UK Headlines — 22 Oct 2026

? Headlines — 22 October 2026

Thursday 22 October 2026 · Compiled 08:20 BST

? Top Story: Global cyber-security scramble as PHP flaw takes websites offline

Governments and cyber agencies worldwide are racing to contain a critical vulnerability in **PHP** — the programming language underpinning Wikipedia, WordPress and countless online shops — after it was uncovered with the help of AI. The flaws had lurked undetected for over a decade and could let attackers take control of web servers without authentication and steal sensitive data.

- Cyber firm **Wiz**, whose researchers found the bug, called it the "most severe" ever detected by AI. **OpenAI**, whose tech was used, dubbed it "one of the most impactful security issues in recent memory."
- PHP developers rolled out emergency patches on Wednesday, urging "all PHP users to update immediately."
- **Wikimedia** took down several systems as a precaution; the **Finnish government**, **Edinburgh council**, the **BBC** and the **Netherlands' cyber agency** all pulled sites offline. Many **Scottish councils and NHS boards** did the same, and UK local authorities are affected.
- Experts warn "millions and millions" of sites could be exposed, with smaller organisations at greatest risk, and expect more exploitation attempts now that technical details are public.

?? UK Politics

- **Jackdaw gas field approved — "Drill, Andy, Drill!"** PM **Andy Burnham** is "facing a storm" over approving North Sea drilling at Jackdaw. The move drew praise from Donald

Trump but anger from environmental and economic critics.

- **Rosebank oil field may be rejected.** Energy Secretary **Miatta Fahnbulleh** is reportedly considering blocking one of the North Sea's biggest oil fields. The **Daily Mail** calls it "pathetic… Net Zero madness"; the **Sun** hails Jackdaw as "a welcome outbreak of common sense." A Times source says it would be "hard to justify" on climate grounds — though the Guardian notes Fahnbulleh "could still be overruled" by the PM.
- **Budget clues from the Chancellor. John Healey** told the Times the upcoming Budget will cut regulation and "back business in Britain making a profit," aimed at "bloody-minded entrepreneurs." A Treasury source likens red tape to "the sludge choking firms." The FT reports Healey suffered a "double blow" from rising inflation and government borrowing, pointing to a "cautious Budget."
- **Arctic defence gaps.** A committee warns the UK's weaknesses in Arctic defence leave it open to Russian attack. Separately, the **Telegraph** found 500+ incidents of Russian trawlers loitering above vital UK undersea cables, suggesting the Kremlin is using its fishing fleet to "spy on Britain."
- **Sentencing crackdown.** Criminals who skip their sentencing hearings will face solitary confinement or loss of social visits.
- **Teacher pay row.** Headteachers fear schools must find money for a national 3.5% teacher pay rise "despite claims it would be fully funded." The government denies the education secretary said it would be fully funded.
- **Employer NI cuts.** Calls are growing to cut employer National Insurance contributions for under-25s.

? World / International

- **Ukraine:** Missiles hit Kyiv after Russia agreed to a US call to resume peace talks — though the BBC's Steve Rosenberg notes Moscow "sees little to talk about." US citizen **Stephen Hubbard** was freed by Russia as a Trump envoy met Putin.
- **Middle East:** The **US ordered some diplomats to leave Saudi Arabia** as Houthi attacks escalate. In Israel, Arab parties could hold the critical balance of power in the upcoming election.
- **Musk mega-merger:** The FT leads on Elon Musk considering merging **SpaceX and Tesla** into a "sprawling conglomerate spanning rockets, satellites, social media, robots and cars." Shares in SpaceX surged.
- **France:** Macron accused foreign leaders of exploiting the French riots; the country remains divided over who to blame.
- **Epstein:** New Mexico sued Epstein's lawyer and accountant, accusing them of hiding his sex crimes.
- **Pope:** The Pope does not need further treatment after lung cancer surgery.
- **US/Canada:** The US embassy accused Canada of election meddling ahead of the midterms; Trump's green card curbs are testing Indian tech workers' American dream.
- **Health:** Nigeria's first Ebola patient had holidayed in Uganda, officials say. Diabetes and ADHD drugs are to be tested on Alzheimer's patients in a new study.

??????? Wales

- **Climate Summit today.** First Minister **Rhun ap Iorwerth** convenes the **Wales Climate Change and Resilience Summit** this morning (Thursday 22 October), bringing key partners together — with "learning from summer and collective action" flagged as key to tackling future wildfires.
- **Council tax revaluation paused** by Finance Cabinet Minister **Elin Jones** in a "difficult budget context."
- **Welfare call.** Deputy FM **Sioned Williams** urged Scotland and Wales to jointly scrap "punitive" welfare policies and cut bills.
- **Clean energy investment** in West Wales announced by Enterprise Minister **Adam Price** ; more than £338,000 is powering local green energy projects across Swansea and Neath Port Talbot, with further community schemes in RCT, Merthyr, Powys, North Wales, Monmouthshire, Caerphilly, Cardiff, the Vale and Bridgend.
- **National Care Service:** Deputy Minister **Delyth Jewell** set out steps towards a National Care Service in Wales.
- **Wales' papers:** A killer was jailed for 28 years and a runner died in a cardiac tragedy.

? Weather & Science

- **Orionid meteor shower** peaks in UK skies into Thursday — dubbed "the greatest show on Earth."
- **Wildfires:** Firefighters and the public were "knowingly put at risk" during the summer wildfires, a report finds.

? Culture & Sport

- **Dame Judi Dench** says she can no longer perform: "I can't do a play, a film or read any more."
- **GCSE science:** Only one female scientist is named in GCSEs, research finds.
- **Kyle Walker tattoo:** The Sun splashes on the former Man City player's "4 In A Row" leg tattoo, which he says he'll have removed if the club is stripped of its titles — City was found guilty of 100+ financial-rule charges by an independent commission (denied and under appeal).
- **Royal rift:** The Mirror's "Ruled Out" front page says Prince William has "no intention" of engaging with Prince Harry after the Duke called for reconciliation.
- **UK City of Culture 2029:** Four locations are in the running.

? Quick Summary

Area	Headline
□□ Top	PHP cyber-flaw sparks global scramble; Wikipedia, BBC, councils & NHS boards offline
□□ Politics	Jackdaw gas field approved ("Drill, Andy, Drill!"); Rosebank may be rejected
□□ Budget	Healey promises deregulation for "bloody-minded entrepreneurs"; cautious Budget expected
□□ Defence	UK Arctic gaps leave it open to Russia; 500+ Russian trawler incidents over cables
□□ World	Missiles hit Kyiv as Russia agrees talks; US pulls diplomats from Saudi; Musk SpaceX-Tesla merger
□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ Wales	FM Rhun ap Iorwerth hosts Climate & Resilience Summit; council tax reval paused
□□ Weather	Orionid meteor shower peaks tonight
□□ Culture	Judi Dench: "I can't do a play, a film or read any more"
□ Sport	Kyle Walker's "4 In A Row" tattoo; Man City guilty of 100+ charges (appealed)

Compiled 22 October 2026, 08:20 BST. Sources: BBC News (UK, World, The Papers), The Guardian, Welsh Government News, ITV News, CNN, Democracy Now!

Revision #2
Created 2026-10-22 07:07:09 UTC by Admin
Updated 2026-10-22 07:07:10 UTC by Admin