

# Annual Terrorism Threat Report 2025

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## Executive summary

The UK terrorism threat level is **substantial,** meaning an attack is **likely.**

As of 09 December 2025, there has been one confirmed terrorist attack in the UK in 2025.

On 02 October 2025, Jihad al-Shamie, 35, conducted a Bladed Weapon and Vehicle as a Weapon attack against members of the public at Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in Crumpsall, Manchester. The attack occurred on Yom Kippur. There were two fatalities, and three others were injured. Al-Shamie was shot dead by firearms officers after he was seen wearing a device believed to be a Person-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (PBIED). The device was later assessed by police to be a hoax and confirmed to be “non-viable”. Al-Shamie reportedly called 999 during the attack to claim responsibility and to pledge allegiance to Islamic State.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Inquest hears exactly how Manchester synagogue terrorist Jihad Al-Shamie died - Manchester Evening News; Update 16:05 27 November 2025 | Manchester Attack | Counter Terrorism Policing; Update from Counter Terrorism Policing North West by Assistant Chief Constable Rob Potts | Greater Manchester Police](#)



Thames House MI5 Headquarters



Since January 2020, MI5 and the police have disrupted 19 late-stage attack plots in the UK.<sup>2</sup>



It is almost certain that Islamist terrorism remains the primary terrorist threat to the UK at this time, accounting for approximately 75% of MI5's counterterrorism caseload.



It is highly likely that any terrorist attack conducted in the UK at this time would be conducted by an individual or a small cell using a low sophistication methodology. E.g., Bladed or Blunt Force Weapon, Vehicle as a Weapon, Fire as a Weapon, etc.



There is a realistic possibility that terrorist actors in the UK could have the capability to conduct a high sophistication attack at this time. E.g., Improvised Explosive Device (IED), or Firearms attack. The complicated nature of plotting a high sophistication terrorist attack makes it highly likely that there will be greater opportunity for UK police and security services to disrupt potential attacks.



There is a remote chance that any terrorist actor would currently have the capability to conduct a significant terrorist attack using cyber means in the UK.



There is a remote chance that any terrorist actor would currently have the capability to conduct a high-sophistication CBRN attack due to the significant barriers which currently exist in the acquisition, production, and delivery of CBRN agents.

<sup>2</sup> Director General Ken McCallum gives threat update | MI5 - The Security Service



## Major UK terrorism-related incidents in 2025

31  
JAN



Image source: public domain

**On 31 January 2025**, Alexander Dighton, 28, of Pontyclun, set fire to a police van and smashed the windows of a police car with a wooden pole at Talbot Green Police Station in Wales. Dighton then stabbed a responding police officer in the leg with a knife. According to the Chief Crown Prosecutor for the CPS Special Crime and Counter Terrorism Division, Dighton’s motivations “were connected to terrorism”. Dighton reportedly held “strong anti-government, anti-Islam and anti-immigration views” and attacked the police as he “considered them as representatives of the state”. On 13 June 2025, Dighton was sentenced to life imprisonment after he pleaded guilty to the attempted murder of a police officer and nine other offences.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Man jailed for life for attempted murder of police officer | Counter Terrorism Policing: Talbot Green police station attacker jailed for attempted murder - BBC News

**10  
APR**

On 10 April 2025, Farishta Jami, 36, of Stratford, was sentenced to life imprisonment after she planned to travel to Afghanistan to join Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP). She had saved £1,200 to pay for one-way flights to Afghanistan for her and her children. Jami was also an administrator on several pro-Islamic State group chats and channels. Jami oversaw the upload of violent extremist material in the form of videos, documents, and images on social media platforms.<sup>4</sup>

**11  
APR**

Image source:  
public domain

On 11 April 2025, Jason Savage, 35, of Small Heath, was sentenced to life imprisonment after he plotted a terrorist attack against a mosque and bookshop in Small Heath, Birmingham. Prosecutors revealed that Savage sought to target an Islamic cleric associated with a mosque and bookshop because the cleric was an outspoken critic of Islamist terrorism. Savage conducted hostile reconnaissance at the mosque and discussed possible points of entry, as well as likely police response routes. Savage had also researched potential military and police targets. Savage converted to Islam in the 2010s and followed an extreme and violent interpretation of the Salafi movement.<sup>5</sup>

**26  
APR**

On 26 April 2025, Owen Lawrence, 38, of Headingley, conducted a crossbow and firearms attack on the “Otley Run” pub crawl route in Leeds. Two women were injured. Lawrence suffered a “self-inflicted injury” and died in hospital on 29 April 2025. Counter Terrorism Policing reportedly examined posts made online by Lawrence which allegedly referred to plans for a “mass-murder” attack and indicated “far-right sympathies”. The post also allegedly described the attack as motivated by “revenge” and “misogynistic rage”. At the time of writing, the attack has not been publicly designated as an act of terrorism.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> [Warwickshire woman guilty of terrorism offences | Counter Terrorism Policing](#); [Stratford woman sentenced to life for terrorism offences | Counter Terrorism Policing](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Birmingham man given life sentence for planning a terrorist attack in the city | Counter Terrorism Policing](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Otley Run: Woman seriously hurt in attack involving crossbow 'stable' - BBC News](#); [Counter-terrorism police examine Facebook 'massacre' posts after Leeds attack | UK news | The Guardian](#); [Crossbow-wielding man who shot two women in a 'random attack' had flown into a 'misogynistic rage' - while students 'thought he was in fancy dress' | Daily Mail Online](#)

**30  
APR**

**On 30 April 2025**, Abdullah Sabah Albadri, 33, was charged with the preparation of terrorist acts after he allegedly attempted to break into the Israeli Embassy in London with two Bladed Weapons on 28 April 2025. He was arrested by the Metropolitan Police's Parliamentary and Diplomatic Protection Command shortly after he allegedly tried to enter the site by scaling a 2.5 metre fence. A martyrdom note was allegedly found in Albadri's pocket at the time of his arrest. Albadri allegedly later told the court he wanted "to send a message to the Israeli government to stop the war ". The investigation remains ongoing, and a provisional trial date is set for April 2026.<sup>7</sup>

**03  
MAY**

**On 03 May 2025**, five Iranian nationals were arrested in a series of raids across England on suspicion of preparation of an act of terrorism. The suspected plot allegedly sought to target the Israeli Embassy in London. Four of the men were questioned by the police, whilst one was released. On 17 May 2024, the four men were released from custody. The Iranian government has denied any involvement in the plot.<sup>8</sup>

**17  
MAY**

**On 17 May 2025**, three Iranian nationals, Mostafa Sepahvand, Farhad Javadi Manesh and Shapoor Qalehali Khani Noori, appeared in court charged in connection with an alleged plot to carry out "serious violence" against journalists from Iran International; an independent media organisation based in London. On 03 May 2025, the three individuals were arrested and charged under the National Security Act with engaging in conduct likely to assist a foreign intelligence service between August 2024 and February 2025. The trial remains ongoing.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup> [Man charged with terror offence after Israel embassy arrest - BBC News](#); [Alleged knifeman 'with martyrdom note tried to break into Israeli embassy' | The Independent](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Four Iranian men arrested on suspicion of preparing terror attack released | UK News | Sky News](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Three alleged Iranian spies charged with targeting UK-based journalists - BBC News](#); [Three Iranians accused of plotting 'serious violence' in London](#)

**20  
JUNE**

On **20 June 2025**, two members of Palestine Action allegedly broke into RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire and sprayed red paint into the engines of two RAF Airbus Voyagers. The individuals also reportedly caused “further damage” to the planes using crowbars. Reporting suggests that damage worth £7 million was caused. Four individuals have since been charged with conspiracy to commit criminal damage, and conspiracy to enter a prohibited place knowingly for a purpose prejudicial to the safety or interests of the UK. The incident has not been designated as an act of terrorism at the time of writing.<sup>10</sup>

**05  
JULY**

On **05 July 2025**, Palestine Action was proscribed as a terrorist organisation.

**21  
AUG**

On **21 August 2025**, a 17-year-old boy was sentenced to 10 years in custody after he pleaded guilty to planning to conduct a Fire as a Weapon attack against the Inverclyde Muslim Centre in Glasgow, Scotland. On 23 January 2025, the boy was arrested outside of the mosque with an airgun, aerosol cans, and ball bearings. He reportedly planned to set fire to the centre using aerosol cans and lighters and planned to “keep worshippers inside” using the airgun. The boy was inspired by an Extreme Right-Wing ideology.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> [Four remanded in custody after aircraft damaged at RAF Brize Norton | UK news | The Guardian](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Teen who planned mass murder at Greenock mosque given 10-year sentence - BBC News](#)

**29  
AUG**

**On 29 August 2025**, a 15-year-old boy from Market Drayton was sentenced to 18 months in detention for the collection of a range of potentially lethal weapons and research into planning terrorism attacks. Searches of the individual's home led to crossbows, a butterfly knife, baton, and stun gun, being seized. Officers recovered manifestos of previous terrorist actors and graphic images of extreme violence. According to Head of Counter Terrorism Policing West Midlands CTU Alison Hurst, the boy was "a dangerous individual who had amassed weapons, was viewing horrific material online and preparing to carry out an attack".<sup>12</sup>

**02  
OCT**

**On 02 October 2025**, Jihad al-Shamie, 35, conducted a Bladed Weapon and Vehicle as a Weapon attack against members of the public at Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in Crumpsall, Manchester. The attack occurred on Yom Kippur and was declared a terrorist incident on the same day by National Head of Counterterrorism Policing, Assistant Commissioner Laurence Taylor. There were two fatalities and three other individuals were injured in the attack. Al-Shamie was shot dead by firearms officers after he was seen wearing a device believed to be a Person-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (PBIED). The device was later assessed by police to be a hoax and confirmed to be "non-viable". Al-Shamie reportedly called 999 during the attack to claim responsibility and to pledge allegiance to Islamic State.<sup>13</sup>

**17  
OCT**

**On 17 October 2025**, Brogan Stewart, 25, Marco Pizzettu 26, and Christopher Ringrose, 35, were sentenced to a combined total of 29 years in prison after they were found guilty of planning an act of terrorism. The group discussed mosques, Islamic Education Centres, and synagogues in Leeds as potential targets for an attack. According to Honourable Mrs Justice Cutts, all three individuals adhered to an Extreme Right-Wing ideology and shared a hatred of minority communities. The judge believed their planned attack "was likely in the not-too-distant future" but was not "imminent".<sup>14</sup>

<sup>12</sup> [Teenage boy sentenced after Counter Terrorism Policing investigation | West Mercia Police](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Inquest hears exactly how Manchester synagogue terrorist Jihad Al-Shamie died - Manchester Evening News; Update 16:05 27 November 2025 | Manchester Attack | Counter Terrorism Policing; Update from Counter Terrorism Policing North West by Assistant Chief Constable Rob Potts | Greater Manchester Police](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Three neo-Nazis who plotted terrorist attacks on mosques and synagogues jailed | UK News | Sky News](#)

**24  
OCT**

**On 24 October 2025**, Dylan Earl, 21, and Jake Reeves, 24, were sentenced to a combined total of 29 years in jail after they organised an arson attack on a Ukrainian-owned business in east London on behalf of Russia. The attack caused approximately £1 million of damage and was conducted by three other individuals; Nii Mensah, Jakeem Rose and Ugnius Asmena. An investigation by Counter Terrorism Policing found that Earl established contact with the Wagner Group, a private military organisation that acts on behalf of the Russian state, in 2023. Wagner Group is proscribed as a terrorist organisation in the UK.<sup>15</sup>

**03  
NOV**

**On 03 November 2025**, Jordan Richardson, of Goole, was convicted of planning an act of terrorism. Richardson was arrested in December 2024 following an intelligence-led operation which discovered that he was preparing a terrorist attack. A search of his property discovered an attack plan, ingredients and instructions on how to make mustard gas, as well as crossbow bolts, and a combat-style knife. Richardson discussed possible targets which included a shopping centre. Richardson was inspired by an Islamist ideology and reportedly told a prison officer that he was a supporter of Islamic State.<sup>16</sup>

**16 December 2025,**  
Intelligence cut-off date

<sup>15</sup> [Men who organised Russia-backed arson at London warehouse jailed | Counter Terrorism Policing](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Goole man found guilty of planning a terrorist attack | Counter Terrorism Policing](#)

# Key terrorism-related trends 2025

Terrorism-related incidents throughout 2025 have demonstrated the complexity of terrorism threat globally. Below, Pool Re's threat analysis team provide assessments on the key terrorism trends observed in 2025.



## Islamist terrorism

It is almost certain that Islamist terrorism remained the primary terrorism threat to the UK throughout 2025. Islamist terrorist actors in the UK continued to demonstrate the intent and capability to conduct attacks in 2025, including:

**2025 – Manchester, England** – On 02 October 2025, Jihad al-Shamie, 35, conducted a Bladed Weapon and Vehicle as a Weapon attack against members of the Jewish community at Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in Crumpsall, Manchester. There were two fatalities and three other individuals were injured. Al-Shamie reportedly called 999 during the attack to claim responsibility and to pledge allegiance to Islamic State.<sup>17</sup>

**2025 – Goole, England** - On 03 November 2025, Jordan Richardson, of Goole, was convicted of planning an act of terrorism. Richardson was arrested in December 2024 following an intelligence-led operation which discovered that he was preparing a terrorist attack. A search of his property discovered an attack plan, ingredients and instructions on how to make mustard gas, as well as a crossbow, crossbow bolts, and a combat-style knife. Richardson discussed possible targets which included a shopping centre. Richardson was inspired by an Islamist ideology and reportedly told a prison officer that he was a supporter of Islamic State.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>17</sup> [Inquest hears exactly how Manchester synagogue terrorist Jihad Al-Shamie died - Manchester Evening News; Update 16:05 27 November 2025 | Manchester Attack | Counter Terrorism Policing; Update from Counter Terrorism Policing North West by Assistant Chief Constable Rob Potts | Greater Manchester Police](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Goole man found guilty of planning a terrorist attack | Counter Terrorism Policing](#)

# Extreme Right-Wing terrorism



It is almost certain that Extreme Right-Wing terrorism remained a significant terrorism threat to the UK throughout 2025. Extreme Right-Wing terrorist actors in the UK continued to demonstrate the intent to conduct attacks in 2025, including:

**2025 – Sheffield** - On 17 October 2025, Brogan Stewart, 25, Marco Pitzettu 26, and Christopher Ringrose, 35, were sentenced to a combined total of 29 years in prison after they were found guilty of planning an act of terrorism. The group reportedly discussed mosques, Islamic Education Centres, and synagogues in Leeds as potential targets for an attack. According to Honourable Mrs Justice Cutts, all three individuals adhered to an Extreme Right-Wing ideology and shared a hatred of minority communities.<sup>19</sup>

It is almost certain that the ongoing debate surrounding migration to the UK and cost-of-living crisis continued to act as drivers of Extreme Right-Wing terrorism threat in the UK in 2025. This is almost certainly due to the ideological belief that mass migration and economic crises pose an existential threat to western culture.

<sup>19</sup> [Three neo-Nazis who plotted terrorist attacks on mosques and synagogues jailed | UK News | Sky News](#)

# Children and young adults

Throughout 2025, children and young adults remained at risk of radicalisation by terrorist actors as a result of the continued proliferation of easily accessible online content and the increase in time spent online by children and young adults in the UK.

In October 2024, Director General of MI5 Sir Ken McCallum revealed that one in five of the 232 terrorism arrests made in 2024 were of children under the age of 17.<sup>20</sup>

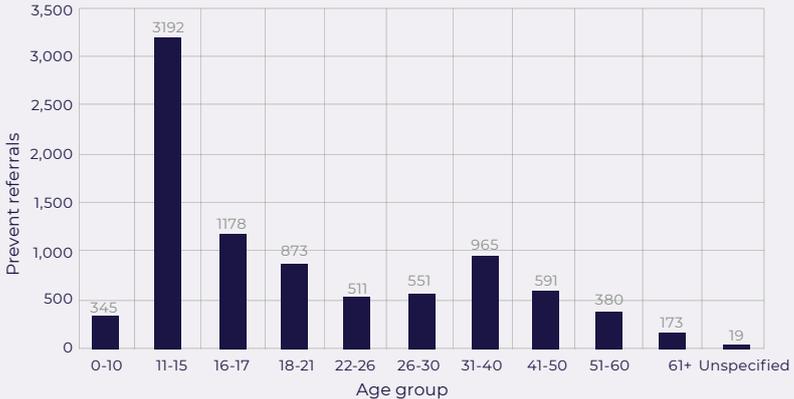
Individuals aged 11 to 15 accounted for the largest proportion of Prevent referrals in the year ending March 2025, at 36%. Those aged between 16 and 17 reportedly accounted for the second largest proportion of referrals, at 13%.<sup>21</sup>

Figure 1: Number of Prevent referrals between 2015/16 to 2024/25



Source: Home Office, Individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent Programme, England and Wales

Figure 2: Number of prevent referrals per age group, year ending March 2025



Source: Home Office, Individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent Programme, England and Wales

<sup>20</sup> [Director General Ken McCallum gives threat update | MI5 - The Security Service](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent Programme, April 2024 to March 2025 - GOV.UK](#)



# Geopolitics and global instability

Image source: public domain

<sup>22</sup> [Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories in 2025: UK and international response - House of Commons Library](#)

# Israel-Hamas conflict

The conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza continued throughout 2025. On 13 October 2025, a new agreement for a ceasefire began. The agreement was described as the “first phase” of a 20-point framework.<sup>22</sup>

The Israel-Hamas conflict and ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza almost certainly remained a driver of terrorism threat globally throughout 2025. Individuals in the UK demonstrated the intent and capability to conduct malicious activity motivated by the Israel-Hamas conflict, including:

- **2025 – Oxfordshire, England** - On 20 June 2025, two members of Palestine Action allegedly broke into RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire and sprayed red paint into the engines of two RAF Airbus Voyagers. Palestine Action claimed the incident was a “protest against the UK’s support of Israel’s war in Gaza”. The incident has not been designated as an act of terrorism at the time of writing. On 23 June 2025, then Home Secretary Yvette Cooper announced her intentions to proscribe Palestine Action as a terrorist organisation and the legislation to proscribe the group came into force on Saturday 05 July 2025.<sup>23</sup>
- **2025 – Manchester, England** - On 04 August 2025, Jamal Walker-Bailey was sentenced to eight years in prison after he conducted a Bladed Weapons attack against members of the public and their vehicles in Manchester. Three people were injured. After his arrest, Walker-Bailey reportedly told officers that he had watched “nothing but videos of the Israel-Palestine conflict” in the days before the attack.

During Walker-Bailey’s trial, the Crown Prosecution Service submitted to the court that his offences “may have a terrorism connection”.<sup>24</sup>

Terrorist organisations demonstrated the intent and capability to exploit the Israel-Hamas conflict and resultant humanitarian crisis to further their cause and inspire individuals globally to conduct attacks, including:

- **On 01 November 2025**, al-Qa’ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) released issue 11 of their Inspire Guide, which praised Jihad al-Shamie’s attack on a synagogue in Manchester on 02 October 2025. AQAP stated the attack was a “direct result” of the British government’s “unwavering support” for Israel.<sup>25</sup> [01 November 2025 04:22 GMT] BBC Monitoring @BBC.
- **On 03 December 2025**, AQAP released a new edition of its magazine, which featured incitement of violence against the US and allied governments over Gaza.<sup>26</sup> [05 December 2025 15:03] BBC Monitoring @BBC.

Despite the Israel-Hamas ceasefire agreement signed in October 2025, it is highly likely that the conflict and ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza would continue to have a radicalising effect on would-be terrorists globally and in the UK in 2026.

<sup>23</sup> [Palestine Action proscribed | ProtectUK; Man appears in court over Palestine Action RAF Brize Norton break-in - BBC News](#)

<sup>24</sup> [Rampage knifeman ‘wanted to help people’, court hears - Manchester Evening News; A man armed with a machete who assaulted members of the public has been sentenced | Counter Terrorism Policing](#)

<sup>25</sup> [Briefing: AQAP says Manchester synagogue attack result of UK support for Israel – BBC Monitoring](#)

<sup>26</sup> <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/b00051tt>

# Syria

Islamic State demonstrated the intent to take advantage of the security vacuum that has resulted from the December 2024 overthrow of the Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria. It is highly likely that periods of instability during the creation of an interim government under Ahmed al-Sharaa in Syria has provided a permissive environment for terrorist groups in the region, including:



- Islamic State has reportedly “railed against” al-Sharaa since his takeover of Syria and repeatedly warned Syrians not to support the new government. For example, after al-Sharaa met President Trump for the first time in May 2025, Islamic State called for foreign fighters in Syria to join the group to combat al-Sharaa’s “betrayal”.<sup>27</sup> [03 December 2025 14:59] BBC Monitoring @ BBC.
- Although no prison breakouts were conducted by Islamic State in Syria in 2025, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) noted in July 2025 that camps holding suspected Islamic State members in northeastern Syria remained “priority targets” for Islamic State.<sup>28</sup>

The collapse of the Assad regime and establishment of a new government in Syria raised concerns about a “resurgence” of Islamic State in 2025. However, Islamic State reportedly claimed fewer attacks in 2025 than in 2024. The group has reportedly claimed approximately 140 attacks in Syria in the 12 months since the overthrow.<sup>29</sup> [03 December 2025 14:59] BBC Monitoring @ BBC.

There is a realistic possibility that Islamic State could have the capability to significantly increase its capabilities in Syria in 2026. According to BBC Monitoring, Islamic State could have purposefully kept a low profile during 2025 to observe how the uncertainty in Syria developed and prepare an upsurge in activity when the “time is right”.<sup>30</sup> [03 December 2025 14:59] BBC Monitoring @ BBC.

It is highly likely that the main threat posed by Islamic State to the UK at this time remains the group’s ability to encourage and/or inspire individuals in the UK to conduct attacks on the UK mainland.

<sup>27</sup> [Briefing: IS derides Syrian ‘liberation’ on anniversary of Assad’s fall – BBC Monitoring](#)

<sup>28</sup> [Document Viewer](#)

<sup>29</sup> [Analysis: No breakthrough for IS in Syria, a year after Assad’s fall – BBC Monitoring](#) ; [Analysis: Globally weakened IS further consolidates Africa activity in 2025 – BBC Monitoring](#)

<sup>30</sup> [Analysis: No breakthrough for IS in Syria, a year after Assad’s fall – BBC Monitoring](#)



# Africa

Throughout 2025, Islamic State and al-Qa’ida linked groups almost certainly increased their operational capability and influence in certain parts of Africa; namely the Sahel and Somalia.

Africa has become increasingly important to both Islamic State and al-Qa’ida in recent years. During 2025, Islamic State’s sub-Saharan Africa branches accounted for nearly 90% of attacks claimed worldwide by the group.<sup>31</sup>

Whilst it is almost certain that Islamic State and al-Qa’ida linked groups in Africa have become increasingly active in their areas of operation in 2025, it is highly unlikely that any such group would currently have the capability to conduct a directed attack against the UK.

It is highly likely that the greatest threat posed by Islamist terrorist groups in Africa to the UK in 2025 was the potential ability of their propaganda to radicalise individuals in the UK to conduct attacks on behalf of Islamic State or al-Qa’ida on the UK mainland.

It is highly likely that certain African branches of Islamic State and al-Qa’ida would continue to demonstrate the intent and capability to expand their operations and influence in 2026. For more information and in-depth analysis on Islamist terrorism in Africa, [see here](#).



<sup>31</sup> [Analysis: Globally weakened IS further consolidates Africa activity in 2025 – BBC Monitoring](#)

# Emerging terrorism-related trends 2026

## Emerging technologies

As counterterrorism efforts and existing legislation continue to hamper the efforts of terrorist actors to successfully conduct attacks, it is almost certain that terrorist actors in the UK would seek new and novel methods by which to conduct an attack. Pool Re's Threat Analysis team assess the threat posed by emerging technologies below:

It is highly likely that 3D-printed weapons would remain an emerging terrorism threat to the UK in the medium term as individuals seek alternative methods to acquire and successfully deploy firearms. Although there has not been a successful terrorist attack using a 3D-printed firearm in the UK at this time, terrorist actors demonstrated the intent to construct 3D-printed firearms in 2025, including:

**2025 – London, England** – On 17 October 2025, Robert Adamski, 29, of London, was found guilty of various terrorism and firearms offences after he attempted to construct an FCG-9 Mk2 firearm, a 9mm calibre semi-automatic rifle using a

3D-printer. Adamski was also found in possession of various items related to Extreme Right-Wing terrorist ideology.<sup>32</sup>

**2025 – Bradford, England** - On 04 August 2025, Ondrej Sidelka, 21, of Bradford, was jailed for two years after he pleaded guilty to eight counts of possessing information likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism. Material found on Sidelka's Google-Drive and Dropbox storage accounts reportedly included information related to the manufacture of firearms, including 3D-printed firearms.<sup>33</sup>



<sup>32</sup> [Man attempting to make firearms using 3D printer guilty of terrorism offences | Counter Terrorism Policing](#)

<sup>33</sup> [Bradford man sentenced for possessing firearms manuals | Counter Terrorism Policing](#)



**2025 – Caerphilly, Wales** - On 02 May 2025, Spencer Tse, 25, of Caerphilly, was jailed for 15 months after he pleaded guilty to two offences under the Firearms Act. Counter Terrorism Policing Wales uncovered the production of homemade firearms and possession of ammunition during their investigation. There is no evidence to suggest that Tse adhered to a terrorist ideology.<sup>34</sup>

It is highly likely that terrorist actors in the UK would maintain the intent to use Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and smart technologies to support operations and activities including the planning, facilitation, and execution of violent attacks. Individuals demonstrated the intent and capability to use AI and smart technology to benefit operational planning in 2025, including:

**2025 – Nevada, USA** – On 01 January 2025, Matthew Livelsberger, 37, was the driver of a Tesla Cybertruck that exploded outside US President Donald Trump’s Las Vegas hotel. Seven individuals were injured in the explosion. Las Vegas police later revealed that Livelsberger had used Generative AI, including to aid his attack planning. Livelsberger’s ChatGPT search history reportedly indicated that he researched information on explosive targets, the speed at which certain rounds of ammunition would travel, and whether fireworks were legal in Arizona.<sup>35</sup>

**2025 – New Orleans, USA** – On 01 January 2025, Shamsud-Din Jabbar, 42, conducted a Vehicle as a Weapon attack against members of the public that had gathered on Bourbon Street in New Orleans,

USA. 15 people were killed, and at least 35 others were injured. According to the FBI, Jabbar used Meta smart glasses to conduct hostile reconnaissance prior to the attack. Jabbar was inspired by an Islamist ideology.<sup>36</sup>



Although terrorist actors in the UK would almost certainly have the intent to conduct attacks using Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS) in 2026, it is highly unlikely that any terrorist actor in the UK would currently have the capability to conduct any significant attack using a drone. This is almost certainly due to the significant barriers that exist in the production and delivery of a weaponised UAS.

It is highly likely that any terrorist actor with the intent to use a drone in the UK at this time would use the device primarily for reconnaissance purposes. For further information on the threat posed by drones in the UK, visit the National Protective Security Authority’s (NPSA) Counter-UAS guidance [here](#).<sup>37</sup>

<sup>34</sup> [Caerphilly man jailed for the production and possession of firearms | Counter Terrorism Policing](#)

<sup>35</sup> [Soldier who exploded Cybertruck in Las Vegas used ChatGPT to plan attack | Las Vegas | The Guardian](#)

<sup>36</sup> [New Orleans attacker wore Meta smart glasses - what else do we know? - BBC News](#)

<sup>37</sup> [Counter Uncrewed Aerial Systems \(C-UAS\) | Uncrewed Aerial Systems | NPSA](#)



## Violence-Fascinated Individuals (VFIs)

It is almost certain that Violence-Fascinated Individuals (VFIs) present an emerging threat to the UK at this time. Rather than adhering to a political, racial, religious or ideological cause, VFIs have previously demonstrated the intent to conduct acts of extreme violence motivated chiefly by an obsession with violence and gore.

On 06 November 2024, the UK Home Office released statistics on individuals referred to, and supported through, the UK's Prevent Programme from April 2024 to March 2025. Referrals for a "fascination with extreme violence or mass casualty attacks" accounted for 5% of referrals and recorded a 240% increase in referrals between January to March 2025 and the previous quarter.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> [Individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent Programme, April 2024 to March 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

It is highly likely that any attack conducted by a VFI in 2026 would be motivated by a convergence of highly personalised grievances, a fascination with violence, and a desire for notoriety or acceptance within the online community to which they perceive to belong. Perpetrators of extreme violence noted their desire for fame and notoriety in 2025, including:

**2025 – London, England** – On 19 March 2025, Nicholas Prosper, 19, was sentenced to life imprisonment after he murdered three members of his family on 13 September 2024. During the subsequent investigation, it was revealed that Prosper had planned to carry out a firearms attack against his former primary school following the murder of his family. Police revealed that a loaded shotgun was found in a bush after Prosper’s arrest in proximity to the school. Timothy Cray KC stated that Prosper’s “main wish was to achieve lasting notoriety as a mass killer”. The incident was not designated as terrorism.<sup>39</sup>

**2025 – Bournemouth, England** – On 28 March 2025, Nasen Saadi, 20, of Croydon, was sentenced to life imprisonment after he conducted a fatal Bladed Weapons attack on Durley Chine Beach in Bournemouth on 24 May 2024. Mrs Justice Johannah Cutts told the court “the idea of being recognised as a dangerous killer became appealing to” Saadi and that he wanted the “notoriety of a trial”. The incident was not designated as terrorism.<sup>40</sup>

There is a realistic possibility that VFIs could have the intent to conduct attacks against targets that differ from those chosen by traditional ideologically motivated actors. Instead of seeking to advance an ideological goal through their choice of target, there is a realistic possibility that VFI targets could be chosen for more personalised reasons that could make them harder to predict and detect.<sup>41</sup>

It is highly likely that VFIs would have the intent to conduct acts of extreme violence against schools in the UK at this time. VFIs have previously demonstrated significant interest in perpetrators of past school shootings, including:

**2025 – Edinburgh, Scotland** - On 30 July 2025, Felix Winter, 18, was sentenced to six years in prison for terrorism offences and a breach of the peace. Winter reportedly plotted to carry out a mass shooting at an Edinburgh school and “idolised” the perpetrators of the 1999 Columbine High School shooting. Winter held racist and pro-Nazi views and had spent more than 1,000 hours in contact with a pro-Nazi online Discord group. After his electronic devices were seized, police found files on “homemade” firearms and poisons, as well as 65 videos of the Columbine High School shooting.<sup>42</sup>



**There is a realistic possibility that VFI targets could be chosen for more personalised reasons that could make them harder to predict and detect.**



<sup>39</sup> [September Monthly Terrorism Update - Pool Reinsurance](#)

<sup>40</sup> [September Monthly Terrorism Update - Pool Reinsurance](#)

<sup>41</sup> [Terror without ideology? The rise of nihilistic violence – An ISD Investigation - ISD](#)

<sup>42</sup> [August Monthly Terrorism Update - Pool Reinsurance](#)



It is almost certain that hostile foreign states would maintain the intent to use third party proxies, such as criminal groups, in order to influence, intimidate, and/or physically harm UK citizens and businesses whilst attempting to maintain plausible deniability. It is unclear if any such act would be designated as terrorism at this time.

There is a realistic possibility that hostile foreign states could provide third party proxies with intelligence and/or capabilities less readily available to traditional terrorist actors. E.g., Privet Bot – a Telegram account linked to the Wagner Group – tasked Dylan Earl, 21, with conducting an arson attack against a warehouse in south London. The Telegram account provided information related to the target, including:

“

**E.g., The map shows there are a few buildings at this address. And there are warehouses among them. They sponsor and provide aid to Ukrainian terrorists. Today we await from you photos and videos of the warehouse and the building and of the people owners of the warehouse.**

”

– Privet Bot, 2024.

As an end to the Russia-Ukraine war remains unlikely in the short term, it is highly likely that Russia would maintain the intent to conduct covert sabotage operations against European states, including the UK, to weaken confidence in Western resolve within the conflict. It currently remains unclear if any such act would be designated as an act of terrorism.

It is highly likely that Iran would maintain the intent to target dissidents in the UK in the short term. In October 2025, Director General of MI5 Sir Ken McCallum revealed that in the past 12 months, MI5 has tracked more than 20 lethal Iran-backed plots; an increase of approximately 183% compared to the previous period (January 2022 to October 2024). It currently remains unclear if any such act would be designated as an act of terrorism.<sup>43</sup>

It is almost certain that China would maintain the intent and capability to influence the UK and its citizens in the long term through covert action and espionage. It is highly likely that the Chinese state would have the intent to conduct intellectual property theft and campaigns of influence and interference, rather than physical acts of sabotage or violence.

<sup>43</sup> [Director General Ken McCallum gives threat update | MI5 - The Security Service](#)

# Terrorism-related outlooks

It is almost certain that Islamist terrorism will remain the primary terrorism threat to the UK in the long term.



It is almost certain that Extreme Right-Wing terrorism will remain a significant terrorism threat to the UK in the long term.



It is almost certain that VFIs will increasingly feature in the caseloads of UK police and security services in the short term as individuals continue to spend vast amounts of time online. It remains unclear if any attack motivated by a fascination with violence would be designated as terrorism at this time.



Whilst it is unclear if any such incident would be designated as terrorism, it is almost certain that hostile states will maintain the intent to use criminal organisations and third-party proxies to project threat and influence against the UK in the long term.



It is highly likely that the ongoing debate surrounding migration to the UK and cost-of-living crisis will remain as drivers of terrorism threat in the medium term. It is almost certain that sites and individuals associated with the refugee crisis would remain at a heightened threat from Extreme Right-Wing terrorist actors in the short term.



It is almost certain that geopolitical uncertainty and global tensions will remain a driver of terrorism threat in the long term. There is a realistic possibility that regions of instability, such as the Sahel, Syria, and Afghanistan, could create permissive environments that allow terrorist actors to advance their goals in 2026.

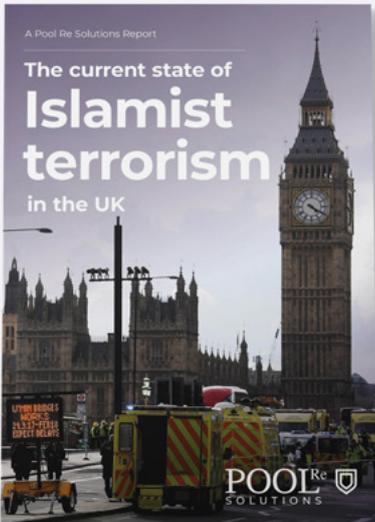
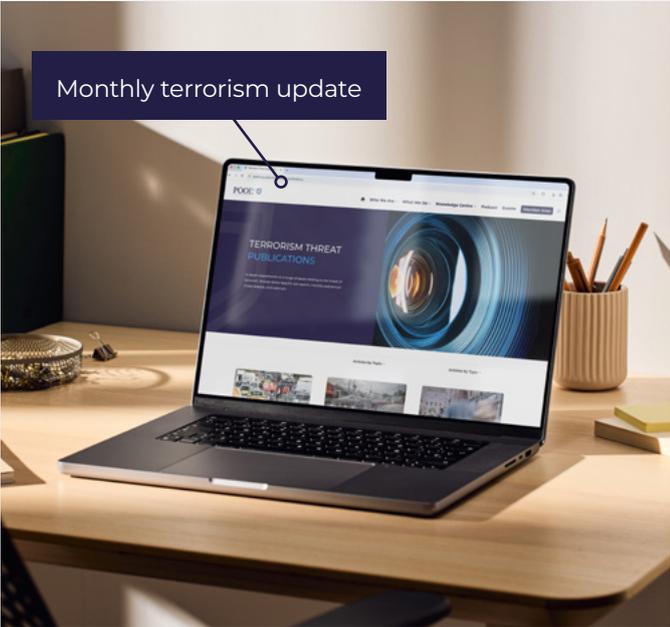


It is almost certain that terrorist actors in the UK and globally will maintain the intent to exploit advancements in Generative AI and other smart technologies to propagate their ideology and streamline propaganda production, recruitment, and attack planning techniques.



It is almost certain that the Jewish community and sites associated with the Jewish faith will remain at a heightened threat from terrorism in the short term as developments in the Israel-Gaza conflict alter the intent of terrorist actors to conduct violent acts.

# Pool Re Solutions products 2025



March 25



November 25



December 25

## Assessment Methodology

The assessments made in this report have been made using the Professional Head of Intelligence's "Probability Yardstick" (below). The Probability Yardstick is a standardised instrument used to provide a professional standard for intelligence assessment.

- **Almost Certain:** An event is assessed to have a greater than 90% chance of occurring.
- **Highly Likely:** An event is assessed to have a 76% to 90% chance of occurring.
- **Likely:** An event is assessed to have a 61% to 75% chance of occurring.
- **Realistic Possibility:** An is assessed to have a 41% to 60% chance of occurring.
- **Unlikely:** An event is assessed to have a 26% to 40% chance of occurring.
- **Highly Unlikely:** An event is assessed to have an 11% to 25% chance of occurring.
- **Remote Chance:** An event is assessed to have a less than 10% chance of occurring.

**Intelligence Cut-Off Date:** 16 December 2025

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