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Thought Leadership - April 2024

Welcome to the April edition of our *Security and Risk Thought Leadership Newsletter* in which we connect you with innovative ideas and new research. In this edition:

- Cyber threats remain foremost concern for UK businesses
- Chief Security Officers still lack authority over their budgets and decision-making
- Secured Environments awarded to Paternoster Square
- UK agencies ramp up fraud investigations
- Unveiling the reality of domestic abuse trends
- Retaining our 'global AI superpower' status against increasing cyber attacks
- Companies House rule changes from April 2024
- CIS to sponsor Ireland OSPAs as they expand into Europe

If you have any comments, questions or a suggestion for something we should cover, drop me an email - [Dr Janice Goldstraw-White, Thought Leadership Editor](#)



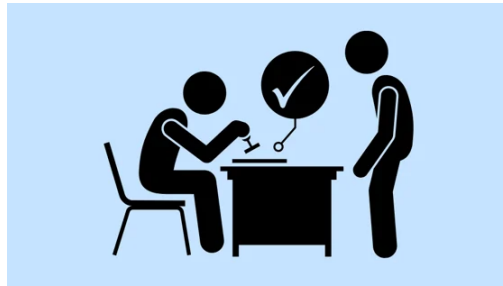
Cyber threats remain foremost concern for UK businesses

A recent study by Cifas, a leading fraud prevention service in the UK, reveals that 73% of corporate businesses consider cyber-attacks as the most significant fraud threat over the next year. Despite the substantial financial impact of fraud on UK businesses, with it being the most common type of crime, 8% of respondents remain unconcerned about any type of fraud. The survey, targeting decision-makers responsible for staff training in large UK corporates, highlights cyber-attacks as a growing concern, with businesses experiencing over two million incidents during 2022-23. With hybrid and remote working becoming prevalent, ensuring adequate counter-fraud measures are in place is crucial. Concerns also extend to employees being targeted by fraudsters, although only 42% are worried about insider threats and supplier fraud. Rachael Tiffen, Director of Learning for Cifas, emphasises the importance of businesses investing in anti-fraud measures, training employees to identify evolving fraud threats to protect against financial and reputational losses.

Read the report findings in full: <https://www.cifas.org.uk/newsroom/cyber-attack-number1-concern-three-quarters-uk-businesses>

Perpetuity is holding their 2024 Cyber OSPAs in partnership with SASIG Events at the Big SASIG Conference Dinner on 23rd April 2024 in central London. Visit <https://www.thecyberospas.com/> for more details.

What do you think? How confident are you in your organisation's current cybersecurity measures against the rising threat of cyber-attacks? What steps has your organisation taken to address increased risks as a result of remote working and hybrid operations, particularly in relation to the security of sensitive information? Do you believe your employees are adequately trained to identify and respond to potential cyber-security threats in light of their evolving nature?



Chief Security Officers still lack authority over their budgets and decision-making

The role of Chief Security Officers (CSOs) in organisations is evolving, but challenges persist, particularly regarding budget and decision-making authority. In a recent report by Brivo, which highlights the top security trends of 2024, they find that despite their elevated status, CSOs control only 42% of security budgets, and 32% are not the ultimate decision-makers. This raises questions about their effectiveness. However, there is a positive trend: CSOs are increasingly being involved in decision-making processes, though not yet fully empowered, with siloed decision-making among departments exacerbating issues and 46% citing a lack of alignment hindering security technology adoption. The report states that greater collaboration is essential, with a more empowered CSO potentially driving change. While optimism for technological modernisation is seen, challenges such as integration, skills gaps, and resistance to change remain. The report notes that efforts to address these barriers are crucial for advancing security practices effectively.

Read the report findings in full: <https://www.brivo.com/security-trends/>

As part of our Security Research Initiative (SRI) Perpetuity conducted some research a couple of years ago about the changing and widening role of security managers and their influence over budgets. To read the report in full: <https://perpetuityresearch.com/3820/report-launch-security-managers-lack-influence-over-the-security-budget-and-how-to-remedy-that/>

To find out further details about our SRI or to join the initiative: <https://perpetuityresearch.com/security-research-initiative/>

What do you think? If CSOs do not have full control over their budgets, what implications do you think this has for the effectiveness of security strategies within organisations? How can organisations foster greater collaboration among departments to overcome silo-working and silo-decision-making? What role do you believe the board plays in empowering CSOs and fostering a culture of collaboration and innovation within an organisation's security framework?



Secured Environments awarded to Paternoster Square

Paternoster Square has been presented with the prestigious Secured Environments award on 16th April 2024 by Commander Khan, City of London Police.

The estate is an iconic urban development in the heart of the City of London, surrounded by landmarks such as St Paul's Cathedral and the London Stock Exchange. It houses a mix of office space, retail outlets and cafes with busy public thoroughfares through the square and surrounding areas. Recognising the challenges posed for security, as well as the benefits of adopting a framework for good security

management, Paternoster Square (a collaboration between Savills and CIS Security) set out to gain the Secured Environments award to ensure an effective security operation is in place.

To achieve the Secured Environments award, the organisation underwent a thorough audit of their security processes and procedures, as well as consultation with staff, to verify that they were following six key principles to maximise the security of all visitors and users of the area. The principles, in short, cover: commitment; understand; respond; manage; implement; evaluate.

Teena Gill, Operations Director, Paternoster Square said:

“Paternoster Square are delighted to have been awarded the Secured Environments accreditation. The process of obtaining this award has been managed extremely professionally. The award showcases that we take the safety of our team members, occupiers, and visitors seriously.”

www.securedenvironments.com



UK agencies ramp up fraud investigations

In a move aimed at addressing the escalating threat of financial misconduct, Nick Ephgrave, the newly appointed director at the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), has announced plans to intensify their investigative efforts. The SFO intends to introduce immunity orders, providing individuals involved in fraudulent activities the opportunity to cooperate with investigations in exchange for immunity from prosecution. This measure is aimed at incentivising whistleblowers and insiders to come forward with valuable information, thereby facilitating the uncovering of complex financial crimes. Additionally, the SFO plans to introduce financial incentives to encourage individuals to report instances of fraud. By offering rewards for information that leads to successful prosecutions, the agency aims to increase the likelihood of detecting and prosecuting fraudulent activities, ultimately deterring would-be offenders from engaging in illicit behavior. Ephgrave announced these changes in a speech at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), followed by Therese Chambers, the Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA) Joint Executive Director of Enforcement and Market Oversight, who stated that the FCA will deliver impactful deterrence through enforcement activity. She also said that the FCA is wishing to adopt a new approach of publishing enforcement investigations when they commence.

To read Nick Ephgrave's full speech: <https://www.sfo.gov.uk/2024/02/13/director-ephgrave-speech-at-rusi-13-february-2024/>

Perpetuity undertakes research on a wide range of topics relating to economic crime. Please see <https://perpetuityresearch.com/economic-crime/> for further information. The Tackling Economic Crime Awards (TECAs) is run annually to recognise excellence for those working in this profession. Please see: <https://thetecas.com/>

What do you think? Do you believe that offering immunity from prosecution will effectively incentivise whistleblowers and insiders to come forward with valuable information? Are there any potential drawbacks or unintended consequences that you foresee with the implementation of these? Do you think the measures proposed by both the SFO and the FCA will effectively deter would-be offenders from engaging in illicit behavior?



Unveiling the reality of domestic abuse trends

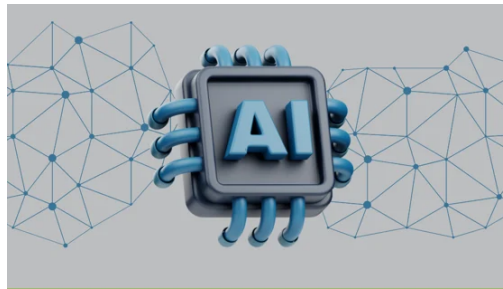
The third annual report from the national [Domestic Homicide Project](#) has provided significant insights into the dynamics of domestic violence and its fatal consequences. It highlights a disturbing trend of increased domestic homicides and suspected victim suicides, particularly among women, despite a decline in overall homicides. The report underscores the need for comprehensive strategies to address intimate partner violence, including early intervention and support services, as well as enhanced collaboration between law enforcement agencies, social services, and mental health professionals. Additionally, it emphasises the importance of understanding the complex intersections of domestic abuse, mental health issues, and substance misuse in developing effective prevention and intervention measures.

Read the report in full: <https://www.vkpp.org.uk/assets/Files/Domestic-Homicides-and-Suspected-Victim-Suicides-2021-2022/Executive-Summary-Y3-Report.pdf>

Perpetuity has extensive experience working with the police, police and crime commissioners (PCCs), and local authorities to help them understand their areas' response to domestic abuse, identify required improvements, and support the creation of better services for survivors of domestic abuse. Recently, Perpetuity has been conducting survivor voice work to highlight the experiences of local people impacted by domestic abuse, as well as evaluating an area's Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) service. Additionally, Perpetuity has been involved in research investigating and highlighting the link between domestic abuse and suicide, which has been featured in the Government's new 'Suicide prevention in England: 5-year cross-sector strategy'.

To find out more about the research Perpetuity undertakes on sensitive topics and with people at risk of vulnerability (including domestic abuse) please see <https://perpetuityresearch.com/sensitive-topics/>

What do you think? Does your organisation have a responsibility to survivors of domestic violence? Domestic abuse is 'Everyone's Business', how does your business respond to employees who have experienced domestic abuse? Has your business been involved in the UK's national campaign '[SAYS NO MORE](#)' designed to raise awareness and end domestic abuse and sexual violence? What responsibility does the security sector have to respond to instances of domestic abuse?



Retaining our 'global AI superpower' status against increasing cyber attacks

A recent report highlights that the UK has some significant hurdles to overcome if the government is to meet its commitment to become a 'global AI superpower' within 10 years, as the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport intends. The research, which was conducted by Dr Chris Brauer of the University of London in collaboration with Microsoft, surveyed over 1,000 cybersecurity experts, employees, and senior leaders of private and public sector organisations. It highlights a concerning surge in ransomware attacks, particularly targeting AI companies and research institutions within the region. These assaults have not only intensified but have also become increasingly sophisticated, posing significant challenges to the burgeoning AI industry in the UK. Furthermore, supply chain vulnerabilities have emerged as a primary concern, with attackers exploiting weaknesses in third-party AI software to infiltrate networks. The report, however, outlines how the UK can live up to its potential and details five ways the country can become a cybersecurity superpower and five steps business leaders can take to boost their organisation's resilience.

Read the report in full: <https://query.prod.cms.rt.microsoft.com/cms/api/am/binary/RW1jMvw>

Perpetuity co-authored an article exploring how AI has impacted our everyday lives in the last couple of decades and the extent to which it has been adopted in the physical security sector. To read this article in full: <https://perpetuityresearch.com/3763/the-use-of-ai-in-physical-security/>

What do you think? What role do you see emerging technologies such as AI and machine learning playing in both perpetuating and combatting cyber threats? Do you think collaboration between public and private sector organisations can be improved to tackle the cybersecurity? Are there any regulatory or policy changes you believe are necessary to support the UK's ambition to become a global AI superpower while ensuring robust cybersecurity measures are in place?



Companies House rule changes from April 2024

Significant changes to Companies House rules were introduced from the beginning of April 2024, under the Economic Crime Act which are aimed at bolstering efforts to combat fraud and enhance corporate transparency. These new measures empower Companies House with expanded authority to verify and scrutinise information provided by companies, ensuring greater accuracy and reliability of corporate data. Under the updated regulations, companies are required to provide additional information, including details of beneficial ownership, to mitigate the risks of financial crime and illicit activities. The implementation of these measures signifies a proactive approach in safeguarding the integrity of the UK business landscape and underscores the government's commitment to tackling economic crime. By strengthening regulatory oversight and fostering transparency, these reforms contribute to fostering trust and confidence in the corporate sector while deterring fraudulent activities.

Detailed changes: <https://changestoukcompanylaw.campaign.gov.uk/changes-at-a-glance/>

What do you think? How do you believe these changes will affect the overall integrity and trustworthiness of the UK business environment? Have you encountered any concerns or uncertainties regarding the implications of these regulatory changes for your company's operations? How do you envision these changes impacting the broader landscape of corporate governance and fraud prevention in the UK?



CIS to sponsor Ireland OSPAs as they expand into Europe

[CIS Security Ltd](#), a multi-award-winning UK leader in professional Security Solutions, which deliver bespoke Security Personnel and technologies, is excited to announce its recent expansion within Europe by establishing a new presence in Dublin, Ireland. As part of its growth plan, the industry leader has revealed the successful mobilisation of three marquee contracts in Dublin's City Centre, two in the Cherrywood area, and a further one in Cork. They believe that this will complement their existing presence in London, Birmingham, and Manchester and that this expansion will inspire the current 2,700 customers to embrace their roles with an enterprising spirit, something that is reflected in their company values of "Passion, Determination, and Leadership"—the framework for everything CIS Security stands for as an organisation.

Dublin is one of Ireland's most vibrant tech communities, and therefore, they are delighted to open CIS Security's new hub here, giving them a physical presence in the East of Ireland as they continue to implement their growth plans. When looking into potential locations, Dublin's Dock was the obvious choice as its outstanding contribution to supporting the growth and development of innovative businesses is very much aligned with the ethos of [CIS Security](#). Dublin also offers a talent pool of multilingual professionals that will help CIS better serve their new, and of course, existing customer base. Their momentum into Ireland is a testament to the critical role that CIS plays in business transformations, and they look forward to being at the helm of continued growth.

[CIS Security](#) has been an advocate of the OSPAS Thought Leadership approach for a number of years. They believe in the sponsorship and recognition of excellence within the industry and see it as their duty of commitment to create a ripple effect of positive security and safety practices. They are members of our Security Research Initiative (SRI) and value our continued contribution to the safety of the wider communities within which they operate.

World Excellence Awards Calendar

World Excellence Awards Calendar

Event	Entries Open	Entries Close	Finalists Announced	Awards Presentation
Cyber OSPAs	Entries are closed.	Entries are closed.	Finalists Announced!	23rd April 2024
SSEAs	Entries are closed.	Entries are closed.	Finalists Announced!	30th April 2024
Nigeria OSPAs	Entries are closed.	Entries are closed.	25th April 2024	9th May 2024
Ireland OSPAs	Entries are closed.	Entries are closed.	Finalists Announced!	17th May 2024
US OSPAs	Entries are Open!	11th June 2024	16th July 2024	22nd September 2024
Australia OSPAs	Entries are Open!	9th August 2024	6th September 2024	24th October 2024

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