

ADVISORY SERVICES Weekly Digest



19th April 2023

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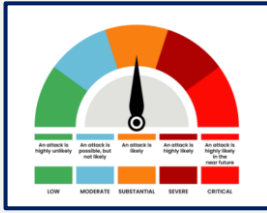
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Terrorism and Threats

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.

Security Services in NYC Discover First Covert Chinese Police Station in US (CNN 17th April)

In our Advisory Services Digest Round-up 2022 we detailed the discovery of at least 100 Chinese police stations established in foreign countries (with or without the approval of the sovereign state) to harass Chinese expatriates considered as dissidents. This week, security services in the US announced the arrest of two US citizens charged with being '*alleged agents for the Chinese government accused of working to harass and silence its critics in the US*'. They have also charged 34 Chinese police officers for their part in the harassment of Chinese dissidents in an online video conference where they screamed and threatened some participants. The two arrested US citizens have been accused of allegedly creating the "*first known overseas police station in the United States*". These latest revelations do little to ease tensions between the two countries and provides further evidence of China's 'foreign interference' policy. Member of the new House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, Seth Moulton stated:

"The story out there that the Americans and Chinese are ratcheting up tensions is really not accurate. This is China ratcheting up tensions. This is the Chinese Communist Party trying to exact their repressive regime all over the globe."

Open Season on Truffle Hunters in Syria as IS Claim 26 Lives (BBC 17th April)

26 people truffle hunting have been killed by a group claiming to be from Islamic State (IS) after searching for the fungus in the Hama province of Syria. The latest IS killings bring the total number of truffle hunters killed in Syria to 150 this year (Truffle season is from February to April). In Syria the already hazardous but lucrative job brings added risks as foragers must avoid landmines and regularly disturb the hideouts of thousands of IS fighters taking refuge in the area. The news comes amidst a report from US Central Command announcing the death of senior ISIS leader Abd-al-Hadi Mahmud al-Haji Ali by US forces in a helicopter raid in Northern Syria. The IS leader is believed responsible for attacks in the middle East and Europe and the operation was prompted by intelligence suggesting ISIS were to embark on a kidnapping campaign 'to kidnap officials abroad as leverage for ISIS initiatives'.

Turn Your Phone Off if Driving During Alert Testing to Avoid Distraction Drivers Told (Guardian 17th April)

Domestic abuse victims and vehicle drivers have been told to turn their phones off prior to the UK government's emergency alert test on Sunday 23rd of April at 15:00, after concerns were raised over the possibility of disturbing drivers or revealing the location of an emergency phone. The alerts will only sound in the future if there is a life-threatening, extreme weather incident in the local area. They will be heard even if your phone is on silent but not if the phone is in airplane mode or turned off. Alerts can be disabled by searching phone settings for "emergency alerts", then select the option to turn off "severe alerts" and "emergency alerts". Domestic abuse charity Refuge has provided guidance on how to do this which can be found [here](#), further advice from Refuge on keeping your tech safe can be found [here](#).

Headline 1:
[Syria \(Google Maps 2023\)](#)



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



World News



Stephen Lawrence Day Marks 30 Years Since Murder (SLRC De Montfort University April)

30 years ago, on the 22nd of April 1993 a bright, young, ambitious teenager was stabbed to death for no other reason other than the colour of his skin. His name was Stephen Lawrence and April 22nd is his day. On this day we will celebrate a life taken too soon, a family let down when fighting for justice and legacy that will inspire generations to come. The Stephen Lawrence Research Centre together with the Stephen Lawrence Foundation, Libraries Connected and The Reading Agency will host

‘activities aimed at children and young people that promote culture, literacy and learning, and speak to the life and legacy of Stephen Lawrence...Schools and communities are invited to use the memory of Stephen’s life and legacy as an opportunity to empower young people to live their best life.’

Stephen’s parents want his legacy to be about ‘respect for people as people’. Stephen’s mother, Baroness Lawrence hopes his day will:

“encourage us to question the role we play in our communities and how we contribute and uphold decent values for all those who share that community with us, living our best lives while thinking of ourselves and others”.

For further information on Stephen Lawrence Day and how you can get involved with your community please see [here](#).

Further Struggles for New First Minister as Second SNP Member Arrested (Independent 18th April) ^{1.} ^{2.}

Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP) Treasurer Colin Beattie is the second SNP member to be arrested over the on-going investigation into party finances earmarked for their referendum battle. Detectives investigating the misappropriation of funds within the party released Beattie (who recently suggested the SNP was on the brink of bankruptcy) without charge as they continue their investigation. The investigation centres on GBP 660,000 earmarked for the referendum that disappeared from accounts and was used instead to cover ‘day-to-day running costs’ of the SNP. Ex-Chief Executive of the SNP Peter Murrell (Ex-First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon’s husband) was the first member to be arrested, 10 days after the SNP welcomed their new leader and the saw his home, the SNP HQ and his parents’ home searched by police. He was released pending further investigation also. Opposition MPs suggest the SNP is ‘in total meltdown’ and are now asking for the suspension of Murrell, Beattie and Sturgeon from the party as the probe continues. Sturgeon was brought into the furore due to her ignoring repeated requests for more transparency in the party’s accounting process. SNP leader Humza Yousef reassured his Party’s members stating he did not believe the SNP was not operating in ‘a criminal way’.

Iran Criminalises Encouraging Women to Remove Their Hijabs (Independent 16th April) ^{3.}

Iran has doubled down on its hijab policy by introducing a criminal law that prosecutes people for encouraging women to remove their hijab and denies them the opportunity to appeal. The prosecution will carry a harsher sentence than that imposed on those caught wearing their hijab inappropriately or not at all. Iran has also introduced CCTV cameras to help identify culprits and ‘prevent resistance’ against the hijab policy.

Headline 1:
Stephen Lawrence
(SLRC 2023)

Headline 2:
Colin Beattie, (Guardian 2023)



Headline 2:
Nicola Sturgeon and
Peter Murrell
(Independent 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

Just Stop Oil Covers Green Cloth in Orange at Crucible in Latest Stunt (Talksport 18th April)^{4. 5.}

Play was interrupted at the Crucible during the World snooker championships in Sheffield on Sunday, after the match between Robert Milkins and Joe Perry was disrupted shortly after it started by a Just Stop Oil (JSO) protestor. A 30-year-old man was arrested after climbing on top of the snooker table and emptying a packet of dry orange paint over the green cloth forcing the match to be suspended while the table is re-clothed. A 52-year-old woman was also arrested at the venue after being prevented from gluing herself to another table hosting a match between Mark Allen and Fan Zhengyi. Quick thinking referee Olivier Marteel managed to prevent the woman from fixing herself to the table and play resumed after a 40-minute delay. JSO claim the protest was in response to used car company Cazoo's sponsorship of the event. The activists were dragged out of the arena to boos and jeers from the audience and remain in police custody.

ACTIVISM/EVENTS

Three Horses Dead and Over 100 AR Activists Arrested at Grand National (Independent 17th April)^{6.}

The final race of the Grand National at Aintree last week was briefly delayed due to a surge of Animal Rising (AR) activists attempting to invade the course by scaling fences and barriers with ladders. Of the nine activists who succeeded in breaching the heavy security and make it onto the racecourse at least two attempted to glue or cable tie themselves to jumps along the course. The activists were swiftly removed to cheers from the crowd. 118 activists were arrested at the event and those who remained proceeded to block the nearby M57 causing tailbacks and severe delays. Of the 118 arrested, 65 were taken into custody and AR claim no one has yet been charged. The event was further marred by the deaths of three horses during the race when it finally got underway following a 15-minute delay. Sandy Thomson, trainer to one of the horses that died put the blame for its death on the activists after they were unable to calm the 'hyper' horse down following the late start. AR offered condolences over the deaths but maintain their protests "aimed to prevent exactly that from happening".

CROWD SAFETY

Liverpool FC Marks 34th Anniversary of Hillsborough Disaster (ThisIsAnfield 15th April)^{7. 8. 9.}

Saturday 15th April saw the 34th anniversary of the Hillsborough Football Disaster that killed 97 people and injured 766 others. The 1989 crush occurred at the Liverpool supporter's end of an FA Cup semi-final football match between Nottingham Forest and Liverpool at the Hillsborough stadium in Sheffield. Fans were initially blamed for what is still considered the 'worst sporting disaster in British history' and following years of campaigning were finally vindicated when the 2012 Hillsborough Independent Panel found the blame lay with the police and crowd control measures at the stadium which compromised safety. Liverpool were not in play on Saturday and so marked the occasion at their preceding weekend fixture and held a minute's silence at the club on the day. Local rivals Everton also held a minute's silence before their game against Fulham and as did racegoers visiting Aintree for the Grand National.



Headline 1:
Just Stop Oil protestor at Crucible
(Talksport 2023)



Headline 2:
Animal Rising at Grand National (ITV 2023)



Headline 3:
Hillsborough Tribute at the KOP
(Liverpool FC 2023)



Activism Updates

ACTIVISM

Friday 21st – 24th April – XR The Big One

Location: Parliament and Central London

Cause: Climate action campaign (see our social media profiles)

Details: [INFO](#)

Saturday 22nd April – Not Our War

Location: Trafalgar Sq and Outside Ministry of Defence @Midday

Cause: Protest against assisting in Ukraine war

Details: [TELEGRAM](#)

Sunday 22nd April – No Fifteen Minute Cities

Location: Church Street Liverpool @Midday

Cause: 15 minute city protest

Details: [TELEGRAM](#)

Sunday 23rd April – London Marathon

Location: Central London

Cause: Possible disruption event, travel restrictions and disruption expected.

Details: [INFO](#)

Monday 24th April – Just Stop Oil

Location: Slow Marches in London from 24/4

Cause: New campaign by JSO following XR's The Big One

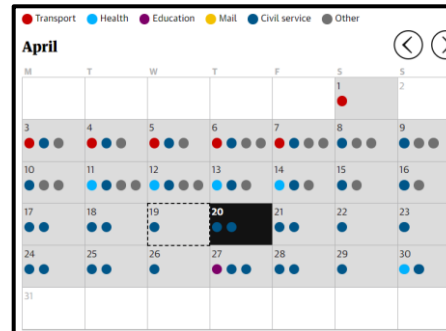
Details: [INFO](#)

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.**
- A **CCTV warning sign/label** or **fake camera** may be enough to **deter an activist.**

STRIKES



Thursday 20 April

Civil Service Civil Service (1 strike) - PCS PCS members working in the Passport Office continue strike action in Belfast, Durham, Glasgow, Liverpool, London, Newport, Peterborough and Southport.

Civil service Civil Service (1 strike) - PCS The DVSA driving examiners' strikes will start in North-west England and Yorkshire and the Humber.

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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