

INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF DAWN STURGESS

ANNEX TO SUBMISSIONS ON BEHALF OF THE FAMILY: TABLE OF OPEN SOURCE MATERIAL RELEVANT TO RESTRICTION ORDER APPLICATIONS FOR 6 SEPTEMBER 2023 HEARING

HMG ROA Categories	Links	Title	Date	Description	#
a. anything which confirms or denies (whether explicitly or implicitly) the status of any individual working for or with UKIC in any capacity;	-	-	-	-	1.
b. aspects of the wider HMG response to the attack on the Skripals and remediation work, including information about PPE such as type, quantity, limitations and location;	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/amesbury-incident-latest-assistant-commissioner-neil-basu-statement-in-full-a8431961.html	Amesbury incident latest: Read Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu's statement confirming novichok in full Independent	04.07.2018	Neil Basu's statement Gives timings re investigation: <i>"However, I can confirm tonight that there has been a significant development and that the Counter Terrorism Policing Network is now leading the investigation into this incident." ...</i> <i>"This evening we have received test results from Porton Down that show the two people have been exposed to the nerve agent Novichok." ...</i> <i>"... on Monday, 2 July, due to concerns over the symptoms the man and woman were displaying, samples from both patients were sent to Porton Down laboratory for analysis."</i> <i>"Following the detailed analysis of these samples, we can confirm that the man and woman have been exposed to the nerve agent novichok, which has been identified as the same nerve agent that contaminated both Yulia and Sergei Skripal."</i>	2.
c. codenames;	-	-	-	-	3.

<p>d. HMG' s work with foreign government departments;</p>	<p>https://www.parliament.uk/globalassets/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/Chair-to-Home-Secretary-RE-Review-of-deaths-with-allegations-of-state-responsibility-06-03-18.pdf</p>	<p>Letter from Chair of Home Affairs Committee to SSHD Amber Rudd Re Review of Deaths with allegations of State Responsibility</p>	<p>06.03.2018</p>	<p>Asks for review by NCA into 14 deaths <i>“that have not been treated as suspicious by the UK police, but have – reportedly – been identified by United States intelligence sources as potentially connected to the Russian state.”</i> ... <i>“You will know doubt be aware of the investigative journalism from Buzzfeed alleging that US intelligence have informed the British government that a Russian whistleblower – Alexander Perepilichnyy, who died in Surrey in 2012 – was likely killed under orders by the Russian state, and that a further 13 people, including an associate of Alexander Litvinenko, Boris Berezovsky, were also likely killed on British soil. Yet the UK authorities have ruled out suspicious circumstances in these cases, often concluding that suicide or natural causes was the explanation.”</i></p>	<p>4.</p>
	<p>https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/14/world/europe/sergei-skripal-spying-russia-poisoning/html</p>	<p>Sergei Skripal Was Retired, but Still in the Spy Game, Is That Why He Was Poisoned?</p>	<p>14.05.2018</p>	<p>‘But in the years before the poisoning, Mr. Skripal, a veteran of Russia’s military intelligence agency, the G.R.U., apparently traveled widely, offering briefings on Russia to foreign intelligence operatives, according to European officials, who spoke only on the condition of anonymity. The meetings were almost certainly approved and possibly facilitated by the British authorities as a way to both educate their allies and provide Mr. Skripal with income.</p> <p>... Mr. Skripal arrived in Prague in 2012 shortly after his wife, Lyudmila, succumbed to uterine cancer. He was grieving, but nevertheless in good spirits when he met with officers from at least one of the Czech Republic’s three intelligence services, according to a Czech official with knowledge of the meetings. Some details of the visit were first reported over the weekend by the Czech weekly Respekt, and were confirmed independently by The New York Times.</p> <p>Foreign Minister Martin Stropnický, asked about the reports in an interview on Monday, said the visit was part of <i>“the normal cooperation of services between the Czech Republic and Great Britain.”</i> He added that he believed Mr. Skripal’s visit had been useful. <i>“Great Britain is known as a country with high quality information services,”</i> he said in an interview with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. <i>“I would never expect that the British would send some kind of problematic man. There was a reason for it, probably.”</i></p> <p>During the brief visit, Mr. Skripal drank, he joked, and he provided Czech intelligence with information about G.R.U. officers operating in Europe. His information was dated; he retired from the G.R.U. in 1999.</p>	<p>5.</p>

				<p>Even so, the Czech officers found his knowledge to be valuable. Many of the G.R.U. agents he worked with in the 1990s were still active, the official said. Though Mr. Skripal's health was poor, the official said, his mind was clear.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr. Skripal was so helpful that Czech intelligence officers continued to meet with him, the official said, making several trips to Britain in subsequent years, though the exact dates are unclear.'</p>	
	Sergei Skripal briefed European intelligence services, reports say Sergei Skripal The Guardian	Sergei Skripal briefed European intelligence services, reports say	15.05.2018	<p>'Security sources in the Czech Republic said Skripal's meetings with Czech intelligence agents would probably have been useful, but they dismissed them as a likely motive for the poisoning attack.</p> <p><i>"It's clear that he cooperated with the British services before that and they were the owners of his information, so that's the reason [he was targeted],"</i> one retired senior agent with the Czech foreign intelligence service, ÚZSI, told the Guardian.</p> <p>He added: <i>"The ties between MI6 and the Czech intelligence services are so good that it's normal that the British were willing to rent him out, so to speak, to the Czech services. It would have been a very useful and interesting meeting for the Czechs, there's no doubt about that. When do you have the chance to meet a KGB or GRU officer? Almost never."</i></p> <p>Ondrej Kundra, a security specialist with the magazine Respekt, said Skripal probably passed "specific information" about the operation of Russia intelligence operations in the Czech Republic gleaned from his previous position as head of the human resources with the GRU, Russia's foreign intelligence agency.'</p>	6.
	https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/14/uk-team-in-bulgaria-investigates-suspected-2015-poisoning	Skripal poisoning: UK team looks into possible Bulgarian case link	14.02.2019	<p>A team of British investigators is in Bulgaria looking into whether the 2015 suspected poisoning of a local arms dealer has links to the poisoning of Sergei Skripal and his daughter last year in Salisbury.</p> <p><i>"There is a British team here on the ground,"</i> Bulgaria's prime minister, Boyko Borisov, told the Guardian in an interview in Sofia.</p> <p><i>"They are jointly conducting an investigation with Bulgarian law enforcement authorities."</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>In October last year, after talking over the Skripal case with a friend, he approached Bulgarian prosecutors with the results of laboratory tests from 2015, which he believed showed he could have been poisoned with a nerve agent similar to novichok, the substance British authorities believe was used against Skripal and his daughter.</p>	7.

				<p>“From the moment that we heard the word novichok we were immediately in touch with our British partners through all legal channels,” said Borisov. He said this happened “several months ago”.</p> <p>...</p> <p>On Monday, Borisov met the British ambassador in Sofia and announced the joint investigation. “We are working in a joint team and a close partnership, and we are going to find out the facts in this case,” the ambassador, Emma Hopkins, told reporters after the meeting.</p> <p>She did not mention that a British team had arrived in the country, and the embassy referred all inquiries about the case to the Metropolitan police, who also refused to comment.</p> <p>Borisov declined to say whether the British team included police or intelligence agents. “Let’s call it an investigative team,” he said.</p>	
	https://www.rferl.org/a/bulgarian-poison-probe-russian-spy-chief-snovichok-attack-skipals/30334479.html#:~:text=Attack%20on%20Skripals-.Bulgarian%20Poison%20Probe%20Focuses%20on%20Russian%20Spy,In%20Novichok%20Attack%20on%20Skripals&text=Denis%20Sergeyev%20(aka%20Sergei%20Fedotov,the%20English%20town%20of%20Salisbury.	Bulgarian Poison Probe Focuses On Russian Spy Chief Suspected In Novichok Attack On Skripals	19.12.2019	<p>‘Tsatsarov said Sergeyev's Bulgarian travels coincided with the poisoning of Gebrev, his son Hristo Gebrev, and EMCO Production Manager Valentin Takhchiev -- all of whom survived the attacks. "Through the international exchange, data on the identity of the suspects in the United Kingdom assassination attempt against Sergei and Yulia Skripal has been obtained." the Bulgarian Prosecutor-General's Office said.</p> <p>"From the comparisons made in the databases of Bulgaria's Interior Ministry and the State Agency for National Security (SANS), one of them -- Sergei Fedotov -- was found to have visited Bulgaria three times in 2015," it said.</p> <p>"His second visit was with entry on April 24, 2015 [at the coastal Burgas Airport] and with his departure on April 28, 2015" from Sofia Airport, Bulgarian investigators revealed.’</p>	8.
e. information about Novichoks, including: i. characteristics such as chemical composition and toxicity;	Vil S. Mirzayanov State Secrets: An Insider's Chronicle of the Russian Chemical Weapons Program	State Secrets: An Insider's Chronicle of the Russian Chemical Weapons Program	22.12.2008	Includes information on structures reported to be those of the new agents. Some of these structures meet the criteria for Schedule 2 B4 (S2 B4); however, all others are non-scheduled chemicals. The author claimed that the toxicity of certain “Novichok” agents may exceed that of VX.	9.
	https://www.opcw.org/site/default/files/documents/SAB/en/sab-16-01_e.pdf	Report of the sixteenth session of the Scientific advisory board OPCW	06.04.2011	Discussion of Scientific advisory board re novichoks (this is then later referenced in the note by the Director General of 02.05.2018) AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN – Novel toxic compounds 11.1 The Chairperson provided an introduction to the topic of new toxic compounds that are not included in the schedules of chemicals. This has been attracting increasing attention in recent years, particularly among non-governmental organisations (NGOs).	10.

				<p>Although very little information has appeared in the public domain, there have been claims that a new class of nerve agents, known as “Novichoks”, has been developed.</p> <p>In December 2008, a former defence scientist published a book, which included information on structures reported to be those of the new agents. Some of these structures meet the criteria for Schedule 2 B4 (S2 B4); however, all others are non-scheduled chemicals. The author claimed that the toxicity of certain “Novichok” agents may exceed that of VX.</p> <p>11.2 In a discussion of the issue, SAB members emphasised that, to date, there has been no confirmation of the author's claims, nor has any peer review been undertaken in regard to the information on these chemicals in the scientific literature on this subject.</p> <p>The SAB noted that those chemicals containing a phosphorus atom to which is bonded one methyl, ethyl or propyl (normal or iso) group but not further carbon atoms would be declarable as S2 B4 chemicals above a threshold of one tonne. The SAB asked the Secretariat if such chemicals had ever been declared. The Secretariat replied that it has no record of any such declarations. With respect to non-scheduled chemicals relevant to “Novichoks”, it was noted that for declarations under the other chemical production facility (OCPF) regime, the name of the chemical is not required, and therefore, the Secretariat would not be able to determine (from declarations received) if there are facilities producing “Novichok” agents that are also non-scheduled chemicals.</p> <p>11.3 The SAB also noted more extensive reporting in the 1990s of nerve agents of the GV class, which were reported to have high toxicity and low stability. The existence of highly toxic carbamates, reported in the 1980s, was also noted. The SAB expressed the opinion that the OPCW, as the implementing body for the Convention, should expand its knowledge of such chemicals in order to assist States Parties to fulfill their obligations under the Convention, and particularly in regard to Articles IX and X.</p>	
	https://www.bellingcat.com/resources/articles/2018/03/08/nerve-agents-what-are-they/	<p>Nerve Agents: What are they? Bellingcat</p>	08.03.2018	<p>References Skripal attack and gives details on what nerve agents are, routes to exposure, military nerve agents, novichoks and theoretical variants of Sarin and ways in which nerve agents could be modified.</p>	11.
	https://www.opcw.org/site/default/files/documents/S_series/2018/en/s-1612-2018_e_1.pdf	<p>Note by the Technical Secretariat Summary of the report on activities carried out</p>	12.04.2018	<p>11. The TAV team notes that the toxic chemical was of high purity. The latter is concluded from the almost complete absence of impurities.</p>	12.

		In support of a request for technical assistance by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (technical assistance visit tav/02/18) OPCW			
	https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/osce-statement-on-nerve-agent-attack-in-salisbury-wiltshire	Nerve agent attack in Salisbury, Wiltshire: UK statement to the OSCE, 12 April 2018	13.04.2018	Confirms the name and structure of that identified toxic chemical is contained in the full classified report to States Parties.	13.
	https://www.opcw.org/site/default/files/documents/S_series/2018/en/s-1621-2018_e_.pdf	Note by the director-general Request for information from states parties On new types of nerve agents OPCW	02.05.2018	<p>‘References scientific articles, and a detailed request to the Scientific advisory board of the OPCW to review literature, patents, detection methods etc and prepare a report. “the incident in the United Kingdom involved a highly toxic nerve agent with a structure that has appeared in open literature but has never been declared under the Chemical Weapons Convention. For the chemical identified in the United Kingdom incident, no information has been reported in peer-reviewed scientific literature.</p> <p>The possibility that new types of nerve agents have been developed as weapons has been a topic of discussion for many years among experts outside the OPCW. The toxic chemicals discussed have included organophosphorus structures that would fall under schedule 2B.04 of the Convention’s Annex on Chemicals, as well as related organophosphorus structures that would not belong to any of the current schedules. The chemical identified from the United Kingdom incident is not included in the current schedules. As a result of the incident in the United Kingdom, articles are now appearing in scientific society membership publications and journals speculating on the structure and properties of the chemical used and other related chemicals that might have been developed as nerve agents. These publications have broad international distribution.</p> <p>Given the potential relevance of new types of toxic chemicals to the Convention and with a view to preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons, a clear, factual basis will be needed for future discussions. Information is necessary as background for consideration by States Parties of possible measures to address the potential threat of hostile use of such chemicals.’</p>	14.

	https://www.bellingcat.com/resources/articles/2018/08/13/nerve-agents-difficult-make/	Why are Nerve Agents so Difficult to Make? Bellingcat	13.08.2018	References 'so-called Novichok A-234 in the UK' and goes through necessities needed for production (in the context of arguing that it cannot be easily undertaken by a non-state small scale production)	15.
	https://www.opcw.org/site/default/files/documents/2018/09/s-1671-2018%28e%29.pdf	Note by the technical secretariat Summary of the report on activities carried out In support of a request for technical assistance by The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (technical assistance visit tav/03/18 and tav/03b/18 "Amesbury Incident") OPCW	04.09.2018	"The team received information on the medical condition of the surviving affected individual, Mr Charles Rowley. This included information on his acetylcholinesterase status since hospitalisation, as well as information on the treatment regime"	16.
	https://www.bellingcat.com/resources/articles/2019/02/19/pesticides-as-poisons-analysis-of-the-debrev-case/	Pesticides as Poisons: Analysis of the Gebrev Case Bellingcat	19.02.2019	Analysis of different pesticides used as poisons- mentions investigation to see if the poisoning of Emilian Gebrev was linked to attempted murder of Sergei Skripal	17.
	https://www.bellingcat.com/resources/2020/08/28/cholinesterase-inhibitors-alexei-navalny/	A Guide to Cholinesterase Inhibitors in Wake of Suspected Alexei Navalny Poisoning Bellingcat	28.08.2020	Information about cholinesterase inhibitors and organophosphates. It goes through a list of chemical compounds and sources and shows the molecule structure diagrams of various organophosphates.	18.
e. information about Novichoks, including: ... ii. the UK's capabilities for identifying,	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/694059/Cleaning_clothes_and_belongings_related_to_the_Salisbury_incident_public_health_advice.pdf	Public health advice for cleaning clothes and belongings related to the Salisbury incident PHE	11.03.2018	Public health advice for cleaning clothes and belongings related to the Salisbury incident	19.

<p>responding to and recovering from the use of Novichok or other chemical weapon attacks, including methods for detecting the chemical, protecting personnel, and decontaminating individuals who have been exposed and affected sites</p>	<p>Statement from Theresa May https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/mar/26/130-people-feared-exposed-to-novichok-in-spy-attack-says-pm</p>	<p>More than 130 people could have been exposed to novichok, PM says</p>	<p>26.03.2018</p>	<p>“May said that no country other than Russia had the combination of <i>“the capability, the intent and the motive”</i> to carry out such an attack.</p> <p><i>“Sergei and Yulia Skripal remain critically ill in hospital. Sadly, late last week ,doctors indicated that their condition is unlikely to change in the near future, and they may never recover fully,”</i> she said.</p> <p>She added: <i>“We assess that more than 130 people in Salisbury could have been potentially exposed to this nerve agent.”</i></p> <p>Inspectors from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) have begun working at the scene of the attack on the Skripals, with officials saying it would take two to three weeks to complete laboratory analysis of samples.</p> <p>Local reports suggested that buildings in public areas in Salisbury would be decontaminated later this week, with the operation expected to include the Zizzi restaurant and the Mill pub, which were visited by the pair.</p> <p>...</p> <p><i>“We have information indicating that within the last decade, Russia has investigated ways of delivering nerve agents, probably for assassination, and as part of this programme has produced and stockpiled small quantities of novichok. Clearly, that is in contravention of the chemical weapons convention.”</i></p> <p>The prime minister also said that since the attack Russia had advanced 21 different arguments to try to distance itself from the attacks.</p> <p><i>“They provided no explanation as to why Russia has an undeclared chemical weapons programme, in contravention of international law. No explanation that they could have lost control of their nerve agent, and no explanation as to how this agent came to be used in the United Kingdom,”</i> she said.’</p>	<p>20.</p>
	<p>https://news.sky.com/story/porton-down-experts-unable-to-identify-precise-source-of-novichok-that-poisoned-spy-11315387</p>	<p>Porton Down experts unable to identify 'precise source' of novichok that poisoned spy</p>	<p>04.04.2018</p>	<p>He said establishing its origin required "other inputs", some of them intelligence-based, that the Government has access to.</p> <p>Mr Aitkenhead added: <i>"It is our job to provide the scientific evidence of what this particular nerve agent is, we identified that it is from this particular family and that it is a military grade, but it is not our job to say where it was manufactured."</i></p> <p>However, he confirmed the substance required <i>"extremely sophisticated methods to create, probably something only in the capabilities of a state actor"</i>.</p>	<p>21.</p>

	https://www.opcw.org/sites/default/files/documents/EC/M-57/en/ecm57dg01_e.pdf	<p>Update by the director-general to the executive council at its fifty-seventh meeting</p> <p>OPCW</p>	04.04.2018	<p>‘4. The OPCW experts visited the locations where two of the victims were reportedly exposed to a toxic chemical and collected several environmental samples. The team also took biomedical samples from these two victims, as well as from a third individual, a police officer reportedly exposed to a toxic chemical. These samples were sealed and brought to the OPCW laboratory on 23 March 2018. Samples were split in the presence of an expert from the United Kingdom, and the United Kingdom was provided with one split of each sample. The environmental samples were then delivered to two designated laboratories, and the biomedical samples were delivered to another two designated laboratories. The collection, splitting, and transportation of the samples were carried out in-line with the relevant procedures of the Secretariat. The chain-of-custody was fully EC-M-57/DG.1 page 2 maintained. States Parties are not informed of the designated laboratories selected by the Secretariat to perform the technical analysis.’</p>	22.
	https://www.opcw.org/sites/default/files/documents/S_series/2018/en/s-1612-2018_e.pdf	<p>Note by the Technical Secretariat</p> <p>Summary of the report on activities carried out in support of a request for technical assistance by the United Kingdom Of Great Britain And Northern Ireland (technical assistance visit tav/02/18)</p>	12.04.2018	<p>The team requested and received splits of samples taken by British authorities for delivery to the OPCW Laboratory in Rijswijk, the Netherlands, and subsequent analysis by OPCW designated laboratories. This was done for comparative purposes and to verify the analysis of the United Kingdom.</p> <p>7. The team was briefed on the identity of the toxic chemical identified by the United Kingdom and was able to review analytical results and data from chemical analysis of biomedical samples collected by the British authorities from the affected individuals, as well as from environmental samples collected on site</p>	23.
Salisbury media briefing Q&A read out dated 17 April 2018	Salisbury media briefing Q&A read out dated 17 April 2018	Salisbury media briefing Q&A read out dated 17 April 2018	17.04.2018	<p><i>“the agent doesn't just disappear. It doesn't evaporate.”...</i></p> <p>In answer to a question about how you remove Novichok: <i>“It is soluble in water, so it can be washed away. But it can also be broken down with a chemical agent; caustic cleaners will break it down. As I said The chemistry of the substance is quite well known and we know how to clean it away”</i></p> <p><i>...”We're not using water. We are cleaning with a caustic agent that will break it down into a completely non-toxic form.”</i></p> <p><i>“Question: How are people to detect the contamination? Can you do it with a swab? Or extra-violet light?</i> <i>A: You need to take a swab, and that goes to the laboratory for analysis.</i> <i>Q: you can't do it on site?</i></p>	24.

				<p><i>A: No</i></p> <p>...</p> <p><i>"We can detect to a very low level, relative to what is an acute dose, we can detect to an extraordinarily low level. Something like 100,000 times less than an acute dose." ... "The actual mass of Novichok...that is what we measure"</i></p>	
<p>https://theconversation.com/how-novichok-is-different-from-radioactive-poisons-and-what-this-means-for-decontamination-99464</p>	<p>How Novichok is different from radioactive poisons – and what this means for decontamination</p> <p>The Conversation</p>	06.07.2018	<p>"For nerve agents, the most important thing do is to remove the agent from contaminated skin surfaces to avoid further absorption. The UK and US have recently developed new decontamination procedures, starting with washing with warm water</p> <p>Removing the substance from hair and skin with water will also substantially reduce the risk of paramedics and hospital staff getting contaminated. They can then safely administer the "triple therapy antidote", which consists of drugs that can help to counteract muscle paralysis and limit potential brain damage.</p> <p>There are many ways to decontaminate towns following radioactive contamination depending on what substance was used and how it was spread. Basic clean up techniques include removing contaminated items, washing affected areas with large volumes of water and fixing the contaminant in place using specialist paints or plastic coatings that can then be peeled off to remove contamination.</p> <p>Similarly, in the case of the recent Novichok poisoning, the UK government has spent millions of pounds removing potentially contaminated grass, soil, paving stones and other items from areas around Salisbury. This is why Novichok is most likely a persistent nerve agent, which may last for days or weeks in the environment before being diluted through natural weathering or neutralised by the action of sunlight, bacteria or water."</p>	25.	
<p>https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/14/we-did-our-best-police-who-rushed-to-skripal-scene-tell-of-shock-and-pride#:~:text=4%20years%20old-.%20We%20did%20our%20best%203A%20police%20who%20rushed%20to%20S</p>	<p>'We did our best': police who rushed to Skripal scene tell of shock and pride</p>	14.12.2018	<p><i>"The male [Skripal] was in a very unusual position. He was sat on the bench, rigid, catatonic, staring into space. He was breathing but totally unresponsive. We tried to help medically and to find out what had happened. Our first thought was that it was drugs."</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>Firefighters were called and donned hazmat suits to work on the scene, not because they feared a nerve agent attack but because of the possibility that the drug fentanyl may have been involved. Holloway had recently attended a safety course at which the toxicity of fentanyl had been spelled out. <i>"I remember talking to control and saying: 'This</i></p>	26.	

	kripal,tell%20of%20shock%20and%20pride&text=Two%20police%20officers%20who,doctor%20helped%20save%20the%20patient.			<p><i>may sound weird but I'm not happy about the vomit being left,"</i> she said.</p> <p>Collins went off shift. Instinct told him to get changed and he left the clothes he had been wearing in his garage. "I'm glad I did that," he said. "I was intending to have a shower but I was so knackered I just climbed into bed and fell asleep. I've got little kids and they were climbing all over me next day, so the missus wasn't particularly happy with that when it all came out."</p> <p>...</p> <p>Collins said: <i>"Got a phone call two days after: 'All your kit, everything you were wearing that day ... can you bring it to the station? Wallet, watch, mobile, everything.'"</i></p> <p>Holloway said they heard that a nerve agent was involved from media reports. <i>"We had both touched the Skripals. When we heard, it was like: 'Wow, OK, this could be serious.' But I wasn't concerned for me. I knew I had touched both patients and if it was going to affect me it would have done by then."</i></p> <p>Like most people, the officers feared the Skripals would not recover. <i>"When I heard that Yulia had woken from her coma I was elated,"</i> said Collins. <i>"The fact that both recovered was brilliant. It meant the attackers didn't succeed. Lives were saved."</i></p>	
	https://www.civilserviceworld.com/in-depth/article/on-salisburys-plans-dstls-gary-aitkenhead-on-responding-to-novichok-attacks-and-its-role-in-a-changing-world	<p>On Salisbury's plans: DSTL's Gary Aitkenhead on responding to novichok attacks and its role in a changing world</p>	<p>21.01.2019</p>	<p>DSTL's initial priority was to determine what the substance was, to advise the hospital and other emergency services treating the Skripals, and to support the police investigation. <i>"We were shocked when scientists determined it was novichok,"</i> Aitkenhead says. <i>"This was something we never expected to see used on UK soil."</i></p> <p>...</p> <p><i>"The scale and complexity of this incident was unprecedented,"</i> he adds. <i>"We provided scientists on the ground and we were running a 24/7 operations incident room."</i></p> <p><i>"Following the immediate rapid response, we had more than 300 people working on this 24/7 for the first three weeks. The commitment from our people was fantastic. People really wanted to be involved and do their bit."</i></p> <p>...</p> <p><i>Then, as DSTL was supporting the Salisbury recovery and beginning to look at some of the lessons learned, they were thrust back into a crisis situation when Rowley and Sturgess handled a contaminated container – believed to have been a perfume bottle.</i></p>	<p>27.</p>

				<p><i>“This was not at all what we expected would happen,” Aitkenhead says, “but the lab responded quickly, meeting the challenges that were presented.</i></p> <p><i>“I was shocked and saddened by Dawn Sturgess’ death. I know that all of the staff here were dismayed that someone lost their life in this attack. Throughout all of this, the victims of this terrible attack were in our thoughts.”</i></p> <p>...</p> <p><i>These incidents have emphasised the importance of DSTL’s relationships across government, Aitkenhead says.</i></p> <p>...</p> <p><i>“We worked closely with lots of government departments following the novichok incident and we received visitors including the prime minister, defence secretary and the environment secretary, who came to see first-hand the support that we were providing. This gave us an opportunity to talk about our wider capabilities beyond our chemical and biological expertise.”</i></p>	
	<p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-47251132</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-43828580</p>	<p>Russian leaflets denigrate 'novichok' scientist Vladimir Uglev</p> <p>Salisbury attack: Scientist Vladimir Uglev 'helped create Novichok'</p> <p>BBC News</p>	15.02.2019	<p>[transcribed from interview]</p> <p>‘BBC interviewer: Vladimir Uglev says he created the Novichok that was later used against the Skripals. Its been identified in Russia by the code A234.</p> <p>BBC interviewer: How certain are you that the substance you synthesised is the one that poisoned the Skripals?</p> <p>Vladimir Uglev: I have no doubt that it was A234 that poisoned them. Judging by how pure the test sample is, this may well have been a batch I made with my own hands. It has a long shelf life – virtually no expiry date.</p> <p>BBC interviewer: the nerve agents were developed and tested in southern Russia. One day Vladimir Uglev was involved in an accident there.</p> <p>Vladimir Uglev: my right hand got covered in nerve agent. I put it in hydrochloric acid straight away, then washed it with a special alkali solution with hydrogen peroxide. You could say the Skripals and I were baptised with the same Novichok</p> <p>BBC interviewer: as for the poisoning in Salisbury, the scientist is convinced his country was behind the attack.</p> <p>Vladimir Uglev: you’ll never prove it. unless you find the actual test tube which contained the poison</p>	28.

				But the logic of events suggests this was Russia, and so do the action of our leaders. They were quick to shout “we didn’t do it”, just like a thief who points the finger at someone else.	
	https://www.forces.net/news/salisbury-be-declared-decontaminated-novichok	Salisbury Decontamination Work 'Completed' After Nerve Agent Attack Forces Net	01.03.2019	An estimated 600-800 specially trained military personnel, (https://www.forces.net/news/behind-scenes-military-task-forcedeployed-salisbury-after-nerve-agent-attack) including the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Task Force, were involved in the clean-up, named 'Operation Morlop'.	29.
	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/clean-up-work-completed-in-salisbury-as-area-continues-recovery	Clean up work completed in Salisbury as area continues recovery Gov.UK	01.03.2019	The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has today (Friday, 1 March) announced that the final site of decontamination in Salisbury is safe, and has been handed to the South Wiltshire Recovery Coordinating Group	30.
	https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jul/08/revealed-anti-nerve-agent-drug-was-used-for-first-time-in-uk-to-save-novichok-victim	Revealed: anti-nerve agent drug was used for first time in UK to save novichok victim	08.07.2019	<p>Paramedics saved the life of one of the Wiltshire novichok victims by administering an anti-nerve agent drug at the scene that had never been used on a patient before in the UK, it can be revealed.</p> <p>The Guardian has also learned that a number of paramedics have reported feeling ill after being present at the Salisbury and Amesbury incidents.</p> <p>One of the paramedics who had helped the former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter when they collapsed in Salisbury was among those who went to the aid of Charlie Rowley when he also fell critically ill four months later in Amesbury.</p> <p>Instinct told him that a second nerve agent poisoning may have taken place and Rowley was given the drug. Speaking in detail for the first time about its role responding to the poisonings a year ago, South Western Ambulance Service NHS foundation trust (SWASFT) said it believed this saved Rowley’s life.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Wayne Darch, the head of emergency preparedness, resilience and response at SWASFT, said: “<i>There wasn’t a plan on the shelf for what we were dealing with. We were writing the book as we were dealing with the situation put in front of us. It was intense.</i>” SWASFT believes the actions of its staff tending to the Skripals at the scene and in ambulances on the way to Salisbury district hospital also saved them.</p> <p>...</p> <p>When they were called again to the same flat later that day to tend to Rowley, a lead paramedic who had been present when the Skripals fell ill suspected that nerve agent was again involved. Rowley was given an</p>	31.

				<p>anti-nerve agent drug that British crews began to carry at the height of the al-Qaida threat but had not used until then.</p> <p>...</p> <p>When a second 999 call came through at 6.20pm for the same address, the control room flagged this up to the local commander. <i>“It’s unusual that we would get called to the same address on the same day for two separate patients,”</i> said Darch. By chance, the commander was one of those that had helped the Skripals. He attended Rowley’s address in person.</p> <p><i>“The crew that attended Charlie took a particular course of treatment,”</i> said Darch. <i>“When that wasn’t effective, they suspected that it may be nerve agent.”</i></p> <p>Though there was no information or intelligence that Rowley had been the victim of a nerve agent, the paramedics donned protective clothing – Tyvek suits, face masks, gloves and aprons – and treated Rowley as if there had been a second attack. Darch said: <i>“They did a fantastic job under difficult circumstances and undoubtedly saved Charlie’s life.”</i></p>	
	<p>https://www.chemistryworld.com/news/gargantuan-clean-up-effort-after-novichok-nerve-agent-poisoning-laid-bare/4010606/article</p>	Gargantuan clean-up effort after Novichok nerve agent poisoning laid bare	06.11.2019	<p>The movements of potentially contaminated individuals were first tracked using traditional policing tools, such as CCTV and eye witness accounts. <i>‘The potential of onward spread via contaminated items that they had contact with was also considered,’</i> says Govan.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Potentially contaminated vehicles were also identified, and many ultimately destroyed including eight belonging to the ambulance service and 16 to the police.</p> <p>...</p> <p>5 hospitalised 7000+ analytical samples analysed 12,800+ hours spent in PPE 28 shipping containers of contaminated waste collected 540m waste sent for incineration</p> <p>...</p> <p>Sample collection during the clean-up, coined Operation Morlop, was carried out by military personnel. Testing every square millimetre of surfaces that might have been contaminated wasn’t logistically possible during such large operations. Instead, computer models were used to select location and size of mixtures of random and targeted sampling sites. <i>‘The software tool utilises statistical sampling theory to develop a statistically defensible sampling plan,’</i> Govan explains.</p> <p>The tool needs to know the shape and size of the room, or other environment, being assessed and the location of every surface – from</p>	32.

				<p>windows, to furniture, to phones. Building plans gave broad overviews. Military personnel then used a remote surveying method called Lidar to collect the detail. Lidar illuminates areas with pulsed laser light, detects reflected pulses and uses this data to produce 3D images. It is also important to understand the transfer coefficients – the proportion of a compound that is transferred from a dirty surface to a clean one when they touch. These vary significantly between surfaces. Glass on glass, skin on wood and the sole of a boot on concrete all have different transfer coefficients, for example. Proportions also vary between contaminants</p> <p>Once a surface was identified as contaminated there were two choices: clean-up or disposal. The decontamination chemists balanced time, personnel safety and cost of clean-up against the same metrics for disposal.</p> <p>Disposal wasn't the easy option. 'Everything that was taken to disposal was double-wrapped in chemical agent resistant material or in specialised coatings,' says Govan. Items were then taken to a high temperature incinerator or a hazardous waste landfill site near Bishop's Cleeve in Gloucestershire.</p> <p>Absorbent surfaces, such as plasterboard, wood, some plastics and concrete, are particularly time consuming to decontaminate. <i>'When contamination enters a porous material, cleaning just removes materials from the surface and slightly below. Contamination trapped within the material can ultimately diffuse back to the surface,'</i> says Govan. 'Given the level of effort to decontaminate and assure these materials as clean, it was generally easier to remove and dispose.' Especially for the more heavily contaminated locations – such as the concrete surface below Sergei Skripal's front door, where the Novichok agent was first deployed.</p> <p>For surfaces needing clean-up, the decontamination chemists advised military personnel on what to use. 'A wide range of formulations, surface application methods and coatings were used during the clean-up operation,' Govan explains.</p>	
	https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2020/12/21/if-it-hadnt-been-for-the-prompt-work-of-the-medics-fsb-officer-inadvertently-confesses-murder-plot-to-navalny/	<p>If it Hadn't Been for the Prompt Work of the Medics": FSB Officer Inadvertently Confesses Murder Plot to Navalny</p> <p>Bellingcat</p>	21.12.2020	<p>"Kudryavtsev[FSB officer] says he believes that the German Bundeswehr lab was able to discover the use Novichok due to advanced techniques. He believes it is not possible that traces were left on Navalny's body, but that the German investigators may have found metabolised traces in his blood."</p>	33.

	https://www.express.co.uk/life-style/health/1582058/Novichok-poison-symptoms-nerve-agent-signs-eyes-eyg	Novichok poison - horror symptoms of deadly chemical nerve agent can be seen 'in the eyes' Express	17.03.2022	<p>“According to chemist Dr Vil Mirzayanov, the man who revealed the existence of the substance in the 1990s ...”</p> <p>“Two types of antidotes known as atropine and athene can be used to manage symptoms of a poisoning though these are not a cure”</p>	34.
e. information about Novichoks, including: ... iii. the UK's capacity for the work summarised in (ii) above; and	Mark Urban 'The Skripal Files. The Life and Near Death of a Russian Spy' pp 229	The Skripal Files. The Life and Near Death of a Russian Spy	-	It isn't entirely clear whether scientists at Porton Down had ever synthesized their own A234, an activity that would have been allowed (in very small quantities) under the Chemical Weapons Convention, for example for the purpose of developing new filters for gas masks. Although they knew the chemical formulas for A234, some people have suggested to me that they refrained from making it for many reasons, not least cost, and therefore have never been able to carry out detailed studies on its properties. Others have implied that it was studied at Porton, though whether they made it or obtained some Russian A234 by clandestine means would be highly classified.	35.
e. information about Novichoks, including: ... iv. the locations where such work takes place;	Mark Urban 'The Skripal Files. The Life and Near Death of a Russian Spy' pp 227-228	The Skripal Files. The Life and Near Death of a Russian Spy	-	The Porton experts knew that of the basic detection equipment couldn't produce lab results, they would have to send items or swabs back to their labs several miles to the north. There they could be subjected to the dual process of gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (often shortened to GC/MS by the chemical welfare experts), using large lab machines that cant be shifted to the locations being investigated. The first stage of this analysis involves burning a sample and studying the flame produced, the second weighing the atoms of the residue. Each test took time and there was a small number of testing rigs; that produced a major bottleneck as samples started coming in from all over the city. The GC/MS at Porton Down did though begin pointing the scientists towards an answer and it was Novichok. That word, unknown to almost everyone outside the chemical weapons community, was soon to be on people's lips the world over.	36.
	https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-commons-statement-on-salisbury-incident-12-march-2018	Oral statement to Parliament PM Commons statement on Salisbury incident: 12 March 2018	12.03.2018	<p><i>That investigation continues and we must allow the police to continue with their work.</i></p> <p><i>Mr Speaker, this morning I chaired a meeting of the National Security Council in which we considered the information so far available. As is normal, the Council was updated on the assessment and intelligence picture, as well as the state of the investigation.</i></p> <p><i>It is now clear that Mr Skripal and his daughter were poisoned with a military-grade nerve agent of a type developed by Russia.</i></p> <p><i>This is part of a group of nerve agents known as 'Novichok'.</i></p>	37.

				<p><i>Based on the positive identification of this chemical agent by world-leading experts at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory at Porton Down; our knowledge that Russia has previously produced this agent and would still be capable of doing so; Russia's record of conducting state-sponsored assassinations; and our assessment that Russia views some defectors as legitimate targets for assassinations; the Government has concluded that it is highly likely that Russia was responsible for the act against Sergei and Yulia Skripal.</i></p>	
<p><i>Bretton-Gordon, a former commander of the now disbanded UK Chemical, Biological, Radiation and Nuclear regiment and its Nato equivalent</i></p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/mar/14/nerve-agent-novichok-produced-russia-site-expert</p>	<p>Novichok_ nerve agent produced at only one site in Russia, says expert</p>	14.03.2018	<p>The nerve agent novichok was developed and produced in Shikhany, home of a military research establishment in central Russia, according to a chemical weapons expert. Hamish de Bretton-Gordon said the information was contained in a report submitted several years ago by Russia to the international body that monitors chemical weapons, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).</p> <p>...</p> <p>Shikhany is the Russian equivalent of the UK's Porton Down, home to various military research facilities that specialise in radiation, chemical and other weaponry.</p> <p>Bretton-Gordon ... said Shikhany was the sole location for development and production of novichok, dismissing suggestions that the chemical could be found in other places in the former Soviet Union such as Ukraine and Uzbekistan. "They have no more anywhere else," he said.</p> <p>Bretton-Gordon's assertion about Shikhany is supported by Vil Mirzayanov, a Russian former chemist who worked on the novichok programme before defecting to the US. In his book State Secrets: An Insider's Chronicle of the Russian Chemical Weapons Programme, he said novichok was developed between 1971 and 1973 by Petr Kirpichev, a senior scientist at Shikhany.</p> <p>According to Mirzayanov, there were several laboratories where nerve agents, and cytotoxins such as ricin, were made.</p>	38.	
<p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/699819/Letter_from_the_UK_National_Security_Adviser_to_the_NATO_Secretary_General_regardin</p>	<p>Letter from UK National Security Adviser to NATO secretary General re Salisbury Incident</p>	13.04.2018	<p>The OPCW's analysis matches the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory's own confirming once again the findings of the United Kingdom relating to the identity of the toxic chemical of high purity that was used in Salisbury. OPCW have always been clear that it was their role to identify what substance was used not who was responsible.</p>	39.	

g the Salisbury incident.pdf				
https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/british-ambassador-to-russia-briefing-on-the-salisbury-attack-following-the-opcw-report-13-april-2018	Speech British Ambassador to Russia briefing on the Salisbury attack following the OPCW report: 13 April 2018	13.04.2018	<i>“Our identification of the chemical as one of the Novichok type was on the basis of analysis by world-leading experts at Porton Down. To ensure full transparency and strict adherence to international chemical weapons protocols, we invited the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to independently test these samples.”</i>	40.
https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/opcw-executive-council-meeting-18-april-update-on-the-use-of-a-nerve-agent-in-salisbury	OPCW Executive Council meeting: 18 April update on the use of a nerve agent in Salisbury OPCW	18.04.2018	<i>“Firstly, the report sets out, in detail, the full forensic chain of custody over the collection, handling and transportation of the samples that OPCW staff maintained throughout. This assures us of the integrity and validity of the results. The Technical Secretariat went into some detail on this just now Secondly, the OPCW used only their own equipment, so there could be no concern about contamination – accidental or deliberate Thirdly, the environmental samples were analysed by 2 laboratories, and the biomedical samples by 2 separate laboratories. All 4 laboratories detected the presence of the nerve agent. And the findings show the stability of the toxic chemical, as the Technical Secretariat have just explained finally, the report notes the absence of any significant amounts of impurities in the chemicals detected: “high purity” is the description in paragraph 11 of the unclassified Executive Summary, as the Technical Secretariat have just explained today. This suggests that a highly sophisticated laboratory made the chemicals”</i>	41.
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-on-the-opcw-report-into-amesbury	Press release Foreign Secretary statement on the OPCW report into Amesbury	04.09.2018	<i>“Analysis carried out by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) at Porton Down had previously identified the nerve agent as Novichok.”</i>	42.
https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2018/09/20/skripal-suspects-confirmed-gru-operatives-prior-european-operations-disclosed/	Skripal Suspects Confirmed as GRU Operatives: Prior European Operations Disclosed Bellingcat	20.09.2018	<i>‘The Spiez lab [in Switzerland] worked on investigating the chemical attacks in Syria, and later on determining the poisoning agent in the Skripal case.’</i>	43.

	https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2019/11/23/the-dreadful-eight-grus-unit-29155-and-the-2015-poisoning-of-emilian-gebrev/	The Dreadful Eight: GRU's Unit 29155 and the 2015 Poisoning of Emilian Gebrev Bellingcat	23.11.2019	'At Gebrev's own initiative, the Finnish research institute Verifin was asked to analyse serum and urine samples... Following the news of the Skripals poisoning with Novichok in 2018, and recognizing some of the symptoms described in their case, Gebrev approached Bulgarian authorities with a request to reopen the cold-case investigation and probe for the possible use of Novichok or a similar substance on him. He also urged Bulgarian authorities to request a new chemical analysis of the samples submitted to Verifin in 2015, with the hindsight awareness of the possible use of Novichok, and accumulated knowledge of its residual manifestations in blood and urine.'	44.
f. information that could put individuals at increased risk from state threats and/or hostile actors;	-	-	--	-	45.
g. knowledge or intelligence gaps, whether implicit or explicit;	https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-russian-state-was-responsible-for-the-attempted-murder-and-for-threatening-the-lives-of-other-british-citizens-in-salisbury	Speech "The Russian State was responsible for the attempted murder...and for threatening the lives of other British citizens in Salisbury" Statement by Ambassador Jonathan Allen, Chargé d'Affaires, at a UN Security Council Briefing on a nerve agent attack in Salisbury	14.03.2018	Russia did not declare Novichok agents or production facilities associated with them as it was required to do under the Convention. No development facilities were declared. Yet we know from testimony by the Russian scientist Vil Mirzanayov that Novichoks were developed as part of the Soviet Union's offensive chemical warfare programme and inherited by the Russian Federation. Such facilities associated with that programme should have been declared under the CWC. Even today, a Russian politician has said that Russia has destroyed the Novichok nerve gas.	46.
	https://www.civilserviceworld.com/in-depth/article/on-salisburys-plans-dstls-gary-aitkenhead-on-responding-to-novichok-attacks-and-its-role-in-a-changing-world	On Salisbury's plans: DSTL's Gary Aitkenhead on responding to novichok attacks and its role in a changing world	21.01.2019	<i>"Our biggest challenge as an organisation is really the pace of change of technology. We've got a long history of working with the military so we understand the environment very well," he says.</i> <i>"But we need to get faster on cyber, get faster on artificial intelligence [and] machine learning – some of these new and evolving technologies that are moving at pace are not the things that we've always worked on as an organisation. So my challenge is: how do we make sure that we've got the skill sets and that we're moving fast enough in order to stay ahead?"</i>	47.

				<p><i>“The organisation can be very agile, as demonstrated by the Salisbury incident, but the challenge is to maintain the same urgency and pace when there isn’t an emergency.”</i></p> <p>...</p> <p><i>“So rather than assuming that we are going to have all the skills and all the expertise in-house, we have to increasingly have networks and partnerships with industry and universities and take the ideas that they are generating and bring them in and make them useful for defence. About half of the research that we do is subcontracted out to industry and to universities, and we need to keep doing that and do more of that in order to get access to the best technology that exists, [which is] probably outside the four walls of DSTL.”</i></p>	
	https://isc.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/CCS207_CCS0221966010-001_Russia-Report-v02-Web_Accessible.pdf	HC 632 – Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament – Russia Report ISC	21.07.2020	<p>60. We questioned whether the need to protect those at risk in the UK has been given sufficient priority. We were assured that all figures at risk – Russian or otherwise – receive protection according to the level of risk, through a police-led process ***.65</p> <p>61. We welcomed this process, but questioned whether the Intelligence Community has a clear picture of how many Russians there are in the UK who are at risk – for example, would MI5 or any other relevant agency ***? This would appear to be an immediate and obvious way in to the issue, and the ***, so it would appear manageable. In response we were told that ***</p>	48.
	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-58635137	Salisbury poisonings: Third man faces charges for Novichok attack	21.09.2021	<p>But there remain significant gaps in the investigation, including how the Novichok came into the UK and where it was between its use in March and its discovery in the perfume bottle in June.</p> <p>The police are asking the public to get in touch if they have any more details of Sergeev's movements in London or that of the perfume bottle.</p>	49.
h. personal details about the Skripals;	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/699819/Letter_from_the_UK_National_Security_Adviser_to_the_NATO_Secretary_General_regarding_the_Salisbury_incident.pdf	Letter from UK National Security Adviser to NATO secretary General re Salisbury Incident	13.04.2018	Sergey [sic] Skripal was a former Russian Military intelligence (GRU) officer, convicted of espionage in 2004. It is highly likely that the Russian intelligence services view at least some of its defectors as legitimate targets for assassination. We have information indicating Russian intelligence service interest in the Skripals, dating back at least as far as 2013, when email accounts belonging to Yulia Skripal were targeted by GRU cyber specialists.	50.
	https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/14/world/europe/sergei-skripal-spying-russia-poisoning/html	Sergei Skripal Was Retired, but Still in the Spy Game, Is That Why He Was Poisoned?	14.05.2018	<i>See #5 category D above</i>	51.

	Sergei Skripal briefed European intelligence services, reports say Sergei Skripal The Guardian	Sergei Skripal briefed European intelligence services, reports say	15.05.2018	<i>See #5 category D above</i>	52.
	https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5915855/Major-incident-declared-amid-fears-two-people-exposed-unknown-substance.html	Nerve agent victim Yulia Skripal 'intends to soon return to Russia' despite Putin being blamed for her poisoning	04.07.2018	<p>Yulia Skripal has sensationally indicated she intends 'soon' to return to Russia, according to a Moscow newspaper.</p> <p>The 34-year-old victim of nerve agent poisoning in Salisbury recently spoke by phone to a friend and a relative in her home country, it was claimed.</p> <p>Her reported desire to return to her homeland - which could not be independently verified - comes despite Theresa May directly blaming Russia for the poisoning.</p> <p>Moscow strenuously denies poisoning Yulia and her ex-spy father Sergei Skripal four months ago.</p> <p>Yulia called a woman named only as Diana who is renovating her flat in Moscow and told her '<i>she was doing well and that she was due to come to Russia soon</i>', Moskovsky Komsomolets (MK) newspaper reported.</p> <p>...</p> <p>The report further claimed Yulia met a close Russian friend called Gulnara in London.</p> <p>Gulnara was interviewed and exonerated by Scotland Yard after she brought a package of buckwheat from Russia to London around the time the Skripals were poisoned.</p> <p>She has been 'in constant touch' with Stepan Vikeev, 30, Yulia's mysterious boyfriend who has vanished since the poisoning, MK claimed.</p> <p>Vikeev was reported to have had connections to the FSB security service.</p> <p>It is unclear from MK if Yulia has been in direct contact with Vikeev since the poisoning.</p> <p>The newspaper claimed he initially had a 'mental breakdown' after she was poisoning, and he then disappeared.</p> <p>It stated his 'desire to go below the parapet' can mean only one thing, that Stepan holds some information.</p>	53.

				<p>'And it is quite possible that Russian special services had used him as a way of monitoring the English life of Sergey Skripal (considered a traitor in his homeland), because quite likely Yulia was sharing certain details about it with Stepan.</p> <p>'There is also another version, that Stepan is so scared for his reputation that he wants to be as far away as possible from the scandalous family.'</p> <p>Vikeev's mother Tatiana - also reportedly with links to the FSB - took her son to Sochi to recuperate for three weeks, and later he stayed out of sight with a business trip to the Arctic, it was claimed.</p> <p>...'</p>	
i. sensitive HMG procedures, assessments and operational information and capabilities;	https://www.parliament.uk/globalassets/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/180413-Correspondence-with-HS_Port-Security.pdf	Correspondence between SSHD Amber Rudd and Chair of Home Affairs Committee	29.03.2018 and 13.04.2018	<p>'During the Prime Minister's Statement on 14 March about the UK response to the Salisbury incident, the capacity to stop those with hostile intent at the UK border was discussed. While we completely support this intention, the Committee has some concerns about Home Office capacity and resource to deal with this threat.</p> <p>One concern relates to the Home Office's ability to monitor people arriving at and leaving from smaller UK airports and ports. We noted, in a recent report on immigration, the findings of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration last July that there were long periods of non-attendance by Border Force staff at some points of entry to the UK and that there had been recent incidents where Border Force officials had not been available to meet Flights.</p> <p>...</p> <p>As the Prime Minister set out in her statement to Parliament on 14 March, we are currently looking at a range of options which will enable us to stop, question, search and detain individuals at the UK border suspected of involvement in hostile state activity. As this work is still in progress I cannot provide greater detail on the implementation of these measures however I will ensure that Parliament is updated on this work as and when it is appropriate.</p> <p>In the meantime, the Home Office has implemented a raft of measures under existing powers to increase checks on private flights, customs and freight from Russia to prevent security threats to the UK. Resourcing requirements have been assessed and any impacts will be managed through routine re-prioritisation.</p> <p>Following the recent events you have written about, Border Force has committed to making better use of its Field Intelligence Officers to</p>	54.

				gather local intelligence at smaller ports. Additionally, Border Force has increased its use of Rigid-Hulled Inflatable Boats (RHIBs) as a flexible and rapidly deployable resource to improve offshore maritime capability and increase deterrent effects. Moreover, further deterrent value and intelligence-gathering in the maritime domain has been aided by Project Kraken, a joint initiative aimed at increasing public awareness in coastal communities and industry.’	
**repeated at h(ii) relevant to a different sensitivity category https://www.civilserviceworld.com/in-depth/article/on-salisburys-plans-dstls-gary-aitkenhead-on-responding-to-novichok-attacks-and-its-role-in-a-changing-world	On Salisbury’s plans: DSTL’s Gary Aitkenhead on responding to novichok attacks and its role in a changing world	21.01.2019	Indeed, given the long standing links to the military at its base – “we have got about 60 or 70 military advisers who are embedded here at DSTL for two or three years [at a time], so if you walk around you’ll see people in uniform” – would Aitkenhead and his colleagues identify primarily as civil servants? “I think everybody here recognises themselves as part of the civil service, but DSTL has a unique culture of its own, and various parts of DSTL that have of grown up over that hundred years have a strong identity. There’s a very strong collaborative culture of people working together.” “But there are absolutely linkages that we have into many parts of government. And a lot of people have moved on from DSTL into other government departments. I keep running into people who proudly tell me, ‘I used to work at DSTL once’ and now they are working in policy at the Home Office or the Foreign Office and that’s a good thing. It’s pleasing to me to see that people who learned the early parts of their careers here have gone on to do all sorts of things across government. They say with pride that they feel some kind of affinity towards DSTL, which says something about the culture of the place.”	55.	
https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/growing-risk-of-attacks-as-world-order-crumbles-rhhqv6fhm	Growing risk of attacks as world order crumbles	09.02.2021	Sergei Skripal, the former double agent, and his daughter, Yulia, were targeted with novichok in Salisbury in 2018. “There has been a worry that some states think it is acceptable to use that type of method to carry out or further their aims,” Wallace said. The defence secretary, who served in the Scots Guards from the age of 19, said that the internet gave a “turbo boost” to knowledge and understanding of such techniques. He also said that the attack in Salisbury illustrated the need for more incident commanders in the police to be trained to deal with chemical and biological attacks. ... British troops heading to conflict zones where there is a risk of chemical or biological attack have to undergo intense training at Porton Down. Sources said they were put in a small airtight room filled with	56.	

				<p>non-lethal tear gas that was developed by Porton Down scientists during the Cold War.</p> <p>They are exposed to it for as long as a minute before they are able to put on their masks. Once outside the room, it is not uncommon for soldiers to cough and gag. <i>“In theory, if they are gassed they need to be ready for the physical shock but also to remain calm enough to put the mask on,”</i> a defence source added.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Military personnel also carry out courses in how to fit, repair and maintain the general service respirator — a military gas mask — at the Defence Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Centre at the edge of Salisbury Plain.</p>	
	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-56798784	The GRU: Blast puts spotlight on shadowy Russian force	19.04.2021	<p>The mission of Unit 29155 of the GRU is sabotage, subversion and assassination, European intelligence services believe.</p> <p>Following the Salisbury poisoning in the UK in 2018, security services across Europe have been methodically working to trace its actions, following the movements of the 20 or so officers who undertake clandestine missions abroad.</p>	57.
j. sensitive HMG techniques, capabilities and operations, including those relating to the identification of the attackers and attribution of the attack to Russia;	Mark Urban ‘The Skripal Files. The Life and Near Death of a Russian Spy’ pp 237-238	The Skripal Files. The Life and Near Death of a Russian Spy	-	<p>“Among those briefing key decision makers during these days following the poisoning was Harry Murdoch, who nearly two decades earlier ran the Operations section of P5, galvanizing MI6’s Russia agent recruitment, but who by 2018 was serving in a more senior role, Murdoch may have felt a sense of personal affront about the Skripal affair, having had the GRU man operating as an active case during his years working the Russia target. He and other senior intelligence officials set in train a series of assessments that looked at the question of Russian responsibility and were presented to ministers during the first ten days of the crisis. This work soon found its focus in the re-examination of previous material in two key areas: CX or agent reporting about Russia’s continued possession of chemical weapons and traces, mainly electronic, showing that the Skripals had been kept under surveillance by Russia.”</p>	58.
	https://www.independent.ie/world-news/europe/putin-personally-ordered-attack-on-spy-says-uk-36714143.html	Putin personally ordered attack on spy, says UK	17.03.2018	<p>Foreign Secretary statement</p> <p>Mr Johnson said: <i>‘Our quarrel is with Putin’s Kremlin, and with his decision - and we think it overwhelmingly likely that it was his decision - to direct the use of a nerve agent on the streets of the UK, on the streets of Europe, for the first time since World War II. That is why we are at odds with Russia.’</i></p>	59.

https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/ACSO-Neil-Basu.pdf	ACSO Neil Basu – 5 September 2018 Statement	05.09.2018	Appeal to public for information by Neil Basu ASCO which includes account of movements of suspects.	60.
https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-on-the-salisbury-investigation-5-september-2018	Oral statement to Parliament PM statement on the Salisbury investigation: 5 September 2018	05.09.2018	<p>Speech by Theresa May to Commons</p> <p><i>‘Mr Speaker, just as the police investigation has enabled the CPS to bring charges against the two suspects, so the Security and Intelligence Agencies have carried out their own investigations into the organisation behind this attack.</i></p> <p><i>Based on this work, I can today tell the House that, based on a body of intelligence, the Government has concluded that the two individuals named by the police and CPS are officers from the Russian military intelligence service, also known as the GRU.</i></p> <p><i>The GRU is a highly disciplined organisation with a well-established chain of command.</i></p> <p><i>So this was not a rogue operation. It was almost certainly also approved outside the GRU at a senior level of the Russian state.</i></p> <p><i>Mr Speaker, the House will appreciate that I cannot go into details about the work of our security and intelligence agencies. But we will be briefing Opposition leaders and others on Privy Council terms and also giving further detail to the Intelligence and Security Committee.’</i></p>	61.
https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/you-dont-recruit-an-arsonist-to-put-out-a-fire-you-especially-dont-do-that-when-the-fire-is-one-they-caused	Evidence of Russia's Involvement in Salisbury Attack Statement by Ambassador Karen Pierce, UK Permanent Representative to the UN, at the Security Council Briefing	06.09.2018	<p>“Based on a thorough analysis of our intelligence, the UK government has concluded that the two individuals named by the police investigation are in fact officers from the Russian Military Intelligence Service, also known as the GRU. This is a body of the Russian state.</p> <p>Madam President, we previously when we briefed the Council before, attributed responsibility to Russia on the basis of technical means, operational experience - and I recall the case of Litvenenko here - and motive. Russian statements have said that former Russian agents are, if you like, fair game for assassination. These arguments have now been firmly reinforced by the clear evidence of the involvement of identified Russian nationals travelling to the UK from Moscow and returning there on Russian passports. This evidence has been sufficient for our independent prosecuting authorities to bring criminal charges in relation to the Salisbury attack and to issue European arrest warrants.”</p>	62.

	https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/08/world/europe/unit-29155-russia-gru.html	<p>Top Secret Russian Unit Seeks to Destabilize Europe, Security Officials Say</p>	<p>08.10.2019</p>	<p>“By contrast, officers from Unit 29155 travel to and from European countries. Some are decorated veterans of Russia’s bloodiest wars, including in Afghanistan, Chechnya and Ukraine. Its operations are so secret, according to assessments by Western intelligence services, that the unit’s existence is most likely unknown even to other G.R.U. operatives.</p> <p>The unit appears to be a tight-knit community. A photograph taken in 2017 shows the unit’s commander, Maj. Gen. Andrei V. Averyanov, at his daughter’s wedding in a gray suit and bow tie. He is posing with Col. Anatoly V. Chepiga, one of two officers indicted in Britain over the poisoning of a former spy, Sergei V. Skripal.</p> <p>This is a unit of the G.R.U. that has been active over the years across Europe,” said one European security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe classified intelligence matters. “It’s been a surprise that the Russians, the G.R.U., this unit, have felt free to go ahead and carry out this extreme malign activity in friendly countries. That’s been a shock.</p> <p>To varying degrees, each of the four operations linked to the unit attracted public attention, even as it took time for the authorities to confirm that they were connected. Western intelligence agencies first identified the unit after the failed 2016 coup in Montenegro, which involved a plot by two unit officers to kill the country’s prime minister and seize the Parliament building.</p> <p>But officials began to grasp the unit’s specific agenda of disruption only after the March 2018 poisoning of Mr. Skripal, a former G.R.U. officer who had betrayed Russia by spying for the British. Mr. Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, fell grievously ill after exposure to a highly toxic nerve agent, but survived.</p> <p>Speaking to reporters in February at the Munich Security Conference, Alex Younger, the chief of MI6, Britain’s foreign intelligence service, spoke out against the growing Russian threat and hinted at coordination, without mentioning a specific unit.</p> <p>“You can see there is a concerted program of activity — and, yes, it does often involve the same people,” Mr. Younger said, pointing specifically to the Skripal poisoning and the Montenegro coup attempt. He added: “We assess there is a standing threat from the G.R.U. and the other Russian intelligence services and that very little is off limits.””</p>	<p>63.</p>
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k. scientific capabilities and protective measures, techniques and capacity;	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/investigators-from-chemical-weapons-watchdog-to-arrive-in-uk	Press release Independent technical experts from chemical weapons watchdog to arrive in UK Gov UK	18.03.2018	<p>“The team from The Hague will meet with officials from the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory and the police to discuss the process for collecting samples, including environmental ones.</p> <p>These will then be despatched to highly reputable international laboratories selected by the OPCW for testing with results expected to take a minimum of 2 weeks.</p> <p>This is the next step in the process to independently verify the analysis carried out by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory at Porton Down.”</p>	64.
	https://www.opcw.org/sites/default/files/documents/EC/M-59/en/ecm59dg01_e.pdf	Opening statement by the Director-General to the Executive Council at its fifty-ninth meeting	18.04.2018	<p>“I should stress here that the network of designated labs has been of high value to the Organisation. This has been achieved through significant efforts and resources allocated by States Parties. The Technical Secretariat by providing capacity building activities and conducting regular proficiency tests has contributed to these collective endeavours.”</p>	65.
	https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2018/07/opcw-provides-technical-assistance-amesbury-uk-incident	News OPCW Provides Technical Assistance for Amesbury, UK Incident	18.07.2018	<p>“In response to the request, the OPCW deployed a technical assistance team to independently determine the nature of the substance that is alleged to have resulted in the death of one person and left another person seriously ill. The OPCW team collected samples. The samples will be sent to two OPCW designated laboratories and once the results of the analysis are received, the report will be submitted to the United Kingdom. The team completed its initial work and returned today, 18 July, from the UK”</p>	66.
l. security classifications and measures;	Mark Urban, ‘The Skripal Files. The Life and Near Death of a Russian Spy’	The Skripal Files. The Life and Near Death of a Russian Spy	-	<p>“It doesn’t take long to find ID; they are Sergei and Yulia Skripal. The Ops room radios backs to the officer on the scene: Sergei Skripal has a ‘Don’t Stop’ flag on the Police National Computer. On screen there is a not beside his listing and a number to ring.”</p>	67.
m. some of the factual matters preceding the attack on the Skripals.	https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2018/09/06/god-level-trolling-russian-ministry-foreign-affairs-spokesperson-maria-zakharova-promotes-debunked-internet-conspiracy-theories-skripal-nerve-agent-attack/	"God-level Trolling" - Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Maria Zakharova Promotes Debunked Internet Conspiracy Theories on The Skripal Nerve Agent Attack Bellingcat	06.09.2018	<p>Article details CCTV footage of suspects from the airport to Salisbury and back.</p>	68.

https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2018/09/14/skripal-poisoning-suspects-passport-data-shows-link-security-services/	Skripal Poisoning Suspect's Passport Data Shows Link to Security Services Bellingcat	14.09.2018	Article details passport data of the two suspects and details of airline passenger manifest	69.
https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2018/09/20/skripal-suspects-confirmed-gru-operatives-prior-european-operations-disclosed/	Skripal Suspects Confirmed as GRU Operatives: Prior European Operations Disclosed Bellingcat	20.09.2018	Analysis of passport data of the two suspects and border crossing data	70.
https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2018/09/26/skripal-suspect-boshirov-identified-gru-colonel-anatoliy-chepiga/	Skripal Suspect Boshirov Identified as GRU Colonel Anatoliy Chepiga Bellingcat	26.09.2018	Article publishing actual identity of the Colonel Anatoliy Chepiga	71.
https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2018/10/02/anatoliy-chepiga-hero-russia-writing-wall/	Anatoliy Chepiga Is a Hero of Russia: The Writing Is on the Wall Bellingcat	02.10.2018	Article details Russian reaction to Bellingcat naming Anatoliy Chepiga as one of the two suspects.	72.
https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2018/10/08/second-skripal-poisoning-suspect-identified-as-dr-alexander-mishkin/	Second Skripal Poisoning Suspect Identified as Dr. Alexander Mishkin Bellingcat	08.10.2018	Article publishing actual identity of Dr. Alexander Yevgeniyevich Mishkin	73.
https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2018/10/09/full-report-skripal-poisoning-suspect-dr-alexander-mishkin-hero-russia/	Full report: Skripal Poisoning Suspect Dr. Alexander Mishkin, Hero of Russia Bellingcat	09.10.2018	Article confirming identity of Dr Alexander Yevgeniyevich Mishkin and method used to confirm it	74.
https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2019/02/07/third-skripal-suspect-linked-to-2015-bulgaria-poisoning/	Third Skripal Suspect Linked to 2015 Bulgaria Poisoning Bellingcat	07.02.2019	Article linking Sergey Fedotov (later identified as Denis Vyacheslavovich Sergeev) to 2015 poisoning in Bulgaria of Emilian Gebrev.	75.
https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2019/02/14/third-suspect-in-skripal-poisoning-identified-as-denis-sergeev-high-ranking-gru-officer/	Third Suspect in Skripal Poisoning Identified as Denis Sergeev, High-Ranking GRU Officer	14.02.2019	Article publishing actual identity of third suspect Denis Vyacheslavovich Sergeev	76.

		Bellingcat			
https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2019/06/28/the-gru-globetrotters-mission-london/	The GRU Globetrotters: Mission London Bellingcat	28.06.2019	Investigation into more details of Sergeev's role in GRU. Includes a police timeline.	77.	
https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2019/10/14/averyanov-chepiga/	Skripal Poisoner Attended GRU Commander Family Wedding Bellingcat	14.10.2019	Multiple photographs and videos discovered by Bellingcat and journalists at Radio Svoboda show Anatoliy Chepiga, one of the two GRU intelligence officers accused of carrying out the Skripal poisoning in Salisbury in 2018, at the 2017 wedding of the daughter of Major General Andrey Vladimirovich Averyanov, the commander of the GRU military unit 29155. Article details structure of Russian military unit 29155 and 99450.	78.	
https://www.bellingcat.com/news/2020/02/25/an-officer-and-a-diplomat-the-strange-case-of-the-gru-spy-with-a-red-notice/	An Officer And A Diplomat: The Strange Case Of The GRU Spy With A Red Notice Bellingcat	25.02.2020	Names a fourth person who <i>"may have taken part in the preparation of the Skripal poisoning."</i> - Georgy Gorshkov/ Egor Gordienko	79.	
https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2020/09/04/gebrev-survives-poisonings-post-mortem/	Post-Mortem of a Triple Poisoning: New Details Emerge in GRU's Failed Murder Attempts in Bulgaria Bellingcat	04.09.2020	<p>"Our investigative team, including Bellingcat and The Insider Russia, has obtained a copy of the suspension decision which contains a summary of Bulgarian investigators' findings, many of which are previously unknown to the public. These shed more light on whom exactly the GRU targeted for assassination, as well as on the course of events surrounding the poisoning attempts including the time between exposure to the poison and the onset of the first symptoms. Paired with new booking and travel data obtained by our investigative team, these findings shed more light on the modus operandi of the GRU's elite kill team.</p> <p>These new findings may be particularly relevant in the context of the disclosure that the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexey Navalny was also caused by exposure to a substance from the Novichok family. The findings also showcase the extreme recklessness of this assassination method which exposes random people to the deadly substance – as seen both in the case with Gebrev's son and in the death of Dawn Sturgess in 2018.</p> <p>We have also obtained new data on the interaction of Bulgarian investigators with international bodies like the OPCW, the Finnish laboratory, and Finnish investigative authorities, which suggest that not all all avenues for fact-finding have been explored in full, and some efforts may have been blocked by third parties for unclear reasons. In</p>	80.	

				addition, we note that the role of at least one accessory to the crime has not been investigated despite credible evidence of his involvement.”	
	https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2020/10/23/russias-clandestine-chemical-weapons-programme-and-the-grus-unit-21955/	Russia’s Clandestine Chemical Weapons Programme and the GRU’s Unit 29155 Bellingcat	23.10.2020	<p>‘Our investigative team believes the St. Petersburg State Institute for Experimental Military Medicine of the Ministry of Defense (“GNII VM”), likely with the assistance of researchers from the Scientific Center Signal (“SC Signal”), has since 2010 taken the lead role in the continued R&D and weaponization of the Soviet-era Novichok program.</p> <p>Crucially for our conclusions, we have identified evidence showing close coordination between these two institutes and a secretive sub-unit of Military Unit 29155 of Russia’s military intelligence, the GRU. This unit has previously been linked to the poisoning attempts on Emilian Gebrev in Bulgaria in 2015 as well as Sergey and Yula Skripal in the United Kingdom in 2018. Telecoms data we obtained shows that the St. Peterburg-based institute communicated intensively with members of the assassination team during the planning stage of the Skripal mission, while also communicating – at highly correlated moments – with scientists from SC Signal.</p> <p>The two research institutes also appear to collaborate with the 33rd Central Experimental Institute for Scientific Research of the Ministry of Defense, located in the town of Shikhany. This agency was originally involved in researching and testing the Russian chemical weapons program.</p> <p>Furthermore, our research has established that these two institutes were in frequent communication – including during the planning state of the Skripal operation – with Russia’s Scientific Institute for Organic Chemistry and Technology (“GosNIIOHT”), the agency that was tasked with supervising the destruction of Russia’s arsenal of nerve agents and ensuring the termination of the country’s CW program.’</p>	81.

Birnberg Peirce

29 August 2023