Minister Humza  
Yousef (Sky 2023)



Headline 3:  
Areas of Protests in Israel  
(The Guardian 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

#### **HSE finds Hole in Deck of Rig after Offshore Worker went Missing (Energy Voice 22<sup>nd</sup> March)**

50-year-old Jason Thomas has still not been found after disappearing on board the Valaris 121 oil rig on 22 January. He was thought, by staff and union officials on board, to have fallen through a hole left by a dislodged grating. Although this has yet to be confirmed by HSE, they did confirm the discovery of the dislodged grating and made recommendations to rig operators. A search was initiated following Mr Thomas' disappearance that included supply vessels, a coastguard helicopter and aeroplane but the services were eventually stood down and Mr Thomas is still missing. The rig is currently in port at Dundee whilst a police investigation takes place. Representatives for Valaris stated:

*"Valaris can confirm that the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) issued an Improvement Notice related to the installation of polymer grating systems on jackup VALARIS 121. We have undertaken a thorough review of all such polymer grating systems and their fasteners onboard VALARIS 121 and other jackup rigs in our fleet to address the Improvement Notice."*



Headline 1:  
Valaris 121 being towed  
into Dundee  
(Energy Vice 2023)

### ACTIVISM

#### **Security Industry see Massive influx of Staff in Response to Drive (Twin FM 23<sup>rd</sup> March)**

The British Security Industry Association (BSIA) has stated the industry has increased its amount of security officers by 16% since July 2022. The BSIA also confirmed in the last 12 months there was a 14% increase in the recruitment of 18-25-year-olds, 6% increase in female security officers and a 3% increase in male security officers. Chief Executive of the BSIA Mike Reddington said:

*"As an industry body we're working hard to improve the perception of the security industry and attract young people and women by highlighting the incredible role security officers play in keeping people and property safe and protected. There's a lot more to the job than wearing a hi-vis vest."*

### FINANCE

#### **William Hill Fined for AML Lapses (AMLIntelligence 28<sup>th</sup> March)**

Gambling regulator the Gambling Commission (GC) has fined betting giant William Hill a record GBP19.2million for serious financial conduct lapses, including failing to appropriately regulate money laundering. It is understood William Hill failed to complete appropriate checks prior to allowing a customer to bet up to GBP23,000 in 20 minutes and another customer who lost GBP14,000 in 70 minutes and demonstrated a lack of compliance checks on large deposits. Owner/operator 888 now runs the company but did not own it when the breaches were made and the fine will therefore be split between WHG (International) Limited, paying £12.5m; Mr Green Limited, paying £3.7m and William Hill Organisation Limited paying £3m. Gambling Commission chief Executive Andrew Rhodes said serious consideration had been given to suspending the company's licence due to the failings being 'so widespread and alarming'. Explaining why the GC choose not to exact that punishment he stated:

*"Because the operator immediately recognised their failings and worked with us to swiftly implement improvements, we instead opted for the largest enforcement payment in our history."*



# Activism Updates

## ACTIVISM

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Bond St. Fur and Exotic Skin Trade Protest**

**Location:** Bond Street, Meet outside Pret on Conduit St. @17:00

**Cause:** Against Fur trade

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

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April – No to CAZ Zone**

**Location:** Bradford City Hall @13:00

**Cause:** No to tyrannical surveillance campaign

**Details:** [The North Unites](#)

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Bond St. Fur and Exotic Skin Trade Protest**

**Location:** Bond Street, Meet outside Pret on Conduit St. @16:00

**Cause:** Against Fur trade

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

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Rishi End Cages for Hens**

**Location:** Parliament Sq. @11:00

**Cause:** Peaceful protest to end caged hen farming

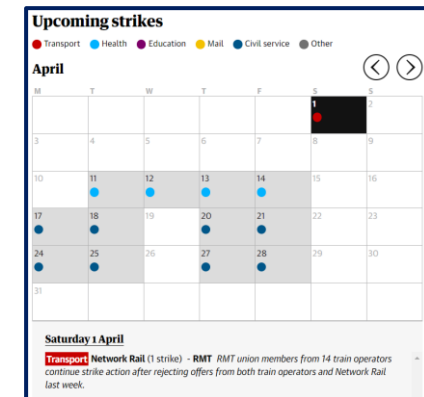
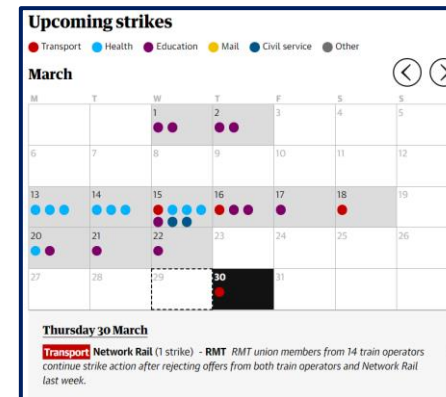
**Details:** [Info](#)

## 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



# 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)