

GLOBAL | INVESTIGATIONS

Stalking

**Professional
threat assessment
services.**

Do you feel unsafe due to threats of violence and harassment?

Global Investigations provides professional threat assessment services to evaluate risks and we recommend protection solutions; we can assess if a threat is credible and develop strategies to mitigate risk.

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What is Stalking:

Stalking is a series of actions happening on two or more occasions where the individual is obsessed with their victim. Victims feel distressed, threatened or scared.

These acts may include:

Following, watching or spying on someone.

Showing up to places where you know the victim frequents.

Identity theft - entailing signing-up to services or buying things in someone else's names.

Are you...

Always looking over your shoulder?

Afraid your safety is threatened?

Unsure how the person knows your whereabouts?

Distressed about accessing your online platforms?

Scared or unaware of what the person may do next?

Fearful what the next message would say?

Unclear how they accessed your passwords or personal details?

Nervous that your current or ex-partner, colleague, friend, family member or classmate is overstepping your boundaries, making you feel distressed, unsafe or scared?

In our experience we believe that these factors may be a concern.

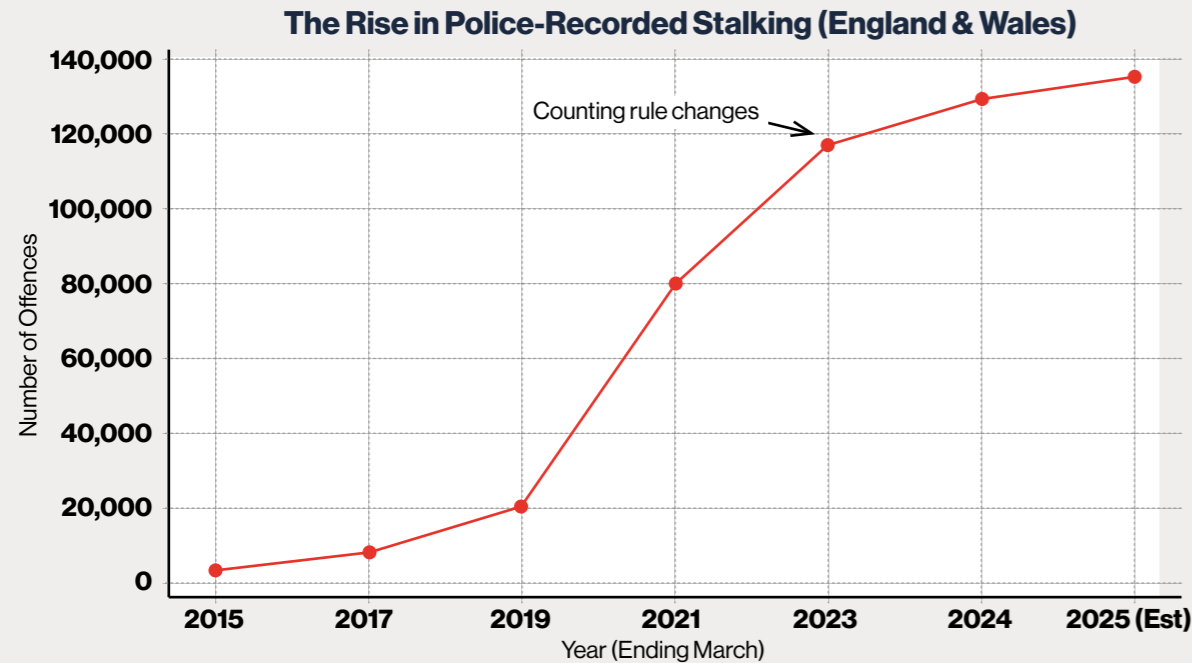
Stalking or harassment campaigns: an ex-partner, rejected suitor or cyberbully targeting you with repeated unwanted communication or attention.

Suspicious activity: strange behaviours, communications or incidents that make you fearful for your safety.

Security concerns: existing security measures may need testing or gaps identified to address safety vulnerabilities.

The Recorded Surge (Ten-Year Trend)

Police records have seen a massive leap, primarily due to better recognition and updated recording rules in 2023. In the year ending March 2025, an estimated 135,000+ offences were recorded, a huge jump from under 3,000 a decade ago.



UK Government notes:

The Home Office identified potential gaps in the law regarding stalking which could be an obstacle for the Police when conducting investigations.

As a result, they made it their mission to fill those gaps and halve the amount of violence against women and girls.

The Crime Survey of England and Wales revealed that **1.4 million individuals aged 16 and over were victims of stalking in 2024.**

According to the Suzy Lamplugh Trust on behalf of the National Stalking Consortium, **there is evidence to suggest the Police know very little on how to recognise stalking and as a result fail to handle these cases sensitively and quickly.** The terms of the review are aiming to be completed by April 2026.

Other measures to ensure numbers of victims are reduced include: providing SPOs (Stalking Protection Orders) on a wider scale, defining stalking with statutory guidance, providing a framework to support services such as education and health, working together with the Police to share knowledge.

Stalking offences have risen but much of it appears to still go unreported

Figures for England and Wales

Stalking offences recorded by the police compared with the number of stalking victims in 2023/24



Recent Introductions by the Government:

The **Project Vigilant Police** introduced by the Metropolitan Police in 2019, is a proactive policing initiative which aims to prevent sexual harassment and violence targeting offenders and not solely focusing on the victims.

Key features of the project:

Perpetrator-Focused Approach: their aim is to identify, intervene and disrupt individuals who display acts of harassment or sexual violence.

Covert and Uniform Deployment: plain-clothed officers mingle with the crowd in areas where there are high rates of sexual harassment and sexual violence.

Bespoke Behavioural Training: officers undertake training to spot subtle signs of harassment.

Targeted Interventions: interventions can include 'stop and account' checks, verbal warnings or immediate arrest if acts of sexual harassment and violence are witnessed.

Risk Management and Intelligence: individuals spotted and stopped can be documented and checked against intelligence systems to manage risks.

Safe-Space Focus: this initiative operates in public spaces in the night-time economy, including at large events such as festivals.



Case studies

The Alice Ruggle Trust was established by Alice's parents in 2017. Alice was a victim of stalking in 2016 and got murdered by her obsessive ex-partner who did not take their break-up very well.

As a result of her case, Stalking Protection Orders were issued on a wider scale in England and Wales to prevent victims being harmed going forward. These court orders are issued early on in investigations and were introduced in 2020. In Alice's case, these SPOs were very little used during 2016.

Amy is another stalking victim. Aged 37, she broke up with her ex-husband after 18 years of marriage. Her husband started harassing her through trolling her on social media, transferring small amounts of money to her accounts to 'get her attention', and tracking her location through her watch. Amy was one of the cases where SPOs were issued and later on, her offender got arrested, tried and sentenced.

On October 11, 2019, the Japanese police arrested a man who used his victim's Instagram selfies, in particular her eye reflection to pinpoint her actual live locations and one being a local train station, where he unfortunately assaulted her.

In California, a 21-year-old man broke into the home of a 16-year-old girl who had accessed her location through studying the photos she was posting online on her social platforms.

In the UK, in June 2017, a stalker murdered his ex-girlfriend after he asked another female to stalk his ex-partners social media accounts for the purpose of monitoring and keeping track of her movements in Chatham and Kent, where both resided.

Providing SPOs (Stalking Protection Orders) on a wider scale, defining stalking with statutory guidance, providing a framework to support services such as education and health, working together with the Police to share knowledge.

Stalker Simulation: this service will gather intelligence from credit data, online presence, and dark web sources to create a comprehensive profile of the subject.

Risk Reset: this service will assess home, attack surface, email accounts, contactable and social engineering risks displayed when searching your profile online. This service also provides steps to take to remediate the problems and risks listed.

UK Criminal Court Checks: this will assess Magistrates Courts local to the subjects' home address or any UK Crown Court to determine any past or pending court appearances. UK Wanted Lists which include Metropolitan Police, Interpol, FBI and National Crime Agency data are also checked. This service will provide any information over 7 years old.

Background Checks: we are experts in discreet in-depth Background checks in the UK. The invaluable insight into a person offered through these checks can help ensure security or provide peace of mind for personal reasons. These checks can delve into a person's identifying data, starting with name and address and then leading on from there. We are very thorough with our investigations, and you can be rest assured that you will receive an accurate and complete investigation of their history. Our service is one of the most comprehensive in the industry and is completely confidential.

Civil Restraint Checks: this service checks if an individual has a Civil Restraint Order (CRO) which is provided against a party who has persistently issued claims or made applications which are totally without merit.



Sanctions Check: this check is instigated to identify individuals or entities that are prohibited from engaging in certain activities due to their involvement in illegal or high-risk activities. Included in this service is a search of the PEP which is the Politically Exposed Person.

Serial Litigant Checks: this check can assist in assessing risks and liabilities associated with a subject.

Counter Surveillance: this includes measures and techniques to detect, identify and counteract surveillance activities directed at an individual or group, where following will be observed to record and monitor our clients' perceived dangers.

Static Surveillance: this service can be utilised in observing your home or designated place from a fixed position.

DPS Search: digital profile searches: this service searches the deep web and dark web to uncover hidden information and evidence. We can link a subject through their activity. These searches are crucial for understanding online activities, identifying potential threats and gathering intelligence.

TSCM Searches: our sweep service, which our technical surveillance team carry out, can discover illegal and clandestine cameras and audio equipment used in and around properties. All the very latest equipment and expertise is used and many options are available. Sweeps can be conducted on mobile phones, vehicles, homes and devices.

Please contact us for fees and timescales.



What sentences do stalkers receive?

If the offence is harassment or stalking, the maximum sentence given is six months in custody, however, if the case is racially or sexually aggravated, the maximum sentence is two years.

If the offence is harassment where people are in fear of violence or stalking where it involves fear of violence or serious harm or distress, the maximum sentence is ten years in custody.

Also If the offence is racially or sexually aggravated, the maximum sentence is fourteen years.

What can you do to keep safe?

- Tell people you trust if you suspect that you are being stalked.
- Do not share passwords with anybody and change them regularly.
- Turn on the two-step authentication on your profiles.
- Share your location with people you trust, should you feel in danger.
- Always trust your gut instinct no matter how small the problem seems and let someone know.
- Take photographs of any damages or injuries caused by the stalker.
- Get in touch with a victim support organisation.
- Use the private option in settings to ensure your profile is showing minimal information and away from the public eye
- Document any occurrences.

Further help available:

Victim Support available at [victimsupport.org.uk](https://www.victimsupport.org.uk)
or call at 0300 373 0978.

The Survivor Trust available at [thesurvivortrust.org](https://www.thesurvivortrust.org)
or call at 0808 801 0818.

National Stalking Helpline available at www.stalkinghelpline.org
or call at 0808 802 0300.

The Alice Ruggle Trust available at [aliceruggletrust.org](https://www.aliceruggletrust.org).

Visit dashriskchecklist.com which is the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence Risk Identification, should you wish to fill the form in for clarity on the offence.

Did you know?

Most stalkers are NOT strangers. The stalker is usually someone known to the victim. It can be a current or former partner, friend, neighbour, co-worker or classmate.

One in every five women and one in every ten males experience stalking at least once in their lives.

43% of stalking occurs after a relationship.

36% of stalking occurs during and after a relationship.

21% of stalking occurs during a relationship.

Stalking Protection Orders will allow Police to intervene early in stalking cases.



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