

Prince Harry's Updated U.K. Police Threat Assessment Sparks Questions About Rising Security Risks

A newly ordered British government risk assessment for Prince Harry has sparked widespread debate, with security insiders suggesting it may signal a shift in the threat landscape surrounding the Duke of Sussex. The development comes years after Harry lost his publicly funded police protection following his decision to step back from official royal duties in 2020—a move that initiated one of the most public and contentious security battles in modern royal history.

Since that decision, the prince has engaged in multiple legal challenges against the Home Office, arguing that the removal of his specialized Metropolitan Police protection team placed both him and his family at risk. After two lawsuits and a subsequent appeal, Harry ultimately lost the case earlier this year. Central to those legal proceedings was his repeated insistence that the government conduct a new threat assessment, noting that his last formal evaluation took place more than five years ago.

Now, according to reports from *The Sun*, a new assessment has finally been commissioned and is expected to conclude within the next month. This unexpected move has led analysts and royal watchers to speculate about whether previously unknown intelligence or emerging risks may have triggered the Home Office's decision.

Security Expert Suggests Rising Risk May Be Behind New Review

Alex Bomberg, CEO of the global security firm Intelligent Protection International, told *Newsweek* that the timing of the review is telling. In his professional view, a sudden reassessment is rarely coincidental.

“This likely reflects a change in circumstances,” Bomberg explained. “If a review is being carried out urgently, it suggests the perceived risk level has risen. I can't imagine the Home Office would initiate this because they think the threat is decreasing.”

Bomberg added that while he could not confirm specific triggers, such reassessments typically occur when new intelligence suggests heightened danger—whether from individuals, extremist groups, or other actors who have expressed interest in high-profile public figures like Harry.

Home Office Stays Tight-Lipped, Citing Security Protocols

In response to *Newsweek's* inquiry, a spokesperson for the Home Office reiterated the longstanding policy of not revealing operational details regarding protective services:

“The U.K. Government’s protective security system is rigorous and proportionate. It is long-standing policy not to disclose detailed information about these arrangements, as doing so could compromise their integrity and affect individuals’ security.”

This guarded statement leaves room for interpretation, but it is consistent with how the government has handled similar inquiries concerning other high-profile figures.

Media Reactions: Lobbying Victory or Response to New Intelligence?

British media outlets have largely framed this development as a victory for Prince Harry’s persistent lobbying efforts. Analysts have speculated that a reinstated police protection team might help smooth his strained relationship with King Charles III—potentially encouraging the Duke and Duchess of Sussex to bring their children, Prince Archie and Princess Lilibet, back to the U.K. for family visits.

The children have not returned to the United Kingdom since 2022, when Lilibet was only one year old. Any enhancement in Harry’s personal security arrangements could therefore be a key factor in future travel plans for the family.

However, Bomberg offered a contrasting view. In his assessment, the Home Office is **more likely reacting to new information** rather than yielding to public or private pressure.

“If this review is happening now, there’s probably a specific reason,” he said. “That typically means the Home Office is responding to something, not simply revisiting a policy because someone asked repeatedly.”

Current Security Arrangements for Harry in the U.K.

Under existing guidelines, Prince Harry receives official police protection only during certain visits, generally those tied to royal events or occasions where his presence is deemed

significant to state interests. When he travels privately, he must notify the Metropolitan Police at least 30 days in advance to allow for risk evaluations.

That system has been described by the prince's legal team as inconsistent and inadequate, particularly given Harry's status as a high-profile figure with a long history of targeted threats.

Bomberg, echoing sentiments from other security professionals, believes Harry should never have been stripped of his royal-level police team in the first place.

"I think removing his protection was a mistake," he said. "Cross-border arrangements can be managed, even though they're expensive. But failing to provide protection has brought far more attention to the issue, and perhaps that's contributing to the shift we're seeing now."

How Threat Levels Are Supposed to Work

Public figures who qualify for police protection ordinarily undergo threat assessments annually. These evaluations consider a combination of intelligence reports, public sentiment, known extremist activity, and any targeted threats circulating online or offline.

However, because Harry relocated to the United States, he has reportedly not been included in regular annual reviews—a gap critics argue leaves room for outdated judgments and potential risk blind spots.

The new assessment therefore represents a significant moment, potentially resetting the baseline from which future decisions about his security will be made.

What This Could Mean for the Royal Family

Should the assessment conclude that Harry faces higher risks than previously acknowledged, it could open the door for reinstated police protection—either fully or in a modified form. Such a decision could have broader implications:

- **Renewed family visits:** A safer environment could allow Harry and Meghan to bring their children to Britain more frequently.
- **Improved relations with King Charles III:** Security has been a long-standing tension point; resolving it could ease family dynamics.
- **Revised policy for non-working royals:** The case may prompt reevaluation of how the government handles protection for royals who are no longer active in official duties.

For now, the assessment's outcome remains unknown, but its very existence has fueled speculation about what new risks may have emerged—and what the future holds for Harry's ongoing fight for safety and recognition.