

Press release: New power to target hostile state activity

The government has today introduced [new legislation to Parliament](#) to give police new powers to investigate hostile state activity at the border.

The measure, [announced by the Prime Minister](#) following the attack in Salisbury, forms part of the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Bill.

Using the [new power](#), the police or dedicated immigration or customs officers will be able to stop, question, search and detain an individual at a port, airport or border area to determine whether he or she is, or has been, engaged in hostile activity.

Home Secretary, Sajid Javid said:

We judge that it was highly likely that the Russian state carried out the appalling attack in Salisbury which demonstrates why the police need robust powers to investigate, identify and challenge those acting against our interests.

This is a necessary and proportionate response to the threat and will, of course, be subject to strict safeguards and robust oversight to assure its proper use.

The power will be subject to robust oversight by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner Sir Adrian Fulford and the bill includes provisions for safeguards to protect legally privileged and journalistic material.

The UK faces a sustained threat from hostile state actors seeking to undermine national security in a variety of ways, including espionage and, as the attack in Salisbury made clear, violence against individuals.

As announced in the [government's strengthened counter-terrorism strategy](#), the legislation will also introduce a variety of new laws to respond to the unprecedented terrorist threat, allowing earlier intervention to disrupt terrorism. These include:

- amending certain terrorism offences to update them for the digital age, to reflect contemporary patterns of radicalisation and to close gaps in their scope
- strengthening the sentencing framework for terrorism-related offences and the power for managing terrorist offenders following their release from custody, including by increasing the maximum penalty for certain offences, to ensure that the punishment properly reflects the crime and to better prevent re-offending
- strengthening the powers of the police to prevent terrorism and investigate terrorist offences

The bill will also amend the Reinsurance (Acts of Terrorism) Act 1993 so that the government-backed terrorism reinsurer, Pool Re, can extend its business interruption cover to include losses that are not contingent on physical damage to commercial property.

[News story: Testing connected and autonomous vehicles: apply for funding](#)

The [Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles \(CCAV\)](#) – with [Meridian Mobility](#) and Innovate UK – has up to £30 million for projects that help make the UK the most effective connected and autonomous vehicle development ecosystem in the world.

Businesses and research organisations can apply into 2 competitions that support the testing of connected and autonomous vehicles and progress their development.

Market opportunities

Connected and autonomous vehicles are a rapidly developing technology area. They offer potentially huge economic and social benefits – but in leveraging this we need to make sure that safety, security and privacy are not compromised.

By funding the infrastructure that supports these vehicles, we will help industry to develop safe, efficient systems for moving goods and people around.

These competitions are part of Meridian Mobility's self-driving vehicle development programme, which is designed to support cutting-edge connected and autonomous vehicle development infrastructure in the UK.

[Find out about Meridian Mobility and its mission.](#)

[For more about government's investment in connected and autonomous vehicles and the activity of CCAV go to the collection page.](#)

[Read the press release about the launch of the competitions.](#)

Connected vehicles data exchange

In the first competition, there is up to £5 million for one project that

supports the sharing and trading of data generated by infrastructure, connected or autonomous vehicles or other third parties.

The proposed platform will need to:

- cope with increasing volumes of data and new data formats
- be accessible and appropriate for users

Applications for projects should:

- demonstrate a clear routes to commercial viability and sustainable business model
- demonstrate best practice in data ethics, security and privacy standards compliance, including [General Data Protection Regulation](#)
- demonstrate the use of cutting-edge technology, such as blockchain
- generate or use real world data
- represent the target environment in the UK and other appropriate global markets
- include suitable hardware for the platforms and services that will support connected and autonomous vehicle deployment
- contribute to a data working group that will inform and influence policy and standards
- support integration and collaboration across UK's connected and autonomous vehicle ecosystem
- where applicable, demonstrate that you have consulted road owner operators

Autonomous highway, rural roads and parking

There is up to £25 million in the second competition. This is for up to 6 projects for facilities to support the testing of connected and autonomous vehicles for highways, rural roads and parking.

We are seeking projects across 4 themes. The amount you can get will depend on the area you are applying into. These are:

- controlled test environments that represent highways and the common features of road junctions. We are looking to fund one facility in this area
- continuous public test environments, including highways and rural roads, which connect to existing urban test sites. We will fund one to 2 environments
- controlled parking test environments that are realistic and representative of current and future infrastructure for automated parking. We will fund one facility in this area
- public parking test environments for autonomous vehicle parking. We will fund one to 2 environments

Projects must be carried out in a defined geographical area that covers parts of the West Midlands through to the South East. Facilities may be located anywhere in this area including:

- Coventry
- Royal Leamington Spa
- Stratford-upon-Avon
- Northampton
- Milton Keynes
- Oxford
- Luton
- London
- Reading
- Croydon
- Guildford

You may still be eligible if your proposed facility falls just outside of the defined area. Contact customer support service at Innovate UK, part of [UK Research and Innovation](#), on support@innovateuk.ukri.org or 0300 321 4357 to discuss.

Competition information

- the competition is open, and the deadline for registrations is at midday on 29 August 2018
- a UK-based business or research organisation must lead the project and collaborate with other partners
- for the connected vehicles data exchange competition, projects should have total costs of up to 10 million and start before March 2019
- for the autonomous highway, rural roads and parking test facilities competition, projects should have total costs between £1 million and £20 million and start before March 2019
- businesses could attract up to 50% of their project costs
- applications that build on and complement [existing operational facilities](#) are preferred
- if your application meets the quality threshold you will be invited to interview in October 2018
- a briefing event will be held on 11 June 2018
- you will need to sign up to the [Meridian Mobility Charter](#) in order to start a project

[Find out more and apply with a connected vehicles data exchange project.](#)

[Find out more and apply with an autonomous highway, rural roads and parking test facility project.](#)

Statement to Parliament: EU Transport Council agenda for 7 June 2018

I will attend the only formal Transport Council under the Bulgarian Presidency (the Presidency) taking place in Luxembourg on Thursday 7 June.

The Council is expected to reach a general approach on a proposal to revise the current regulation on safeguarding connectivity and competition in international air transport, which is intended to provide protection against subsidisation and unfair pricing practices in the supply of air services from non-EU countries. The government places great importance on effective competition and liberalisation as a key enabler of international connectivity and considers that the proposed general approach is satisfactory.

Following this, the Council will be considering a general approach on a proposed directive on port reception facilities. The proposal aims to achieve a higher level of protection of the marine environment by reducing waste discharges at sea, as well as improved efficiency of maritime operations in port by reducing the administrative burden and by updating the regulatory framework. In negotiations, the UK has been generally supportive of the aims of the proposal but required clarification and consideration of the impacts to ensure that the final directive does not disproportionality impose additional or unnecessary burdens. We have also been successful in securing compromise and flexibility within the proposal, to ensure that the improvements to the directive do not unduly burden small ports and small ships.

Next, the Council will consider a number of files in phase one of the mobility package (published in May 2017). Firstly, the Presidency will give a progress report focusing on proposals designed to improve the clarity and enforcement of the EU road transport market (the 'market pillar'), and proposals on the application of social legislation in road transport (the 'social pillar').

The Council is expected to reach general approaches on 2 of the proposals in the package. The first of these is a proposal to revise the current directive on the European electronic road tolling service ('EETS'). The UK views the proposals for a revised EETS directive favourably. The proposal contains provisions that will assist the enforcement of toll and road user charge collection. The second is a proposal on goods vehicles hired without drivers, which is intended to make it easier for undertakings to hire vehicles registered in a member state other than that where the undertaking is established. This is not a matter with significant practical implications for the UK given the relative rarity of operators hiring goods vehicles in this way in the UK. We are content for both of these general approaches to be agreed.

Following this, the Presidency has prepared 2 progress reports on proposals from phase 2 of the mobility package (published November 2017). The

Presidency will provide an update on the state of play thus far on proposals to amend the current directive on combined transport, which aims to encourage and facilitate modal shift away from the roads and onto alternative means of transport and reduce congestion, and the proposal to broaden the scope of the current directive on clean and energy-efficient vehicles, where the UK is leading the transition to cleaner road transport.

Next, there will be a progress report on the proposed revision to the regulation on rail passengers' rights and obligations. The UK shares the Commission's objective of strengthening the rights of rail passengers. We therefore support in principle the proposal's aim of standardising and improving passenger rights, including by improving access for people with disabilities or reduced mobility.

Under any other business, the Commission will present phase 3 of the mobility package (published May 2018), followed by information on the action plan for military mobility, and an update on the implementation of the EU cycling strategy. The delegations from Sweden and Greece will then provide information on automated and connected driving and functioning of the fair competition framework in the aviation sector within the EU, respectively. The Commission will then provide information on the state of play for EU summer-time arrangements, and finally, the Austrian delegation will present the transport work programme of their forthcoming Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

[News story: Charity annual return 2018](#)

Last year we [consulted with the charity sector](#) about the annual return for 2018. Based on the outcome of this consultation we are introducing a tailored annual return later this summer. It will include some new questions that charities can start preparing for now.

We recognise that for some charities the new questions will create additional work, so we have made some questions voluntary this year to give you time to put in place the systems to collect the information more easily, requiring less effort in future years.

We will let you know when the new annual return system is available to use. You can sign up for [GOV.UK email alerts](#) to keep up-to-date with the latest information we publish on our website.

Income from outside the UK

To get a better understanding of the income sources from outside of the UK, we are introducing questions about the breakdown of sources of income from each country a charity receives funds from.

The options we've provided for you to choose from are:

- overseas governments
- overseas charities
- other overseas institutions
- individual donors resident overseas
- unknown

Some charities will need to make changes to their financial systems to collect and sort the information required more easily. For this reason, we have made those parts of the question set relating to other private institutions outside the UK (other than charities, Non-Governmental Organisations and Non-Profit Organisations) and individual donors outside the UK voluntary for annual return 2018.

These questions will be mandatory from 2019 onwards.

Overseas expenditure

We will build on the current annual return questions about charitable expenditure overseas, to establish how charities transfer and monitor funds sent overseas.

We are doing this because all money transfer processes bear risks, and it's important that charities take appropriate steps to manage these.

We recognise that some charities will need to make changes to their record keeping to answer parts of this question. For this reason the questions about methods of transferring money outside the regulated banking system, and about monitoring controls and risk management, will be voluntary for annual return 2018.

These questions will be mandatory for the annual return 2019 onwards.

Salary and benefits in charities

Our research into public trust and confidence in charities shows that the public is concerned about high levels of pay in charities.

Because of this we will be asking charities to provide more information about salaries to increase accountability.

In the annual return for 2018 we will ask for a breakdown of salaries across income bands, and the amount of total employee benefits for the highest paid member of staff.

But, in response to concerns raised during the consultation, we will not publish details of benefits given to the paid member of staff on the public register.

Press release: New Charity Investigation: Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries International

The Charity Commission, the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, has opened a statutory inquiry into Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries International [1100416](#). The inquiry was opened on 27 March 2018.

The charity's objects include propagating Christianity through various channels including seminars and conventions, counselling programmes for the distressed, bereaved and the vulnerable, education through bible studies, evangelical training and teaching, as well as the publication and distribution of educational print and media.

The charity has repeatedly failed to submit returns and financial information to the Commission on time and its accounts for 2014 and 2015 were qualified by its auditors. The Commission has been in active engagement with the trustees of the charity since September 2017 having been made aware of potentially significant losses to the charity. The Commission is concerned about the apparent failures within the administration and management of the charity which have resulted in an environment in which such losses could occur, and continued to occur over a prolonged period.

The charity operates through a network of approximately 40 separate branches, which are allowed a degree of autonomy from the main charity in respect of administration and financial matters. However, the Commission has identified concerns as to the adequacy of the trustees' oversight and control over the individual branches. The Commission also has concerns about the trustees' failure to promptly report serious incidents to the Commission and to the police.

In order to address these concerns, a statutory inquiry has been opened.

The inquiry will examine the following regulatory issues:

- the governance, management and administration of the charity by the trustees, with specific regard to:
 - the extent of financial loss to the charity and the circumstances which led to the losses
 - whether adequate steps were or are being taken to recover such losses
 - whether reasonable steps were or are being taken to safeguard charity funds and assets
 - the adequacy of the trustees' oversight and control of the

- charity's branches
- the adequacy of serious incident reporting by the trustees
- the extent to which the trustees have complied with their duties and responsibilities under charity law, including the trustees compliance with legal obligations for the preparation and filing of the charity's accounts and returns
- whether and to what extent any issues or weaknesses in the administration of the charity
 - were as a result of misconduct and/or mismanagement by the trustees and
 - require rectification by the trustees or the Commission

It is the Commission's policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing what issues the inquiry looked at, what actions were undertaken as part of the inquiry and what the outcomes were. Reports of previous inquiries by the Commission are available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Notes to editors

1. The Charity Commission is the regulator of charities in England and Wales. To find out more about our work see the [about us](#) page on GOV.UK.
2. Search for charities on our [check charity](#) tool.
3. Section 46 of the Charities Act 2011 gives the Commission the power to institute inquiries. The opening of an inquiry gives the commission access to a range of investigative, protective and remedial legal powers.

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