# GCHQ Director Addresses Cyber Attack on UK Ministry of Defence at Birmingham Conference



On May 14, 2024, GCHQ Director Anne Keast-Butler addressed the recent cyber attack on the UK's Ministry of Defence during her keynote speech at a cybersecurity conference in Birmingham. The attack compromised a third-party payroll system, potentially affecting the bank details of service personnel and veterans, with a small number of addresses also accessed. The exact perpetrator of the hack remains unidentified, with speculation about China's involvement, though Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has not confirmed these claims. The incident occurs as cybersecurity remains a crucial topic in forthcoming political discussions, with a general election expected later in the year where national security is anticipated to be a significant issue.