

SITREP: Security operations following the death of Queen Elizabeth II

Priority Intelligence

Intelligence Cut Off Date (ICOD)

1200hrs GMT 9 September 2022

ASSESSED THREAT LEVEL

3 – MODERATE

Moderate threat of disruption. Maintain awareness, consider precautions.

- Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, the UK has entered a 10-day mourning period, concurrently triggering various pre-planned operations to repatriate the Queen's body to London, alongside securing the capital for the funeral which will be held on day 10.
- The mourning period and associated events will attract significant public attention, described as 'the biggest event ever seen in the UK, bigger than the Olympics (2012).' Millions of people are expected to travel to London throughout the period, from across the UK, and overseas.
- During the period of mourning, various planned industrial strike actions and activist groups have announced they will be postponing actions out of respect to the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.
- The Securitas Intelligence Unit (SIU) assesses that proceedings leading up to and including Queen Elizabeth II's funeral will mark the largest high-profile security event in the UK's history. Significant security controls will be in operation around London, and other major cities and landmarks, both in the build-up to and on the day of the funeral. Disruption to day-to-day life in the UK is anticipated as a result of the proceedings, in particular travel and transport disruption both domestically and internationally. Furthermore, other nations (particularly those in the Commonwealth) will likely hold events to observe the Queen's death, attracting significant attention from both the public and the media.

Situation in brief

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II yesterday (8 Sep), a 10-day period of mourning is expected to commence, leading up to the Queen's funeral. This will be a high-profile event, attended by members of the Royal Family, VIPs, and delegations from around the world, requiring significant policing and security resources.

Authorities will now commence Operation Unicorn, a plan put in place in the event that the Queen died in Balmoral. A similar plan exists for London, under the name Operation London Bridge. Plans for the Queen's death were first developed in the 1960s and are updated throughout each year, involving various government departments, Metropolitan Police Service, the British Armed Forces, the media, the Royal Parks, London boroughs, the Greater London Authority and Transport for London, and the Church of England.

These operations (Unicorn / London Bridge) will run concurrently with other similar plans, including Operation Spring Tide, the plan for the successor's ascension to the throne. Several Commonwealth realms where the Queen reigns as monarch has developed their own plans which will run concurrently (including Australia, Canada, and New Zealand).

In the lead-up to the funeral, the Queen's body may rest at Holyrood house, with her coffin then carried to the cathedral on the Royal Mile. It is anticipated that thousands of people will travel to Scotland, with the Scottish Parliament, the neighbouring palace of Holyrood house and St Giles' Cathedral, drawing significant attention and footfall. Locations in London will also attract significant attention, including Buckingham Palace, the House of Commons, and Westminster Cathedral. Windsor Castle will also attract significant attention.

The Queen's body is anticipated to travel from Scotland via Royal Train at Waverley station, down the east coast mainline, to London.

The 10-day proceedings will be significantly high-profile, drawing international attention, and attracting high-profile figures from around the world. A significant policing and security operation will be launched to safeguard the proceedings and events held across the UK, and elsewhere around the world (notably in the Commonwealth countries). Disruption to day-to-day life in the UK, as a result of the proceedings, in particular travel and transport disruption, is anticipated.

Timeline of events

The following is an anticipated timeline of events, subject to change based on circumstances:

- **Day 1:** An official announcement will be made by Buckingham Palace, and the UK Central Government, with the Prime Minister scheduled to make an announcement in the House of Commons in London. Flags will be lowered to half-mast, and King Charles is anticipated to address the nation, with a minute's silence to be held. The Ministry of Defence will hold a gun salute and the Scottish Parliament will be suspended for 36 hours to prepare a motion of condolence.

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- **Day 2:** If not already done so, a new crown ruler, King Charles, will be confirmed by the Accession Council. Alongside, MPs are expected to give tributes in the House of Commons.
- **Days 3-4:** King Charles will embark on a tour of the UK, including the Scottish Parliament and St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh on day 3, then Northern Ireland's Hillsborough Castle and a service at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast on day 4. Rehearsals for the Queen's funeral will subsequently commence in London.
- **Day 5:** A royal procession will be held, starting at Buckingham Palace, and ending at the Houses of Parliament, followed by a service held at Westminster Hall. The Queen will lay in state for three days, with members of the public allowed to see her coffin.
- **Days 6-9:** In the final days leading up to the funeral, preparations for the funeral in London will continue and King Charles will visit the Welsh Parliament and attend a service at Cardiff's Llandaff Cathedral.
- **Day 10:** The Queen's funeral will take place at Westminster Abbey, with a two-minute national silence held. The funeral will be followed by a committal service at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, where Queen Elizabeth II will be buried at the King George IV Memorial Chapel. The funeral will be marked with a Day of National Mourning, although this will not be treated as a bank holiday.



Map showing Procession for Lying in State (purple) and Funeral Procession (black)

Commonwealth nations anticipated to hold observations

Americas	AMEA			Europe
	Africa	Asia	Pacific	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antigua and Barbuda* • Bahamas* • Barbados • Belize* • Canada* • Dominica • Grenada* • Guyana • Jamaica* • Saint Kitts and Nevis* • Saint Lucia* • Saint Vincent and the Grenadines* • Trinidad and Tobago 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botswana • Cameroon • Eswatini • Gambia • Ghana • Kenya • Lesotho • Malawi • Mauritius • Mozambique • Namibia • Nigeria • Rwanda • Seychelles • Sierra Leone • South Africa • Tanzania • Uganda • Zambia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangladesh • Brunei • India • Malaysia • Maldives • Pakistan • Singapore • Sri Lanka 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia • Fiji • Kiribati • Nauru • New Zealand* • Papua New Guinea* • Samoa • Solomon Islands* • Tonga • Tuvalu* • Vanuatu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyprus • Malta • United Kingdom*

*Nation where Queen Elizabeth II was recognised as head of state.

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Intelligence assessment

High-profile public events (significant police and security presence, travel and transport disruption)				
Threat type:	Security	Operations	Brand & reputation	THREAT LEVEL
Severity:	4 - HIGH	3 - MODERATE	2 - LOW	3 - MODERATE

The Securitas Intelligence Unit (SIU) assesses that proceedings leading up to and including Queen Elizabeth II’s funeral will mark the largest high-profile security event in the UK’s history. Significant security controls will be in place around London, and other major cities and landmarks, both in the build-up to and on the day of the funeral. Other nations (particularly those in the Commonwealth) will likely hold events to observe the Queen’s death, attracting significant attention from both the public and the media.

A significant policing and security operation will be deployed to safeguard the proceedings, however malicious threat actors may exploit the situation to further their cause(s).

- The presence of UK Government officials, foreign dignitaries, the Royal Family, and other high-profile VIPs will significantly increase the security threat landscape in London, with law enforcement agencies likely to utilise significant resources to secure the event.
- Activist groups engaging in / planning direct action have suspended their activities until the period of mourning has passed. This includes Animal Rebellion’s (AR) campaign to disrupt the supply of dairy and Extinction Rebellion’s (XR) September Rebellion. However, despite the suspension, activists may carry out actions regardless, as groups such as AR and XR are decentralised in their operations. Additionally, these groups could use the situation as an opportunity to gain media coverage regardless of the negative connotations. AR has previously targeted events involving the Royal Family, including the trooping of the colour in June during the celebrations for Queen Elizabeth II’s Platinum Jubilee.
- Criminals operate in crowded places and public events; it is likely that criminals will exploit events to conduct petty crime.
- Terror attacks are indiscriminate and can occur without warning; high-profile events and public places are high-value targets for terrorist attacks.

Disruption to day-to-day life in the UK is anticipated as a result of the proceedings, in particular travel and transport disruption both domestically and internationally.

- Public transport networks are anticipated to be busier than normal during the period, particularly in London.
- Planned road closures will be in effect for events, with dynamic traffic restrictions deployed as appropriate.
- Industrial strike action planned by workers at the rail and postal unions has been postponed due to the passing of the Queen, and no additional date has yet been provided for when the actions may take place.
- Some events have been cancelled in the build-up to the funeral, including those designated to take place in London such as Premier League football matches, alongside cricket and rugby league fixtures.

Beyond the mourning period and funeral, King Charles III’s coronation ceremony will require similar policing and security measures. A date for the coronation has yet to be confirmed, however, this could be several months away.

Advisory

- Maintain a heightened level of vigilance, and report suspicious activity via [ACT](#); in an emergency call 999.
- Review security controls in context of the threat landscape, in particular for locations in proximity of high footfall publicly accessible locations or events.
- Communicate any additional security controls effectively to staff and stakeholders (including third parties).
- Review business continuity measures, including crisis and incident management plans.
- Assess impacts on business operations, including events, travel, transportation, supply chains and third parties; consider appropriate measures to mitigate disruption, including flexible / remote working.
- Maintain a heightened level of awareness for potential disruption associated with planned events as part of the proceedings, including security operations.