



RED FLAG WEEKLY

ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE FOR SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

EDITION 6

MONDAY 26 MAY 2026

SAFETYSOLUTIONSTRAINING.CO.UK

THIS WEEK

Workplace safety intelligence for employers.

Workplace violence intelligence for safety professionals.

COUNTER-TERRORISM

01

He had just confessed to murder.
Then he attacked the two

LOCAL AUTHORITY

02

He was there about a parking ticket.
He left having been

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

03

He was unlocking a cell at
Christmas. He spent months in

EDUCATION

04

He brought a weapon to work,
sought out his colleague, and

HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND PU

05

Year. Nearly Four in Ten Nurses.

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CO

COUNTER-TERRORISM / POLICING

Two Female Detectives Assaulted Mid-Interview by Convicted Terrorist

He had just confessed to murder. Then he attacked the two

SECTOR

Counter-terrorism / Policing

STORY FOCUS

He had just confessed to murder. Then he attacked

ARCHIVE EDITION

Edition 6

RESPONSE

Practical training and clear reporting

detectives sitting across from him. Ahmed Alid was convicted of the 2023 murder of 70-year-old Terence Carney on the streets of Hartlepool and the attempted murder of his housemate. During his police interview, conducted by two female detectives, Alid attacked both officers before the interview concluded. One suffered injuries to her left shoulder and wrist. On 17 May 2026, Teesside Crown Court sentenced him to life with a minimum term of 45 years. The judge ruled the attack a premeditated terrorist offence. In interview, Alid stated that had he possessed a machine gun, he would have killed more people.

VINCE'S VIEW

A police interview room. Formal, structured, supervised. Two experienced detectives. And yet. The moment you assume a controlled setting makes you safe is often the moment you are most exposed. I spent 30 years in policing and this pattern never changes: risk does not respect the context you are in, it responds to the person in front of you. For anyone working with volatile or dangerous individuals, situational awareness and the ability to read escalating behaviour cannot be a last resort. They need to be built in from the start.

WHAT EMPLOYERS SHOULD DO NOW

- Review the risk in the context of the role.
- Check staff have clear reporting and escalation routes.
- Use practical training based on what staff actually face.



LOCAL AUTHORITY / PUBLIC SECTOR

Council Officer Assaulted on Routine Parking Duty in North Wales

He was there about a parking ticket. He left having been

SECTOR Local Authority / Public Sector	STORY FOCUS He was there about a parking ticket. He left havin
ARCHIVE EDITION Edition 6	RESPONSE Practical training and clear reporting

physically attacked. In August 2025, a Flintshire County Council enforcement officer attended an address in Mynydd Isa regarding an outstanding Penalty Charge Notice. A second occupant came to the door, became immediately abusive and threatening, and assaulted the officer as he attempted to leave. The incident was captured on the officer's body-worn camera. On 27 March 2026, the defendant pleaded guilty to common assault and was fined £1,100 with £300 compensation ordered. Gareth Owens, the council's Chief Officer for Governance, confirmed the council will fully support prosecution wherever staff are assaulted in the course of their duties.

VINCE'S VIEW

Parking enforcement. That is the context. No high-stakes confrontation, no complex history, no known risk factors on file. Just a routine call that turned violent because someone received news they did not want. Any public-facing role carries that risk the moment a worker delivers an unwelcome outcome. What this case also shows is the value of body- worn cameras, not just for evidence, but because they change the officer's confidence to report. The council pursued it. More employers should be asking themselves why they do not.

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE / PRISON SERVICE

Prison Officer Blinded by Boiling Water at HMP Onley

He was unlocking a cell at Christmas. He spent months in

SECTOR Criminal Justice / Prison Service	STORY FOCUS He was unlocking a cell at Christmas. He spent mon
ARCHIVE EDITION Edition 6	RESPONSE Practical training and clear reporting

specialist care trying to save his sight. On 27 December 2024, a prison officer at HMP Onley in Northamptonshire was carrying out a routine unlock when inmate Benjamin Scott threw boiling water into his face and struck him repeatedly over the head with a kettle. The officer sustained second-degree burns to the left side of his face and an ocular burn to his left eye, requiring months of specialist medical procedures. Despite his injuries, he helped colleagues restrain Scott before being taken to hospital. On 2 April 2026, Scott was sentenced to an 11-year extended term. He had been convicted of manslaughter in 2012 and was already serving 15 years at the time of the attack.

VINCE'S VIEW

This happened at Christmas, in one of the most controlled environments in the country, to a trained officer following procedure. Scott had a history. The risk was known. And the attack still happened. That is not a failure of training. It is a reminder that risk assessment is never finished, and that no environment, however structured, removes the need for continued vigilance. The officer helped restrain his attacker after being partially blinded. That does not come from a policy document. It comes from character, professionalism, and years of preparation. His employer owes him that preparation. Every employer does.

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EDUCATION / INTERNALWORKPLACEVIOLENCE

Welsh Headteacher Jailed for Wrench Attack on Deputy at School

He brought a weapon to work, sought out his colleague, and

SECTOR Education / Internalworkplaceviolence	STORY FOCUS He brought a weapon to work, sought out his collea
ARCHIVE EDITION Edition 6	RESPONSE Practical training and clear reporting

attacked him from behind at his desk. This was not a student. This was the headteacher. On 5 March 2025, Anthony John Felton, 54, headteacher at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Comprehensive in Aberavon, South Wales, armed himself with a metal wrench, sought out his deputy Richard Pyke, 51, and struck him repeatedly while Pyke sat at his desk. The attack was captured in full on the school's CCTV. Felton drove away and sent a school-wide email apologising for the distress his actions were likely to cause. He pleaded guilty to attempted grievous bodily harm with intent and was sentenced to two years and four months at Swansea Crown Court on 25 April 2025. The sentencing judge described the attack as likely entirely without precedent, and noted the current prevalence of violence in schools as making the example Felton set all the more damaging.

VINCE'S VIEW

Most conflict management training is focused outward: managing the difficult client, the aggressive service user, the threatening member of the public. This case is a sharp reminder that workplace violence does not always come from outside. Personal grievances, internal pressures, and unmanaged emotion can turn a colleague into a threat. Organisations working toward the "all reasonable steps" standard from October 2026 need to think about the full range of risk. Not just who comes through the door. Also who is already in the building.

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HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC SERVICES

Three in Ten Frontline Workers Abused Every

Year. Nearly Four in Ten Nurses.

SECTOR Health, Social Care and Public Services	STORY FOCUS Year. Nearly Four in Ten Nurses.
ARCHIVE EDITION Edition 6	RESPONSE Practical training and clear reporting

Not once in a career. Not occasionally. Every year, three in ten people in caring and service roles experience abuse at work. The Skills and Employment Survey 2024, produced by academics from Cardiff University, UCL, Nuffield College Oxford, and the University of Surrey, found that more than one in seven UK employees experienced some form of workplace abuse in the past year. In caring and service occupations, that figure rises to three in ten annually. Nearly four in ten nurses reported abuse. Women faced almost double the risk of men. Night workers faced significantly elevated exposure. The survey, conducted every six years, is the most comprehensive UK-wide workforce study available on this issue.

VINCE'S VIEW

Four in ten nurses. Every year. When I deliver training to community teams, the thing that strikes me most is how rarely anyone has asked them directly about what they face. They know the numbers are high. They have lived them. What this survey does is put the data behind what frontline workers have been saying for years. The question for every organisation employing nurses, social workers, or public-facing staff is a straightforward one: what have you actually done about it? A policy on the intranet is not an answer. Training that builds real skills and genuine confidence is.

WHAT EMPLOYERS SHOULD DO NOW

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October 2026 is approaching. Employers need evidence of all reasonable steps.

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MONTHS REMAINING UNTIL THE
EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT 2025
DEADLINE

The consistent theme across Red Flag Weekly is foreseeable risk. Where staff engage with the public, lone work, visit homes, answer challenging calls or manage difficult behaviour, employers need practical evidence that staff were prepared for what they actually face.

- Policies should be clear, current and role-specific.
- Training should cover real scenarios, not generic awareness alone.
- Incident reporting should be straightforward and trusted.
- Managers should be able to evidence action taken before and after incidents.

The safest position is to prepare now, not wait for further guidance.

RED FLAG

WEEKLY

ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE FOR SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

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Red Flag Weekly is researched and written by Vince Donovan, Director, Safety Solutions Training Ltd. Every story in this edition is verified against a named, public source. No statistics are invented or estimated.