United Kingdom

Overview

Overview

- AIG Travel rates the U.K. as a LOW threat location; however, there are risks stemming from crime and terrorism.

The United Kingdom (U.K.), comprised of Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) and Northern Ireland, is a well-developed and stable parliamentary and constitutional monarchy in Western Europe that lies off the northwest coast of mainland Europe. As a prominent world power, the country frequently plays a critical role in international developments. Most recently, however, the country’s majority decision to withdraw from the European Union (EU) following a referendum held in June 2016 has raised significant concerns regarding the global political-economic and domestic implications of separating from the organization. The national government is currently headed by Prime Minister Theresa May of the Conservative Party. The Labour Party and Scottish National Party function as the main political opposition parties. More localized affairs are addressed in the regional parliaments of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and county councils in England. Various other issues dominate political discourse in the country as well, including government efforts to reduce public spending and the issue of greater autonomy for Scotland.

The U.K. is politically stable with few pressing security concerns. Nonetheless, street crime does occur, predominantly in the larger cities such as the capital London, Manchester and Glasgow, and crime in general is rated as a moderate threat; although violent crime is less common. Overall, crime levels tend to vary significantly within individual cities and among the territories that constitute the U.K. Recent statistical evidence indicates that the risk of crime in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland is lower than that in England.

The threat from terrorism is rated as moderate; this is mainly due to the country’s ongoing contribution to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, its involvement in the 2003 invasion of, and subsequent military involvement in, Iraq and current involvement in the international coalition against the Islamic State (IS) militias. There have been a number of terrorist incidents in the country in recent years, many of which have been linked to transnational Islamist militant organizations and self-radicalized lone-wolf attackers and small cells. Intelligence agencies and police are known to continually monitor individuals throughout the country with suspected ties to these groups and have made several related arrests. In addition, dissident Irish Republican groups pose a secondary, although less significant, terrorist threat in the U.K., particularly in Northern Ireland, despite the 1999 Good Friday peace agreement. Due to the threat posed by terrorism, security remains heightened at transportation hubs and at key potential targets including tourist spots in major cities throughout the country.
Travel advisories and areas of concern

Although no governments currently maintain travel advisories for Northern Ireland, travelers are nonetheless advised to maintain heightened situational awareness due to the threat of domestic terrorism. Bombings involving the use of low-level improvised explosive devices (IEDs) occur sporadically, but rarely result in casualties. Although such incidents usually target security forces and local officials, civilians have been affected in the past. Most incidents occur in Belfast and Londonderry. Historical sectarian tensions persist between Unionists and Republicans, and marches held sometimes result in violence.

Political conditions

Political

- The U.K. is a parliamentary and constitutional monarchy that has seen a long period of stability; as such, there is a LOW threat of political instability.

As a constitutional monarchy, the U.K. head of state is Queen Elizabeth II; however, political power resides with the head of government, Prime Minister Theresa May, and her appointed cabinet of ministers. May replaced David Cameron as the leader of the Conservative Party and prime minister in July 2016. Cameron resigned in the immediate aftermath of a non-binding, national referendum held in June 2016 that resulted in the majority of voters indicating a desire for the country to rescind its European Union (EU) membership. Since being elected as leader of the Conservative Party and assuming prime ministership, May has largely been defined by U.K. withdrawal from the EU and the manner by which this is done, which large portions of the government, parliament and public continue to hotly debate. May has pledged to abide by the referendum result, which was largely dominated by debates over immigration, public spending, sovereignty and party politics. Following her election as Conservative Party leader and resulting appointment as prime minister, May announced her intention to hold a snap general election, which was held on 8 June 2017 and resulted in the Conservative Party gaining the largest number of votes but losing its parliamentary majority and the opposition Labour Party gaining a number of seats. Subsequently, the Conservative Party formed a minority government with support from the nationalist and conservative Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) of Northern Ireland.

The country’s parliament consists of an upper and lower house, the House of Lords and House of Commons, respectively. The House of Lords, consisting mostly of members appointed for lifetime terms, reviews legislation passed by the House of Commons. The House of Commons is comprised of the governing Conservative Party, the main opposition Labour Party, the Scottish National Party and several smaller parties including the Liberal Democrats. Although the national government is seated in the capital London, each country within the U.K. is culturally and politically distinct, with Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland having their own parliaments. These regional parliaments wield considerable autonomy; however, matters including foreign policy, defense and economic policy generally fall under the purview of the U.K. government. As such, various nationalist movements exist in each region, some of which have called for full independence from the U.K.

European Union membership

Although the British electorate largely voted in favor of the country leaving the EU (colloquially referenced as ‘Brexit’), the U.K. will remain a full member of the organization until its withdrawal is fully formalized, which may take several years. The government formally triggered the mechanism to leave the EU on 29 March 2017, which began negotiations. It is not clear what the exact outcome of Brexit will be, as the situation is unprecedented. Significant economic disruptions are possible, as the U.K. conducts a large volume of trade with the EU; leaving the common market may result in tariffs and other trade barriers, unless exceptions are negotiated during Brexit negotiations. London is a vital financial center within the EU; however, the reintroduction of trade barriers may cause many banks that want to continue doing business in
the EU to relocate operations to other countries to maintain profit margins. The EU is likely to take a hard line on negotiating exemptions and other matters, both to deter other countries from leaving the organization and as countries that remain in the bloc could stand to gain from U.K.-headquartered businesses being shut out of the organization. Since Brexit, the U.K. gross domestic product (GDP) has grown at a rate of about one percent, while the pound sterling (GBP) has lost significant value.

Domestic political crises could also ultimately result from Brexit. The electorate in Scotland largely voted to remain in the EU; this has reignited a debate over Scottish independence. Although Scotland voted to remain in the U.K. in September 2014, the prospect of being forced to leave the EU against a majority vote in Scotland has prompted many to call for a second referendum. Additionally, leaving the EU could lead to the reintroduction of border controls between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, which could be considered a breach of the Belfast Agreement peace accords. Additionally, Northern Ireland, like Scotland, voted to remain in the EU. In the Northern Ireland context, leaving the U.K. is strongly inflected with sectarian tensions; any revival of separatist sentiment could also lead to increased civil disorder.

Corruption

- The U.K. is considered to have MINOR levels of petty corruption and doesn’t pose a major concern in country.

Petty corruption in the U.K. is not endemic or a major concern for travelers or members of the public. Public discourse in the U.K. relating to corruption issues tends to center on the manner by which officials allocate public funds for use and such officials’ non-public interests, financial and performance malpractices in professional sports and bribery committed by larger, U.K.-based corporates overseas.

The U.K. was ranked as the 8th least corrupt nation out of the 180 evaluated in Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2017, which gives the country a score of 82/100 (with 100 being the least corrupt by perceptions). This score suggests a slightly lower level of perceived corruption than the 2016 score of 81 out of 100. The CPI rankings are derived from a country’s public perception of corruption levels and other pertinent factors.

Security issues

General crime

- Crime in the U.K. is ranked as MODERATE with petty theft and low-level assaults constituting the primary concerns.

Pretty crime is the most likely security threat travelers will face in the U.K. Pick-pocketing and mugging is somewhat common in major cities such as London. Electronic devices, such as smartphones and notebook computers, are highly sought after by thieves as are more traditional items such as wallets and jewelry. Locations particularly susceptible to petty crime include public transportation infrastructure and tourist sites.

Recent statistics regarding the overall risk of crime indicate that, as regions, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales have lower crime rates than in England; although in general the U.K. has a crime rate comparable to other Western European nations. Still, all regions have areas with elevated crime levels. Several cities, such as London and Glasgow are known to have elevated levels of crime, although certain areas of these cities are worse than others. For example, in London, the Westminster, Camden and Lambeth areas are known to have heightened levels of overall crime. In Glasgow, general and violent crime rates have fallen steadily in recent years, but the city still retains a reputation for violent crime, with the northern and eastern areas worse off than central parts of the city. Even within high-crime areas of the U.K., police services are effective in
operating and able to respond relatively quickly to reported incidents. Major cities in particular have large, well-trained police services that maintain an adequate presence.

Violent crime is much less common than petty crime and typically occurs in public outside of establishments that serve alcohol and are open into the late evening and early morning hours. Gang violence does occur in less affluent areas of major cities, but rarely impacts bystanders (although non-violent automotive theft is frequently attributed to gang activity). Gangs in the U.K., like in other countries, are often composed of disadvantaged youth, are sometimes based on ethnic backgrounds, and tend to form in geographically distinct areas. Authorities have taken extensive measures to counter these organizations in recent years, although gang activity remains a problem in many large cities.

In addition to petty and violent crime, identity and personal information theft are also concerns in the U.K. Government monitors have noticed a significant increase in these crimes, particularly targeting credit/debit card users. Steps such as monitoring financial statements and only using cards at trusted establishments may help reduce the chances of these crimes being committed.

Terrorism

- The threat of terrorist attack in the U.K. is rated as MODERATE and generally stems from self-radicalized individuals and Islamist militant as well as, to a lesser degree, dissident Irish Republican groups.

Self-radicalized individuals and Islamist militant groups

Islamist militants continue to attempt to target the U.K. and authorities frequently uncover plots to attack the country. The U.K.’s threat profile has been significantly heightened following its military involvement in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. Both domestic radicals and foreign-born extremists have been involved in attacks.

The most recent notable attack took place in June 2017 in London; three men with perceived links to Islamist extremists plowed a van into pedestrians on London Bridge. The men then exited the van and went on a stabbing spree in the nearby Borough Market area. Seven people were killed and 48 injured in the attack. The incident marked the third major terrorist attack in the country in as many months, following a similar attack in Westminster in March and a bombing in Manchester in May 2017. In May 2017, a man detonated a homemade explosive device near an exit of the Manchester Arena following the conclusion of a pop concert held in the venue. The device was constructed with metal fragments in order to target concert-goers. The incident killed 22 people and caused 59 injuries. The Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the attack, which was the deadliest incident of its kind to occur in the U.K. since the July 2005 bus and underground bombings in London.

The most recent prior attack to the Manchester bombing in the U.K. occurred in March 2017 in London. A man drove a car into a crowd of pedestrians on Westminster Bridge before exiting the vehicle and attacking a police officer at Westminster Palace. Six people, including the attacker, were killed. Government officials indicated that the attacker was a U.K.-born citizen. The Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the attack; however, authorities have identified no link with any terrorist organization. The risk of such lone wolf attacks by self-radicalized individuals is discussed in greater detail below. As the recent attacks demonstrate, the threat from Islamist militants remains heightened in the U.K., and police and intelligence agencies continue to work to prevent future attacks.

Of particular concern are self-radicalized individuals that operate outside international networks or are only loosely affiliated with such extremists. Many of these individuals have traveled to the Middle East to fight alongside extremist militias and some have since returned to the U.K., where they are closely monitored by intelligence agencies and the police. As an additional step to prevent radicalized individuals from obtaining
training and assistance abroad, security services are also active at the country’s points of exit/entry, such as airports, in order to prevent suspected radicals from leaving the U.K.

In general, enhanced security measures are in place, particularly at locations such as airports, public transportation facilities and government buildings to reduce the chances of terrorist attack from occurring.

**Dissident Irish Republican groups**

Most attacks perpetrated by Irish Republican groups take place in Northern Ireland, particularly in the cities of Belfast and Londonderry, while a lower-level threat of dissidents targeting mainland U.K. also persists. These groups generally seek to unite Northern Ireland with the Republic of Ireland. Since the Good Friday peace deal, created to resolve the conflict between the main Republican militant groups and the U.K. government, was concluded between 1998 and 1999, the level of violence committed by these groups has greatly decreased with many denouncing further armed resistance against government forces and laying down weapons. Low-level incidents continue to occur on a fairly regular basis in Northern Ireland, often targeting government and police facilities and personnel. Occasionally, attacks, or attempted attacks, occur in locations that could harm civilians. Examples of this include an attempted bombing in a Londonderry hotel in 2014 and an attempted bombing in a central Belfast shopping area. Most recently, a prison officer was killed in a fatal car bombing in Belfast in March 2016. The exact motivation behind these kinds of attacks is unclear, but has been attributed by some to the Republican cause. Groups particularly active in carrying out attacks include the Real Irish Republican Army (RIRA), Continuity Irish Republican Army (CIRA) and Oglàigh na hÉireann / Provisional Irish Republican Army or ‘Provos’. While attacks carried out by these groups do, on occasion, impact civilians, most are not specifically designed to hurt civilians.

**Civil unrest**

- Civil unrest is of LOW concern, though protests over social and political issues and labor strikes occur regularly. While these are generally peaceful and relatively undistruptive in nature, they can result in violence.

Civil unrest in the U.K. is generally constrained to labor actions and political protests. Labor unions, particularly transportation workers, initiate work stoppages on a somewhat regular basis. These work stoppages typically impact services such as the London Underground tube system and city taxis, although other sectors such as government services have also been affected by labor actions. These actions often coincide with related protests by striking workers. Most of these demonstrations occur peacefully, and do not themselves cause significant disruptions beyond their immediate vicinity. Protests related to social and political issues take place on a regular basis throughout the country; however, London, being the political, business and financial center of the U.K., generally experiences these actions with greater frequency. Demonstrations take place near foreign embassies, government offices and at other central locations. These gatherings are usually peaceful in nature, but are often accompanied by a heightened police presence and may cause localized transportation disruptions. Groups that have carried out large demonstrations in London include Occupy London and StopG8. Both groups have, in past years, staged large sit-in style demonstrations to protest against perceived corporate greed and corruption. Events held by these organizations have caused larger amounts of unrest in London. Similar but less organized actions have been held in London over issues related to government spending cuts and in opposition to the Iraq War and international engagement of the British military. There have been larger protests against Brexit since the July 2016 referendum; however, the government has pledged to honor the result of the vote.

As previously stated, most political marches held in the U.K. are peaceful in nature; however, actions taken by certain groups often result in counter-protests, and sometimes clashes. Some of these groups include the ultra-nationalist English Defense League (EDL), far-right wing British National Party (BNP), and the Unionist Orange Order. The EDL holds somewhat frequent anti-immigrant/anti-Muslim demonstrations in locations throughout the U.K. Counter-protest actions against the EDL are often larger than the EDL.
demonstrations themselves. The Orange Order usually marches in Northern Ireland, particularly Belfast, during the spring/summer months. These marches often take place in partisan neighborhoods and tend to cause larger amounts of unrest when and where they occur. Police often prepare in advance for these events, closing roads and deploying riot units to separate any opposing rallies.

**Kidnapping**

- **Kidnapping is considered to be of LOW concern. Incidents are often crime-related.**

Kidnappings in the U.K. are uncommon. Victims are often found alive after incidents, and in many cases are foreign nationals or belong to immigrant communities. Most kidnapping incidents are linked to organized crime and/or drugs, in which the victim or a relative of the victim is kidnapped to induce payment. However, some incidents are linked to human trafficking in which young women, often from Eastern Europe or Asia, are brought into the country illegally and sold to buyers. Kidnapping incidents involving children are rare.

**Travel logistics**

**Entering the country**

**Entry Requirements**

- Travel to the U.K. requires a passport valid for six months after the intended departure date for nationals of most non-European Union (EU) countries.
- EU nationals are required to possess either a valid passport or valid national identification card to enter the country. The country’s decision to leave the EU continues to have no impact on EU nationals.
- Non-EU nationals in many cases are required to obtain an appropriate visa prior to arrival in the U.K.; requirements vary by the travelers’ country of origin, length of stay in the U.K. and purpose for travel. Travelers should inquire with their nearest U.K. Embassy High Commission or consular officials in their country of origin for specific visa information. After arriving in country, travelers may be asked to show evidence to prove their purpose for visiting.

**Political/Security Risks**

AIG Travel rates the U.K. as a LOW threat location; however, there are risks stemming from crime and terrorism.

- The U.K. is a parliamentary and constitutional monarchy that has seen a long period of stability; as such, there is a LOW threat from political instability.
- The U.K. is considered to have MINOR levels of petty corruption and is currently ranked amongst the least corrupt countries worldwide.
- Crime in the U.K. is ranked as MODERATE with petty theft and low-level assaults constituting the primary concerns.
- The threat of terrorist attack in the U.K. is rated as MODERATE and generally stems from self-radicalized individuals and Islamist militants as well as, to a lesser degree, dissident Irish Republican groups.
- Civil unrest is of LOW concern for travelers in the U.K., though protests over social and political issues and labor strikes occur regularly. While these are generally peaceful and relatively undisruptive in nature, they can result in violence.
- Kidnapping is considered to be of LOW concern. Incidents are often crime-related.

**Infrastructure**
The U.K. has a highly developed system of infrastructure, which poses an overall LOW threat to those in country.

- Roads are well maintained and public transportation systems, such as rail and bus networks, are extensive in larger cities.
- Transportation connections to other nearby countries, including Ireland and France, are easily accessible.
- Electricity and potable water are available throughout the U.K. The country’s telecommunications infrastructure, including internet and cellular telephone services, is widespread and reliable.

Air travel

London Heathrow Airport (EGLL/LHR) is the largest airport in the country. Located west of London, the facility has an extensive variety of services available to travelers including restaurants, shops, medical care and hotels. Road access to the airport is available via the M4 motorway, which connects to the nearby M25 motorway encircling London. Express train and London Underground services, often the quickest means of travel between the airport and London’s city center, are available.

London Gatwick Airport (EGKK/LGW) is another major airport, and is located south of London. The facility is a modern international airport. Road access to Gatwick is available via the M23 motorway while express and routine trains connect the facility with central London also.

Getting around

Nationwide travel is available via extensive road, rail, waterway and air networks.

- **Road** – While the country has an extensive and well maintained network of roads, heavy traffic congestion can extend travel times in and around larger cities. Traffic flows on the left side of the road.
  - **Self-Driving** – Police officers strictly enforce traffic regulations and violations including intoxicated driving and driving without a seatbelt are not tolerated. Foreign visitors from EU member countries can use their drivers’ license to drive in the U.K.; however, specific licensing and insurance requirements pertain to those from outside the EU.
  - **Bus** – Bus services are available throughout the country and operated by numerous local and nationwide providers, such as National Express. Tickets can be purchased at physical locations, online and on the buses themselves.
  - **Taxi** – Taxi services are available in most urban centers and rural parts of the U.K. In London, official licensed taxis are known as black cabs (due to their color and distinct style). Similar services operate in other cities.
- **Rail** – Rail services are available nationwide, with many major locations connected to the national rail system. Travel via rail is considered to be relatively reliable. Tickets can be purchased in many locations and online. The Eurostar train, which travels under the English Channel via the Channel Tunnel, connects London to Paris, France.
- **Water** – Various ferry services operate throughout the country’s coastal areas. Transportation to outlying islands and other jurisdictions, such as the Channel Islands and France, respectively, are available.

Culture

- In business settings the appropriate title should be used and first names are generally used only in more familiar settings. Business cards are typically exchanged between meeting participants at the outset or conclusion of business meetings while participants will shake hands on being introduced to one another at such events.
• Privacy is highly regarded in the U.K.; as such, intimate or personal questions should be avoided.
• Within the U.K., English, Scottish, Welsh and Irish people have their own distinct cultures, customs and traditions that should be respected in order to avoid any potential offense.
• The U.K. is a multicultural society, especially in the urban centers, and remarks regarding someone’s ethnicity may be seen as inappropriate.

**Important Dates 2018**

- 1 January – New Year’s Day
- 30 March – Good Friday bank holiday
- 2 April – Easter Monday bank holiday
- 7 May – Early May bank holiday
- 28 May – Spring bank holiday
- 27 August – Summer bank holiday
- 25 December – Christmas Day bank holiday
- 26 December – Boxing Day bank holiday

**Health concerns**

Medical care in the U.K. is of a high standard. The National Health Service (NHS) is the country’s national medical provider. Healthcare is free for U.K. residents and emergency care is available at no charge for foreign visitors; however, foreigners requiring prolonged care and medication will be required to pay for these additional services. Private health insurance is recommended for travelers without a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Patients that are required to pay for care may be required to pay up front and later seek reimbursement from their insurance provider.

**Natural hazards**

The primary natural hazard in the U.K. is flooding and gale-force winds. Heavy rainfall can cause local rivers to overflow their banks. Coastal areas may be at a heightened risk for flooding during severe storms. Winter snow storms can also, on occasion, disrupt ground and air travel.

**Money**

- **Currency** – The pound sterling (GBP) is the national currency. Notes are available in denominations of 5, 10, 20 and 50. One pound is composed of one hundred pence. Coins are available in various denominations including 2 pounds, 1 pound, 50 pence, 20 pence, 10 pence, 5 pence, 2 pence and 1 penny.
- **Foreign exchange** – Several venues are available to exchange currency for the pound. These include banks, private currency exchange services, and a number of tourist information facilities. Exchange rates are likely to vary according to the service provider.
- **ATMs / Credit Cards** – ATMs are widely available, including at popular tourist locations, shopping complexes, large international hotels and throughout most cities and towns. Major international credit cards are accepted at most major hotels, shops and restaurants. Smaller retailers may insist on cash for products and services valued under certain amounts.
- **Tipping** – Tipping is customary at restaurants, but less common at locations such as pubs and clubs.
- **Business hours** – Typical business hours in the U.K. are from 09:00-17:00 local time; however, hours may vary by individual establishment. Most banks are open from Monday to Saturday from 09:30-16:30 local time. All banks are generally closed on Sundays.

**Contact Information**

- International dialing code: +44
Cultural factors

Cultural tension

Tensions between the country’s substantial immigrant population and several nationalist groups have increased in recent years. These tensions generally manifest in anti-immigration protests carried out by organizations such as the English Defense League (EDL) and the British National Party (BNP). These events have, in the past, resulted in limited violent clashes between the anti-immigration groups, counter protesters and police. The increase in terror attacks perpetrated by Islamist militants has also increased anti-Muslim rhetoric amongst many of the aforementioned organizations as have reports emerging since 2013 about individuals setting up ‘sharia patrols’ and sharia justice systems in some majority Muslim-majority neighborhoods, harassing passers-by deemed indecent. Isolated attacks against immigrant populations and Muslim institutions have occurred throughout the country on occasion.

Useful information

Useful information

- Public holidays
- Weather forecast
- Maps
- Official tourism portal
- Electricity: 230 volts, 50 Hz; for the most commonly used plug types, please click here.

Contact details

Important contact details

- International dialing code: +44
- International dialing prefix: 00

Emergency numbers

- Police: 999
- Ambulance: 999
- Fire: 999
- General European emergency number: 112
- Anti-terrorist hotline: 0800 789 321
- Crimestoppers hotline: 0800 555 111

Embassies

Australian High Commission
Australia House
Strand
Health advisory

Health infrastructure

Medical facilities and care, both state-run and private, are generally of a high standard countrywide. However, it should be noted that patients may have to wait in emergency room admission areas at hospitals for prolonged periods of time before being attended to during busy periods including winter. The state-run National Health Service (NHS) provides free emergency treatment to all travelers, although there will be charges for any ongoing treatment, medication or hospitalization. Most medical care providers do not accept an insurance policy in lieu of payment; patients are expected to pay for care and then seek reimbursement from their insurance company. Pharmacies are typically available in cities and towns, all basic medical supplies are readily available and pharmacists are also qualified to advise on the treatment of minor ailments.

Pre-travel recommendations

The following vaccinations are recommended or required if traveling to the U.K.:
• Hepatitis A
• Hepatitis B
• Rabies

It is also important to ensure that routine vaccinations are up to date for diseases including influenza, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus. Travelers are advised to visit a doctor or clinic that specializes in travel-related medicine at least four to six weeks prior to their intended departure. This should allow the necessary time for most prescribed vaccinations to take effect. Even if travel is to be undertaken in less than four weeks, a visit to a medical professional is still recommended.

Comprehensive medical insurance is strongly recommended. Travelers are also advised to take an appropriate supply of any prescription medication; this should be accompanied by a written doctor's instruction, explaining the need for the medication and justifying the quantities required.

**Significant diseases**

There are no particular significant diseases that might affect travelers to the country.

**Recent outbreaks**

• Measles: Outbreaks of the disease, an infection of the respiratory system caused by a virus, have occurred regularly countrywide in recent years, as fewer children have been receiving the measles vaccination. The latest outbreak was declared in July 2013, with 1,219 confirmed cases in Wales.
• Mumps: An outbreak of the disease was reported Oxford College in May 2014 and involved at least 17 cases.
• Legionnaires’ disease: An outbreak was reported in Edinburgh in May 2012 causing at least 100 confirmed cases.

**Food and water safety**

Tap water and pasteurized dairy products are considered fit for consumption throughout the U.K.

**Emergency response**

The number for emergency services in the U.K. is 999. The general European emergency number 112 can also be used. The services provide good coverage and response times countrywide.

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