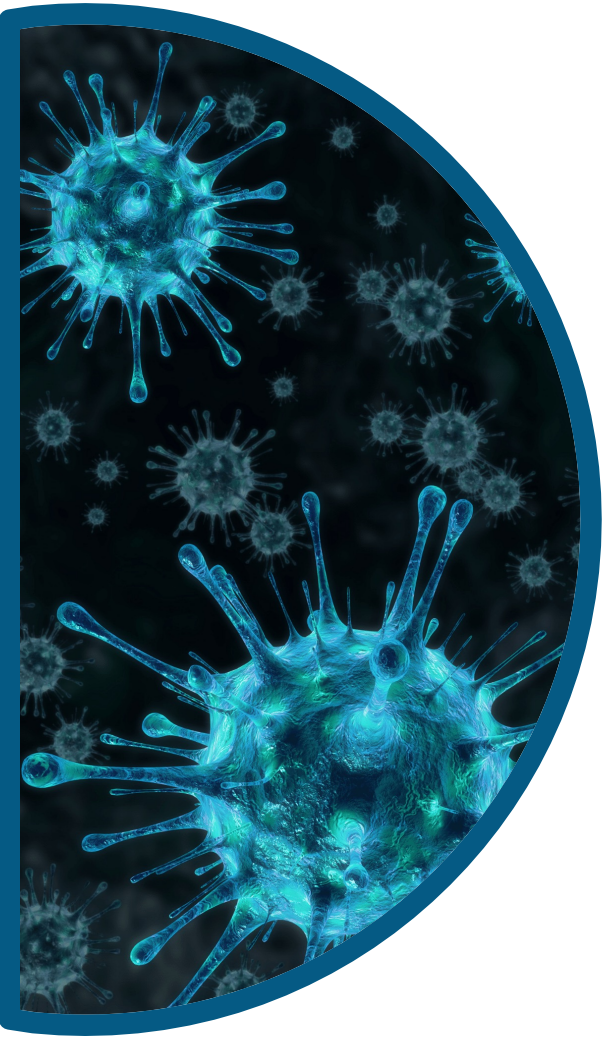
National Security Threat to Sector



- The UK is a high priority espionage target for a number of Hostile State Actors (HSAs), who are seeking to advance their political, economic, military and technological programmes.

- HSAs will seek to develop access to the sector via a number of vectors, including human sources (agents) and cyber (hacking into computer systems).

COVID-19 Impact

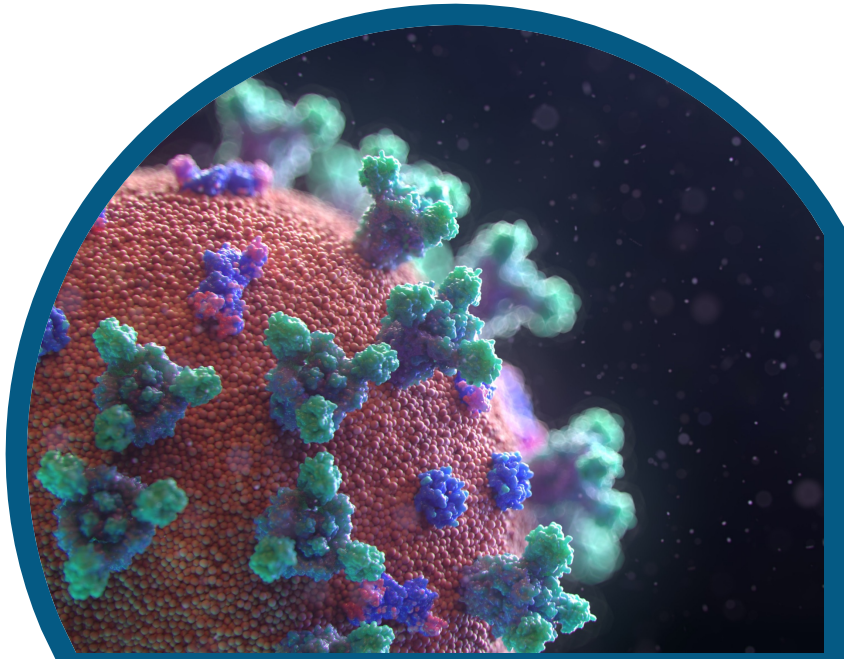
- Since the beginning of the pandemic, companies engaged in scientific research (particularly those involved in COVID-19 vaccines) are likely to be a high priority target for HSAs.

- State sponsored actors are likely to target organisations engaged in vaccine research, innovation and manufacturing across the entire vaccine supply chain.

- HSAs have also sought to influence the global narrative on vaccines through dis-information campaigns.

How to use threat information

Threat information should feed into your Risk Assessment helping you assess which of your vulnerabilities could be exploited and provides an indication of the likelihood of a threat occurring. The methodology (threat vector) information will help you assess the impact a threat might have on your organisation.



CPNI
Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure

Advice & Mitigation

Think Before You Link

- Advice on professional networking contacts for those who work for HMG, the private sector and academia (with access to classified or commercially sensitive technology or research) to reduce the potential of being exploited online.

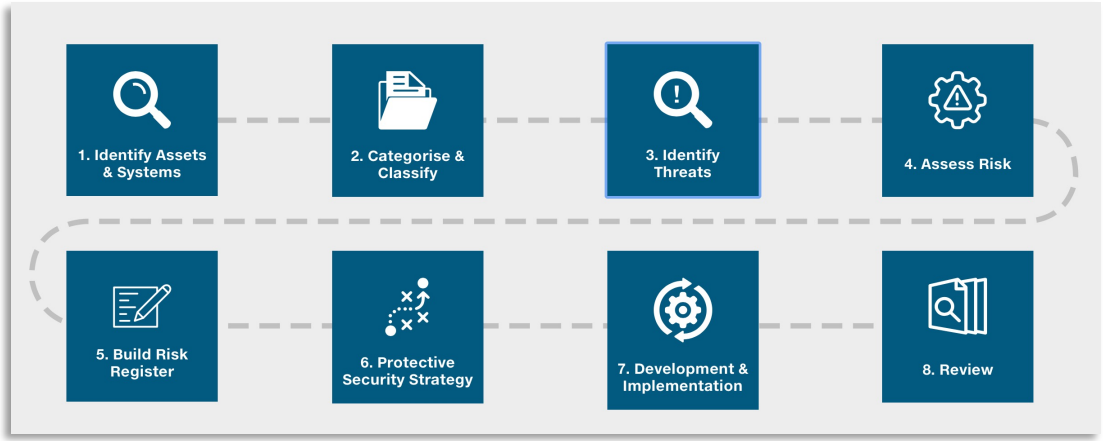
Trusted Research in a Pandemic

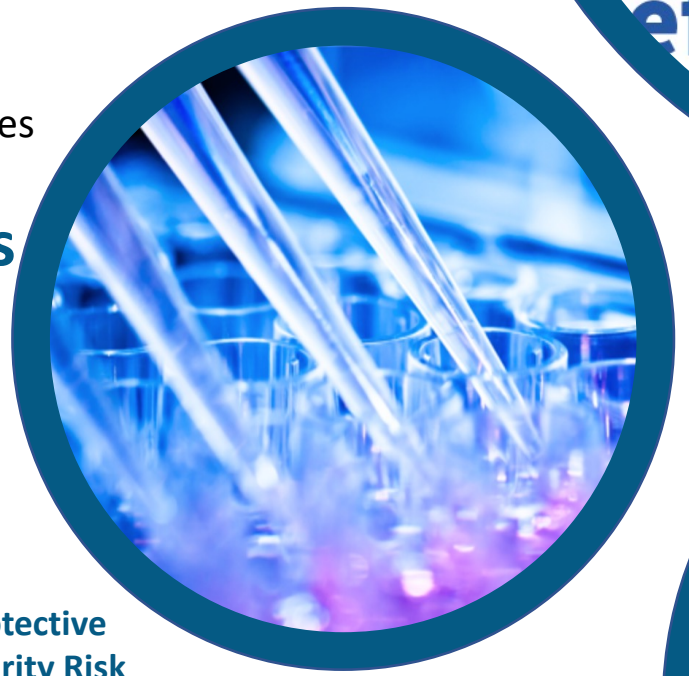
- Advice to researchers on good security behaviour and how to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of cyber attack and what to do if you think you've been targeted.

Insider Threats in a Pandemic

- Guidance to help mitigate insider risk during a pandemic, highlighting links between hostile acts and exploitable weaknesses in protective security & management processes.

Please visit cpni.gov.uk for further details





Protective Security Risk Assessment