

Appendix A

Twitter - first reporting by national TV networks and public comments

sky Sky News Breaking @SkyNewsBreak

Wiltshire Police says a major incident has been declared after two people were suspected to have been exposed to an unknown substance in **Salisbury** yesterday

1:09 PM - 5 Mar 2018

144 Retweets 82 Likes

James hughes @Jameshughes1985 · Mar 5
Replying to @SkyNewsBreak
Probably something connected to Porton Down. 🤔

BBC NEWS BREAKING BBC Breaking News @BBCBreaking

Man critically ill after exposure to unknown substance in **Salisbury** is alleged former Russian spy given refuge in UK, BBC told

A man who is critically ill after being exposed to an unknown substance in Wiltshire is a Russian national convicted of spying for Britain, the BBC understands.

Sergei Skripal, 66, was granted refuge in the UK following a "spy swap" between the US and Russia in 2010.

2,659 Retweets 2,236 Likes

359 2.7K

Sergei Skripal: CCTV shows 'persons of interest' in Russian MI6 spy investig...

The Kremlin denies suggestions that Russia poisoned Sergei Skripal, who was convicted in the country of spying for MI6 in 2006.

news.sky.com

8:01 AM - 6 Mar 2018

23 Retweets 28 Likes

Biotasty @biotasty1 · Mar 6

Replying to @BBCBreaking

Yet more proof that **Putin** cannot be stopped! Infiltration and manipulation of the American elections, anyone can be assassinated at anytime, airspace testing, new unstoppable nuclear weapons! Sounds like Subversive New World Order to me!

Maria Michelli @MariaMichelli · Mar 6

Replying to @BBCBreaking

Or Georgi Markov who got ricined to death in 1978. With the poison on the tip of an umbrella

deplorable @lazerllyricum · Mar 6

Replying to @BBCBreaking

Alexander Litvinenko comes to mind, he was poisoned with a radioactive drop in his drink!

Jamie Gray @jamiegray

THIS sounds like a familiar plot. Those old **#KGB** guys never change. **#LooseEnds**

Former **#Russian** spy critically ill in Britain after exposure to unidentified substance-source buff.ly/2FiwKHS

(thirteenninety) @onlyninesixty

Replying to @tinatamman @calder_walton and 26 others

No problem! I'm not meant to be tweeting, but I notice former RU intel chap S. **Skripal** has fallen ill - cue howls of **Putin** complicity etc. As an Estonian I know you have genuine grievances (as do eg Irish), but just how stupid are Russians meant to be, that with **#FIFA2018** in..1/3

8:46 PM - 5 Mar 2018

5 Retweets 3 Likes

martin sean beck @socialistmartin · Mar 6

Replying to @SkyNews

looks like the british MI5 MI6 spy's have up to no good again for the Tory hard brexit government and then the Tories can blame Russia ,why.? would russia do this.? open your eyes to the truth my sisters and brothers

davthp @davthp · Mar 6

Replying to @SkyNews

You know he was a spy, you know he betrayed his country, He committed treason - he actually deserved to die, Yet the Russians had him for years and didn't kill him. Sounds a bit odd!

Felix Forbes @fpdforbes

There is as yet nothing linking the Russian state to this- it may be well turn out that way. But it should also be recalled that there is an increasingly large number of people who have angered the Russian government and wound up dead, to say nothing of Alexander **Litvinenko**.

BBC News (UK) @BBCNews
Critically ill man 'former Russian spy' bbc.in/2D2oj7X

10:24 AM - 5 Mar 2018