



**COUNTER  
TERRORISM  
POLICING**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**SOUTH EAST**

The Intelligence Note summarises the intelligence that CTP-SE has sight of regarding the subject and will highlight new trends, developments or behaviours. It covers material that is very cursory due to limited reporting on a threat or subject. It should not repeat raw reporting but identify potential significance of the reporting (the SO WHAT) to customers in a concise fashion. As its purpose is to convey potential judgment, based on limited reporting, there is no expectation for alternative analysis to be conducted.

# **Inferred Contamination Points on Saturday 30th June 2018 v2 Op. READ Analytical Report 15 July 2018**

## **Security Classification:**

**Disclosable under FOIA 2000:**

No

## **Author:**

Intel. Analyst

VN136

## **Authorising Officer:**

A/Senior Analyst

VN276

## **Force / Organisation:**

CTPSE

## **Date Created:**

15 July 2018 13:30 hours

## **Business Area:**

Research & Analysis

## **Portfolio:**

Counter-Terrorism / Domestic Extremism

## **Distribution:**

- Op READ (CTPSE)

This document is protectively marked and must be stored, handled and destroyed in accordance with the rules set down in the Government Security Classification Policy. Neither the report nor its contents may be disseminated further without the prior agreement of the author.

Page 1 of 11

- Based on a 3 to 5 hour latency period, there is a realistic possibility that ROWLEY made contact with the contaminant between 10:45 and 13:30 hours that day. However, DSTL advise that the latency period could have been longer if ROWLEY was exposed to a lower dose (amount) of contaminant. **ROWLEY states that he and STURGESS accessed the item 10-15 minutes before STURGESS fell ill, likely between 09:00-10:00 hours. ROWLEY's hands were exposed to the contaminant but he washed his hands using soap. It is likely that this accounts for his longer latency period.**
- HOBSON and MILSOM agree that ROWLEY told them he had given STURGESS mouth-to-mouth/CPR and then tried (unsuccessfully) to move her. It is therefore likely that ROWLEY was exposed to the contaminant through direct contact with STURGESS. This would likely have been between 10:00 and 10:33 hours—only just outside the 5-hour latency period.
- An alternative (or additional) pathway to contamination for ROWLEY is that he made contact with a contaminated item following ~~STURGESS' removal by emergency services~~. If so, ROWLEY's contamination would fall within the 5-hour latency period. This sequence of events is assessed as a realistic possibility. **ROWLEY's testimony confirms that he made contact with the contaminant.**
- It is highly likely that this contaminated item was something in the bathroom or one of STURGESS' personal possessions. This assessment is consistent with the discovery of a contaminated perfume bottle within the flat. **ROWLEY confirms that he picked up the bottle as a gift for STURGESS.**

### ***3. Why has Samuel HOBSON not presented with symptoms of Novichok poisoning?***

It is highly likely that HOBSON experienced a low level of tertiary exposure to the contaminant (via ROWLEY) but not enough to cause severe illness. There is a realistic possibility that he has in fact experienced very mild symptoms but did not report them, mistaking them for the effects of substance abuse.

#### Rationale

- HOBSON has not been forensically swabbed.<sup>3</sup> It is therefore unknown what, if any, traces of Novichok exist (or existed) on his person (body, clothing or possessions).
- HOBSON has not presented with symptoms of Novichok poisoning despite having spent a considerable amount of time with ROWLEY on 30<sup>th</sup> June.
- There are at least two explanations of why HOBSON has not presented with symptoms of poisoning:
  - He was exposed to low levels of contaminant but not enough to make him ill.

<sup>3</sup> Information provided by the FMT on 13/07/2018 at 10:15 hours.