

TERRORISM ACTS UK

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_terrorist_incidents_in_Great_Britain

List of terrorist incidents in Great Britain

The following is a **list of terrorist incidents in Great Britain**, including incidents where people were arrested under the terrorist laws and later released without charge, but excluding events in Northern Ireland – a part of the United Kingdom.

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Attacks involving violence or serious threat to life

1970s

- 1971, 12 January: Two bombs exploded at the house of government minister [Robert Carr](#). This attack was one of 25 carried out by [the Angry Brigade](#) between August 1970 and August 1971. The [Bomb Squad](#) was established at [Scotland Yard](#) in January 1971 to target the group, and they were apprehended in August of that year.^{[1][2]}
- 1971, 31 October: A bomb exploded in the [Post Office Tower](#) in [London](#) causing extensive damage but no injuries. The "Kilburn Battalion" of the IRA claimed responsibility for the explosion.^[3]
- 1972, 22 February: The [Official Irish Republican Army](#) killed seven civilians in the [Aldershot bombing](#).
- 1972, 19 September: The group [Black September](#) posted a letter bomb to the Israeli embassy in [London](#) killing an Israeli diplomat.^[4]
- 1973: The Provisional IRA exploded a car bomb in the street outside the [Old Bailey](#). A shard of glass is preserved as a reminder, embedded in the wall at the top of the main stairs.
- 1973, 10 September: The Provisional IRA set off bombs at London's [King's Cross Station](#) and [Euston Station](#) injuring 21 people.^[5]
- 1974, 4 February: Eight soldiers and 4 civilians killed by the Provisional IRA in the [M62 coach bombing](#).
- 1974, 17 June: The Provisional IRA planted a bomb which exploded at the [Houses of Parliament](#), causing extensive damage and injuring 11 people.^[6]
- 1974, 5 October: [Guildford and Woolwich pub bombings](#) by the Provisional IRA left 4 off duty soldiers and a civilian dead and 44 injured.

- 1974, 22 October: A bomb planted by the Provisional IRA explodes in [London](#) injuring 3 people.[\[7\]](#)
- 1974, 14 November: James Patrick McDade, Lieutenant in the Birmingham Battalion, of the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) was killed in a premature explosion whilst planting a bomb at the Coventry telephone exchange in 1974.
- 1974, 21 November: The [Birmingham pub bombings](#), 21 killed and 182 injured.
- 1974, 18 December: Bomb planted by IRA in the run up to Christmas in one of Bristol's most popular shopping districts explodes injuring 17 people.[\[8\]](#)
- 1975, 8 August: IRA detonate a bomb in the Caterham Arms pub in Surrey, 400yds from the army barracks in Caterham. 25 injured and 8 seriously injured.[\[9\]](#)
- 1975, 27 November: IRA gunmen assassinated political activist and [television personality Ross McWhirter](#).[\[10\]](#)
- 1975, 20 December: The [Ulster Defence Association](#) (UDA) bombed Bidy Mulligan's pub in the [Kilburn](#) area of London. Five people were injured. It said it bombed the pub because it was frequented by Irish republican sympathizers.[\[11\]](#)
- 1978, 17 December: Another bomb planted by the IRA aimed at the Christmas shoppers in Bristol takes out the department store Maggs injuring seven people.[\[12\]](#)
- 1979, 17 February: The [Ulster Volunteer Force](#) (UVF) bombed two pubs frequented by Catholics in [Glasgow, Scotland](#). Both pubs were wrecked and a number of people were wounded. It said it bombed the pubs because they were used for Irish republican fundraising.[\[13\]](#)
- 1979, 30 March: [Airey Neave](#) killed when a car bomb exploded under his car as he drove out of the [Palace of Westminster](#) car park. The [Irish National Liberation Army](#) (INLA) claimed responsibility for the killing.

1980s

- 1980 30 April: The [Iranian Embassy siege](#) where a six-man terrorist team held the building for six days until the hostages were rescued by a raid by the [SAS](#) which was broadcast live on TV.
- 1981 10 October: The IRA detonated a bomb outside the [Chelsea Barracks](#), killing two and injuring 39.
- 1981 26 October: The IRA bombed a [Wimpy Bar](#) on [Oxford Street](#), killing [Kenneth Howorth](#), the [Metropolitan Police](#) explosives officer attempting to defuse it.
- 1982 14 March: The bombing of the London ANC offices (African National Congress), wounding one person who was living upstairs. General Johann Coetzee, former head of the [South African Security Police](#), and seven other policemen, claimed responsibility for the attack and applied for amnesty before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Coetzee's accomplices were Craig Williamson, John McPherson, Roger Raven, Wybrand du Toit, John Adam, James Taylor and Eugene de Kock.[\[14\]](#)
- 1982 June: Abu Nidal killed the Israeli ambassador in London.[\[15\]](#)
- 1982 20 July: The [Hyde Park and Regent's Park bombings](#) in [London](#) by the IRA killed eleven members of the [Household Cavalry](#) and the [Royal Green Jackets](#).
- 1982 30 November: A group called the [Animal Rights Militia](#) sent a letter bomb to [Margaret Thatcher](#) at [10 Downing Street](#), the device exploded injuring one person.[\[16\]](#)
- 1982 6 December: The Ballykelly pub bombing in Northern Ireland. Seventeen people were killed including many soldiers. The Irish National Liberation Army claimed responsibility.

- 1983 17 December: [Harrods](#) was bombed by the IRA. Six were killed (including three police officers) and 90 wounded during [Christmas](#) shopping at the West London [department store](#). (See [Harrods bombing](#))
- 1984 12 October: [Brighton hotel bombing](#), 5 killed and several injured in an attempt by the IRA to kill [Margaret Thatcher](#).
- 1988 21 December: [Pan Am Flight 103 \(Lockerbie\)](#) blown up by a bomb in a suitcase while in flight over Scotland after taking off from Heathrow. 270 were killed.
- 1989 22 September: [Deal barracks bombing](#): Eleven [Royal Marines](#) bandsmen killed and 22 injured when base in [Deal](#), Kent, was bombed by the IRA.

1990s

- 1990 16 May: [Wembley](#) IRA detonated a bomb underneath a minibus killing Sgt Charles Chapman ([The Queen's Regiment](#)) and injuring another soldier.
- 1990 1 June: [Lichfield City railway station](#) 1 soldier killed and 2 injured in a shooting by the [Provisional Irish Republican Army](#)
- 1990 20 July: The IRA detonated a bomb at the [London Stock Exchange](#) causing damage to the building. Nobody was injured in the blast.^[17]
- 1990 30 July: [Ian Gow MP](#) killed by a car bomb planted by the IRA while at his home in [Sussex](#).
- 1991 7 February: The IRA launched [three mortar shells at the rear garden](#) of [10 Downing Street](#).
- 1991 18 February: A bomb exploded at [Victoria Station](#). One man killed and 38 people injured.
- 1992 28 February: A bomb exploded at [London Bridge station](#) injuring 29 people.
- 1992 10 April: [Baltic Exchange bombing](#): A large bomb exploded in St Mary Axe in the [City of London](#). The bomb was contained in a large white truck and consisted of a fertilizer device wrapped with a detonation cord made from [Semtex](#). It killed three people: Paul Butt, 29, Baltic Exchange employee Thomas Casey, 49, and 15-year-old Danielle Carter. The bomb also caused damage to surrounding buildings, many of which were also badly damaged by the [Bishopsgate bombing](#) the following year. The bomb caused £800 million worth of damage, £200 million more than the total damaged caused by the 10,000 explosions that had occurred during [the Troubles](#) in [Northern Ireland](#) up to that point.^[18]
- 1992 25 August: The IRA planted three fire bombs in [Shrewsbury](#), [Shropshire](#). Bombs were placed in Shoplatch, The Charles Darwin Centre and Shrewsbury Castle, the latter causing the most damage as the castle housed the [Shropshire Regimental Museum](#) and many priceless historical artifacts were lost and damaged by fire and smoke. No fatalities or injuries were recorded.
- 1992 12 October: A device exploded in the gents' toilet of the [Sussex Arms public house](#) in [Covent Garden](#) killing one person and injuring four others.
- 1992 16 November: IRA planted a bomb at the [Canary Wharf](#), but was spotted by security guards. The bomb failed to detonate.
- 1992 3 December: The IRA exploded two bombs in central Manchester, injuring 65 people.^[19]
- 1993 20 March: [Warrington bomb attacks](#). The first attack, on a gasworks, created a huge fireball but no casualties, but the second attack on Bridge Street killed two children and injured many other people. The attacks were conducted by the IRA.
- 1993 24 April: IRA detonated a huge truck bomb in the [City of London](#) at [Bishopsgate](#). It killed journalist Ed Henty, injured over 40 people, and causing approximately £1 billion worth of damage,^[18] including the destruction of [St](#)

[Ethelburga's church](#), and serious damage to Liverpool St. [Tube Station](#). Police had received a coded warning, but were still evacuating the area at the time of the explosion. The insurance payments required were so enormous, that [Lloyd's of London](#) almost went bankrupt under the strain, and there was a crisis in the London insurance market. The area had already suffered damage from the Baltic Exchange bombing the year before. (see [1993 Bishopsgate bombing](#))

- 1994 July: [A car-bomb outside the Israeli embassy in London injured fourteen.](#)[15]
- 1994 27 July: A car-bomb outside Balfour House in London, home to a Jewish charity, injuring five.[15]
- 1994 13 August: 2.5 lbs of Semtex packed into a bicycle left outside Woolworths in [Bognor Regis](#), exploded damaging 15 shops. A similar bomb found in nearby [Brighton](#).[20]
- 1995 24 January: The editor of the Des Pardes, [Tarsem Singh Purewal](#), was shot and killed near to the newspaper's Southall office.[21]
- 1996 9 February: The IRA bombed the [South Quay](#) area of London, killing two people. (see [1996 Docklands bombing](#))
- 1996 15 February: A 5 [lb](#) bomb placed in a [telephone box](#) disarmed by Police on the [Charing Cross Road](#).
- 1996 18 February: An [improvised high explosive device](#) detonated prematurely on a bus travelling along [Aldwych](#) in central London, killing Edward O'Brien, the IRA operative transporting the device and injuring eight others.
- 1996 15 June: The [Manchester bombing](#) when the IRA detonated a 1500 kg bomb which heavily damaged the [Arndale](#) shopping centre and injured 206 people.
- 1997 March: The IRA exploded two bombs in relay boxes near [Wilmslow railway station](#), thereby causing great disruption to rail and road services, in [Wilmslow](#) and the surrounding area.
- 1999 17 April, 24 April, 30 April: [David Copeland](#) set off three nail bombs in London targeting the black, Bangladeshi and gay communities respectively, killing 3 and injuring 129. Convicted of [murder](#) on 30 June 2000.

Refer also to the list of IRA terrorist incidents presented to Parliament between 1980 and 1994, listed [halfway down the page here](#)

2000s



Memorial in London's [Hyde Park](#) to the victims of the Islamist [7 July bombings](#).

- 2000 1 June: Real IRA bomb on Hammersmith Bridge, London.
- 2000 20 September: Real IRA fired an RPG-22 at the MI6 HQ in London.
- 2001 4 March: Real IRA detonated a car bomb outside the [BBC's](#) main news centre in [London](#). One London Underground worker suffered deep cuts to his eye from flying glass and some damage was caused to the front of the building.[22] (See [2001 BBC bombing](#))
- 2001 16 April: Hendon post office bombed by the Real IRA.
- 2001 6 May: Real IRA detonated a bomb in a [London](#) postal [sorting office](#). One person was injured.[23]

- 2001 3 August: Real IRA bomb explodes in [Ealing](#), West London, injuring seven people.^[24] (See [2001 Ealing bombing](#))
- 2001 4 November: Real IRA car bomb in Birmingham.^[25]
- 2005 7 July: [7/7 central London bombings](#) conducted by four separate Islamist extremist suicide bombers, which targeted civilians using the public transport system during the morning rush hour. Three bombs were detonated on three separate trains on the [London Underground](#) and one on a double-decker bus. 56 people were killed and 700 were injured. It was the UK's worst terrorist incident since the 1988 [Lockerbie bombing](#) and the first Islamist suicide attack in the country.
- 2007 January–February: [Miles Cooper letter bomb campaign](#).
- 2007 30 June: [Glasgow International Airport attack](#) perpetrated by Islamist extremists.
- 2008 22 May: [Exeter attempted bombing](#) in a café toilet by an Islamist extremist, injuring only the perpetrator.

2010–present

- 2013 29 April: [Pavlo Lapshyn](#) attacks. Lapshyn, a Ukrainian student, stabbed Mohammed Saleem, a Birmingham resident to death. He later admitted to police that he wished to start a "race war".^[26] Lapshyn later detonated a home-made bomb outside a mosque in Walsall on 21 June. 150 homes were evacuated but no person was injured.^[26] On 28 May Lapshyn detonated a second home-made bomb near a mosque in Wolverhampton, and attacked a mosque in Tipton with an improvised explosive device containing nails on 12 July. Friday prayers were delayed that day, and so his intended victims were still inside. Lapshyn was later sentenced to serve a minimum of 40 years.^{[27][28][29]}
- 2013 22 May: A British soldier, Lee Rigby, [was murdered in an attack](#) in Woolwich by Michael Adebolajo and Michael Adebowale, two Islamist extremists armed with a handgun and a number of bladed implements. Both men were sentenced to [life imprisonment](#), with Adebolajo given a [whole life order](#) and Adebowale ordered to serve at least 45 years.^[30]
- 2015 5 December: Three people are stabbed at [Leytonstone tube station](#) in [east London](#), with one person suffering severe knife injuries; police subsequently announced that they were treating the stabbings as a 'terrorist incident'.^[31] Video footage emerged following the stabbing of the attacker repeatedly shouting "this is for Syria", in reference to the [Royal Air Force's](#) bombing of the [Islamic State](#) in [Syria](#), which had commenced on 3 December after parliamentary approval.^[32]

Prevented, failed or aborted attacks

These are attacks which could have constituted a threat to life had they worked or been large enough. Does not include attacks that were merely at a talking stage and were not actually in operation.

- 1985: Police found 10 grenades, seven petrol bombs and two detonators at the home of former Group Development Director for the British National Party [Tony Lecomber](#) after he was injured by a nailbomb that he was carrying to the offices of the [Workers' Revolutionary Party](#). Convicted under the [Explosive Substances Act 1883](#).
- 1993 23 October: In Reading, Berkshire, an IRA bomb exploded at a signal post near the [railway station](#), some hours after 5 lb (2 kg) of Semtex was found in the

toilets of the station. The resulting closure of the railway line and evacuation of the station caused travel chaos for several hours, but no-one was injured.

- 2000 1 June: Real IRA suspected of planting a high-explosive device attached to a girder under the south side of [Hammersmith Bridge](#) which detonated at 4.30am.[\[33\]](#)
 - 2000 17 November: Police arrested Moinul Abedin. His Birmingham house contained bomb-making instructions, equipment, and traces of the explosive HTMD. A nearby lock-up rented by Abedin contained 100 kg of the chemical components of HTMD.[\[34\]](#)
 - 2005 21 July: The [21 July 2005 London bombings](#), also conducted by four would-be suicide bombers on the public transport, whose bombs failed to detonate.
 - 2006 28 September: [Talbot Street bomb-making haul](#).
 - 2007 1 February: [Plot to behead a British Muslim soldier](#).
 - 2007 29 June: [London car bombs](#).
 - 2008 27 February: British police thwarted a suspected plot to kill [Abdullah of Saudi Arabia](#) during a state visit to Britain in the year 2007 a senior officer said.
 - 2012 June: Five Muslim extremists plotted to bomb an [English Defence League](#) rally in [Dewsbury](#) but arrived late and were arrested when returning to [Birmingham](#). A sixth was also convicted.[\[35\]](#)
 - 2013 April: As part of [Operation Pitsford](#) 11 Muslim extremists are jailed for a plotting terror attack involving suicide Bombers.[\[36\]](#)
- Given the nature of [counter-terrorism](#), successes in preventing terrorist attacks in the UK will not always come to light, or not be as heavily promoted as intelligence failures. However, during the [Police advocacy of 90 day detention](#) during the [Terrorism Act 2006](#) they produced documents listing all the cases about which they could not go into details.[\[37\]](#)

Arrests, detentions, and other incidents related to the Terrorism Acts

These are cases where either the [Terrorism Acts](#) were invoked, or which the authorities alleged were terrorist in nature at the time. It includes plots that were foiled at an early stage before any materials were actually assembled as well as totally innocent suspects.

- 2003 5 January: [Wood Green ricin plot](#), where police arrested six Algerian men accused of manufacturing [ricin](#) to use for a poison attack on the [London underground](#). No poison was found,[\[38\]](#)[\[39\]](#) and all men were acquitted of all terror charges, except for Kamel Bourgass who stabbed four police officers during his arrest in Manchester several days later. He was convicted of the murder of the officer he killed (the others he stabbed survived). He was also convicted of plotting to poison members of the public with ricin and other poisons. Two of the suspects in the plot were subsequently convicted of possessing false passports.[\[40\]](#)
- 2003 October: Andrew Rowe arrested in Dover after being detained as he entered the [Channel Tunnel](#) in France.[\[41\]](#) Convicted as a "global terrorist" and sentenced to 15 years in prison on 23 September 2005 on the basis of traces of explosives on a pair of socks and a code translation book.[\[42\]](#)
- 2004 30 March: Seven men arrested in West Sussex in possession of 600 kg of ammonium nitrate fertilizer, as part of [Operation Crevice](#).
- 2004 3 August: Fourteen men arrested, but only eight charged in relation to the [2004 Financial buildings plot](#) following the leak of the identity of an Al-Qaeda double-

agent. The men possessed detailed plans for attacking financial buildings in the US, but no actual bomb-making equipment. Their leader, [Dhiren Barot](#), pleaded guilty at his trial on 12 October 2006, and was imprisoned for life.

- 2004 24 September: Four men arrested in the Holiday Inn in [Brent Cross](#) trying to buy [red mercury](#), a mythical substance which could purportedly be used to construct a nuclear bomb, from a newspaper reporter.[\[43\]](#) One man was released three days later,[\[44\]](#) while the other three were cleared at their trial on 25 July 2006,[\[45\]](#) during which the jury was told that "whether red mercury does or does not exist is irrelevant".[\[46\]](#)
- 2005 22 July: The [Metropolitan Police](#) killed [Jean Charles de Menezes](#), shooting him seven times in the head at close range on a train over fears of increasingly suspicious behaviour as part of counter-terrorism measure [Operation Kratos](#).
- 2005 28 July: David Mery arrested at [Southwark](#) tube station on suspicion of terrorism for wearing a jacket "too warm for the season" and carrying a bulky rucksack. All charges were dropped on 31 August.[\[47\]](#) It took four more years for the police to apologise for the "unlawful arrest, detention and search of [his] home".[\[48\]](#)
- 2005 28 September: [Walter Wolfgang](#), who had been ejected from the [Labour Party Conference](#), was briefly held under [Terrorism Act 2000](#) powers when he attempted to go back in.
- 2005 22 December: [Abu Bakr Mansha](#), described by his barrister as an "utter incompetent", was accused of planning to murder a British soldier who had served in the [Iraq War](#), and convicted under the Terrorism Act for possessing a document that was "likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism". He was sentenced to 6 years.
- 2006 2 June: The [2 June 2006 Forest Gate raid](#) (on a house in [Forest Gate](#)) saw the arrest of two suspects, one who was shot in the shoulder, on charges of conspiring to release a chemical weapon in the form of suicide vest. The suspects were cleared of suspicion and released days later.
- 2006 10 August: The [2006 transatlantic aircraft plot](#) to blow up 10 planes flying from Heathrow saw the arrest of 24 people from their homes in Britain, chaos at the airports as security measures were put in place and numerous high-level statements from US and UK officials. 8 people were put on trial, and 3 found guilty of conspiracy to murder. It was shown at their trial how bottles of liquid could be made into effective bombs. Since this incident, carriage of liquids in hand luggage on aircraft has been restricted to very small amounts. Rashid Rauf, suspected to have been the link between the UK plotters and [Pakistan](#), escaped to Pakistan where he was arrested, but escaped again on his way to an extradition hearing. It was reported that he was killed in a US airstrike in [North Waziristan](#) in November 2008.[\[49\]](#)
- 2006 23 August: The [2006 Cheetham Hill terrorism arrests](#), where four men were arrested in the Manchester vicinity over the course of a month, and charged with financing terrorism.
- 2006 1 September: The [Jameah Islameah School](#) in Sussex was cordoned off for over three weeks and searched by a hundred police officers. Twelve men were arrested as part of the operation as they ate in a Chinese restaurant in London.
- 2007 1 November: Police searching for indecent images of children arrested [British People's Party](#) local organiser Martyn Gilleard in [Goole](#), [East Riding of Yorkshire](#) under the Terrorism Act, over explosives found in his home. He was subsequently charged with possession of material for terrorist purposes and collection of information useful to a terrorist, and also pleaded guilty to possessing 39,000 indecent images. He was jailed for 16 years.[\[50\]\[51\]\[51\]\[52\]\[53\]](#)

- 2008 14 May: The [Nottingham Two](#) were arrested and detained for six days under the [Terrorism Act 2000](#). A [postgraduate student](#) had downloaded a 140-page English translation of an [Al-Qaeda](#) document from the [United States Department of Justice](#) website for his PhD research on [militant Islam](#). He sent it to a friend in the Modern Language department, for printing. Both were cleared of [terrorism](#)-related offences, but the friend was immediately re-arrested on immigration grounds.^{[54][55][56][57]}
- 2008 14 September: Oxford graduate Stephen Clarke arrested after someone thought they saw him taking a photograph of a sealed man-hole cover outside the central public library in Manchester. He was arrested under section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000, held for 36 hours while his house and computer were searched, and then released without charge. No photographs of man-hole covers were found.^[58]
- 2009 13 February: 9 men arrested on the M65 motorway under section 40 of the Terrorism Act 2000. 6 were kept hand-cuffed in the back of a van for seven hours. The remaining 3 were detained for six days. No one was charged. ^[7]
- On 19 September 2011 [West Midlands Police](#) arrested a woman who lived in the Alum Rock area of [Birmingham](#). Salma Kabal, 22, appeared in court on 16 November 2011 accused of failing to inform police that her husband, Ashik Ali, planned to kill himself. The official charge was that she “knew or believed might be of material assistance in securing the apprehension, prosecution or conviction of another person for an offence involving the commission, preparation or instigation of an act of terrorism”.^[59]
- On 15 November 2011 West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit arrested four people at their homes who were from [Sparkhill](#) Birmingham, on suspicion of conducting terrorist offences. The four men appeared in court in [Westminster London](#) on 19 November 2011 charged with terrorism offences. They were named as Khobaib Hussain, Ishaq Hussain and Shahid Kasam Khan, all 19, and Naweed Mahmood Ali, 24. They were charged with fundraising for terrorist purposes and for travelling to Pakistan for terrorist training.^[60]
- 2012 28 June: The two men, aged 18 and 32, were arrested at separate residential addresses in east London, by officers from the Metropolitan Police Counter-Terrorism Command, at 7am on Thursday. It was believed the men were involved in a bomb plot concerning the [London 2012](#) Summer Olympic Games. A [Scotland Yard](#) spokesman said: "At approximately 07:00 hrs today, Thursday June 28, officers from the counter-terrorism command arrested two men under the Terrorism Act 2000 on suspicion of the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism. The men were arrested at separate residential addresses in east London. Both addresses are currently being searched under the Terrorism Act 2000".^[61]

See also

- [Chronology of Provisional IRA actions](#)
- [Terrorism Acts relating to Northern Ireland](#)
- [Terrorism Acts \(2000-present\)](#)
- [Terrorism in the United States](#)
- [List of terrorist incidents \(worldwide\)](#)
- [List of terrorist incidents in London](#)
- [List of people convicted under Anti-Terrorism Act in the United Kingdom](#)
- [Terrorism in the European Union](#)

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